



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 12/18/2013

Jeff Corson, date of birth (DOB) [REDACTED] phone number [REDACTED] home address [REDACTED] was contacted on 12/13/2013. Corson, a psychology teacher at Arapahoe High School, 2201 East Dry Creek Road, Centennial, CO, was interviewed in the lot of the Burger King across from the school following the shooting that occurred on the same date. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview, Corson provided the following information:

Corson was teaching a class in classroom N-3 when he heard a loud bang. After a pause, he heard two noises that sounded like gunshots and went to the door of the classroom. He saw a person wearing dark clothing run down the hallway. He closed and locked the door to his classroom and turned off the lights, securing the students. Corson described the person running in the hallway as a white or Hispanic male, 15-17 years old, 5'6" - 5'8", medium build, short dark hair, wearing a light t-shirt and dark pants. The person ran out of the doors of the school while Corson shut his door.

Corson and students from his classroom had been separated by Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) as eyewitnesses who had possibly seen the shooter.

On 12/17/2013, undersigned Agent learned from Rocky Mountain Safe streets Task Force Sergeant Andrew Howard that Corson had information about the shooter, Karl Pierson. Corson was contacted on his cell phone on the same date and he provided the following information:

Pierson began the 2013 fall semester in the International Relations class taught by Corson. Corson handed the students a "tell me" sheet and attempted to have an open discussion with the class wherein he could introduce himself and they could talk freely about themselves. During this first week, Pierson sat next to a freshman girl who asked a question during this discussion. He stated loudly, "That's stupid." Corson told Pierson and the class that there were no stupid questions. Separately during a discussion that week, Pierson pointedly asked Corson in class, "Are you a Democrat or a Republican?" Corson sidestepped the question to avoid controversy. He told Pierson to stay after class but he did not stay.

Exhibit No.: 13
 Deponent: Meredith
 Date/RPR: 6/30/15
 Hunter + Geist, Inc. AM

Investigation on 12/13/2013 at Centennial, Colorado, United States (In Person)

File # 356A-DN-3878111

Date drafted 12/16/2013

by GRUSING JONATHAN D

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Corson asked around the AHS faculty to determine who knew Pierson so he could find out more about him. He spoke with Karen Gerlach, who teaches social studies. Gerlach said that Pierson was very involved in the debate team and that Tracy Murphy, the debate teacher, knew him well.

Within the next day or two, Corson spoke with Murphy in Murphy's office area. He told Murphy about Pierson's disruption in class. Murphy told him that Pierson competed in Nationals for the debate team and was starting to cause trouble. He said that Pierson started one of his speeches at Regionals or Nationals with the word "penis," or something similarly inappropriate, to get attention. Murphy said that lately Pierson was not representing the school well with such behavior.

The next day, Corson heard from a senior in one of his classes that Murphy removed Pierson as the leader of the debate team and that Pierson had "flipped out." He learned that Pierson's mother had to come take him from the school as the meeting between Murphy and Pierson went poorly and Pierson yelled at Murphy.

Corson found Murphy and spoke with him about what happened. Murphy confirmed that there was a conflict between him and Pierson.

Corson was concerned about Pierson because of that incident and he called Pierson's mother. They spoke quite awhile and she said that Pierson had been difficult to deal with for an extended period of time. They talked about anger issues and she understood Murphy's position and decision regarding the debate team issue. Corson believed that the mother was genuinely concerned about Pierson, but he did not receive any significant insight into why Pierson behaved like he did. Corson told her that he wanted to help Pierson and would make every effort to do so.

Within a day or two, Corson spoke again with Murphy. They discussed how upset Pierson was when he was removed as the debate team leader.

Murphy jokingly told Corson words to the effect of, "When Karl comes up with a gun someday, you know you caused this." They continued the conversation with Assistant Principal Darrell Meredith. Corson said that he thought Karl was the type of person who was vocal and vented his anger, not keeping it stored inside of him.

Corson did not see Pierson for a few days and wondered if he was suspended from the incident with Murphy. When Pierson returned to class, Corson spoke with him after class and told him that he needed help with the freshmen. They walked down the hallway and Corson told Pierson that he had the knowledge and background to help bring the freshmen along in class.

Corson discovered that Pierson liked the Soviet Union and identified

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with communism. He told Pierson that he had lived in Hungary behind the iron curtain and showed Pierson a photo regarding such. Pierson warmed up to Corson and began to be more involved in class.

During a two-week resolution exercise on North Korean nuclear leaks, Corson assigned mediators to Pierson's table to allow them to see arguments from a different perspective. The students were divided into two tables and were involved in mediation to resolve political differences. Although Pierson got excited and animated about the debates, he maintained his composure and performed well.

Some time during the semester, the same freshman girl said something which Corson knew that Pierson would find to be unintelligent. Corson watched Pierson and noticed he restrained himself from berating her. He asked Pierson to stay after class and Pierson thought he was in trouble.

Corson instead praised Pierson for not saying anything to the girl, though he could have easily made her look foolish.

During the parent-teacher conferences, Pierson's father came to speak with Corson. The father seemed haggard and sat down with slumped shoulders. Corson told him that Pierson was doing very well in International Relations and offered examples of his participation. The father cheered up and stated that Pierson's grades were going down in his other courses because he was not turning in his homework.

On Thursday, the day before the shootings, Pierson gave a presentation on how China was providing better aid to Africa than the United States.

Pierson argued that the Chinese aid was provided without strings attached, as compared to the aid from the United States. Pierson seemed well that day and gave no indication that he planned to harm the students or faculty.