



# Russell Thomas Langford

- 36 years old at time of sentencing
- Diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder
- No prior criminal history



## CDSE

Center for Development  
of Security Excellence

## CASE STUDY

### Crime: Hate Crime

#### WHAT HAPPENED

Russell Langford was a major assigned to the G-33 Mobilization Section of the U.S. Army Reserve Command on Fort Bragg in North Carolina. On June 9, 2016, he threatened members of Masjid Al Madina Mosque in Raeford, North Carolina with firearms. Langford drove around the mosque area and followed a mosque member leaving to his home. Upon arriving back at the mosque, Langford pointed his firearm at a member and threatened to kill and bury him on the Mosque premises. Langford drove away and returned to the mosque for a second time the same night and was stopped by several mosque members who called the local authorities. Hoke County deputies arrived and found three firearms, ammunition and additional weapons in Langford's Chevrolet Tahoe at the mosque.

Langford had referred to members of the local Masjid Al Madina Mosque with derogatory anti-Muslim terms and placed opened packs of bacon at the back entrance of the mosque prior to the June 9 incident. Islam prohibits eating the flesh of swine as it is a sin and impiety.

Langford was ordered to not possess firearms by a Hoke County judge in July 2016. Following that ruling, Langford's mother stated that he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

On November 7, 2016, Langford pleaded guilty to a one-count information that charged him with a felony for threatening mosque members in order to obstruct their free exercise of religious beliefs. Langford admitted that he knew Masjid Al Madina was a mosque and that the people he threatened were engaged in activities related to the mosque. Langford also admitted that he acted intentionally to threaten the mosque's members and obstruct their religious exercise.

Langford was sentenced to 10 months home confinement.

#### INDICATORS

- Criminal, Violent, or Abusive Conduct: Russell Langford made threats and utilized derogatory anti-Muslim terms while brandishing firearms at the Masjid Al Madina Mosque in Raeford, North Carolina.
- Judgement, Character, and Psychological Conditions: Russell Langford served in the Army and deployed overseas in Iraq in both 2004 and 2008. After the incident, Langford's mother made multiple statements referring to her son's diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder.

## IMPACT

- The incident placed fear in local Mosque members while they exercise freedom of religion. As a result, Hoke County deputies increased patrols around the Mosque after the incident.
- “The free exercise of religion is a foundational principle of our society,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Wheeler. “Hateful threats designed to obstruct this right to religious freedom and to intimidate members of a religion simply because of their beliefs have no place in our communities. An attack on one religion is an attack on all religions. The Justice Department will continue to vigorously prosecute crimes motivated by religious animus.”

## ADDITIONAL INFO

- DODI 1325.06 – “Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces”
  - Section 8 Part a): “Military personnel must not actively advocate supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes, including those that advance, encourage, or advocate illegal discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, religion, ethnicity, or national origin or those that advance, encourage, or advocate the use of force, violence, or criminal activity or otherwise advance efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights.”
  - Section 8 Part b): “Military personnel must reject active participation in criminal gangs pursuant to section 544 of Public Law 110-181 (Reference (i)) and in other organizations that advocate supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes; including those that attempt to create illegal discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, religion, ethnicity, or national origin; advocate the use of force, violence, or criminal activity; or otherwise engage in efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights. Active participation in such gangs or organizations is prohibited. Active participation includes, but is not limited to, fundraising; demonstrating or rallying; recruiting, training, organizing, or leading members; distributing material (including posting online); knowingly wearing gang colors or clothing; having tattoos or body markings associated with such gangs or organizations; or otherwise engaging in activities in furtherance of the objective of such gangs or organizations that are detrimental to good order, discipline, or mission accomplishment or are incompatible with military service.”

Resources for further exploration:

- [Potential Risk Indicators: Insider Threat](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf?ver=_HedcDtQk9sSEZItNMLQzA%3d%3d)  
([https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf?ver=\\_HedcDtQk9sSEZItNMLQzA%3d%3d](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf?ver=_HedcDtQk9sSEZItNMLQzA%3d%3d))
- [Behavioral Science and Insider Threat Job Aid](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/Behavioral-Science-and-Insider-Threat.pdf?ver=vKz8oMP4QbesuR3J7INssA%3d%3d)  
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/Behavioral-Science-and-Insider-Threat.pdf?ver=vKz8oMP4QbesuR3J7INssA%3d%3d>)
- [DODI 1325.06 Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces](https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/132506p.pdf)  
(<https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/132506p.pdf>)

## IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Contact the appropriate POC to report any observed potential risk indicators:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Supervisor/Security Officer/ITP

Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Official/ITP Manager