

National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Toolkit



A Guide to School-Related Insider References

While many attackers cite previous attackers as role models, references to those attackers are often subtle and can easily be overlooked. Recognizing these references can help in the identification step of the **Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM)** model. This guide—though not exhaustive—lists various references to names, phrases, and dates that could be cited by potential attackers.

It is essential to consider context when initiating a BTAM process; the totality of circumstance surrounding an individual must be considered. For example, if an individual writes about the attack at Columbine High School, it could be a warning sign of targeted violence or it could be an assigned research project. Please note that individuals using these references may also be engaged in non-violent First Amendment protected activity and all facts should be taken into consideration.

Columbine High School

9 April

Eric Harris's birthday

20 April

Anniversary of Columbine attack

11 September

Dylan Klebold's birthday

Vodka; V Green

Nicknames used by Dylan Klebold

**Indigo
Reb; Rebdoomer;
Rebdomine**

Nicknames used by Eric Harris

Arlene

Name Eric Harris gave his gun

**"HATE! I'm full of hate
and I love it"**

Written by Eric Harris

"Hitmen for Hire"

Name of video made by Harris and Klebold in video production class at Columbine

"Ich bin Gott"

German for "I am God;" written several times by Eric Harris

Judgment day

Dylan Klebold used this term to refer to the Columbine attack, perhaps imitating Charles Manson and his followers who referred to a coming "judgment day"

"Natural selection"

Used on T-shirt by Eric Harris



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NBK

Abbreviation for the movie *Natural Born Killers*; Harris and Klebold's code name for their attack at Columbine

"Wrath"

Used on T-shirt by Dylan Klebold

Virginia Technical Institute

16 April

Anniversary of Virginia Tech attack

Ax Manson; Ax
Ishmael; Anti-Terrorist
of America;
Seer of Veracity

Names used by Seung Hui Cho



As Ismail
Ismail's Ax

Names erroneously reported in the news media as having been used by Seung Hui Cho

Question Mark

After Seung Hui Cho signed in to a class with a "?" instead of his name, he was referred to as *Question Mark*

Sandy Hook Elementary School

14 December

Anniversary of Sandy Hook attack

Blarvink; Knavesmig;
Kaynbred; Kayn-tdlr

Online names used by Adam Lanza; these names could be references to the biblical Cain

Smiggles

Online name used by Adam Lanza when he posted on "*Shocked Beyond Belief*"

"DDR guy"

Adam Lanza's nickname at a local movie theatre because he played "Dance, Dance Revolution"

Hamster

Common reference to the attack because Adam Lanza liked hamsters

Red Lake Senior High School

21 March

Anniversary of Red Lake attack

Blades11; Nativenazi;
December of the Soul;
Neonecrosis;
Todesengel

Online names used by Jeffrey Weise

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Jokela High School

7 November	Anniversary of Jokela attack (Finland)
Eric von Auffoin	Nickname used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen
Natural Selector89	Nickname used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen , which is based on Eric Harris's writings and the shirt he wore the day of the Columbine High School attack
Sturmgeist89	Online name used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen
Homo Idiocracy	Used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen
“Humanity is overrated”	Used on T-shirt by Pekka-Eric Auvinen
Catherine	Name Pekka-Eric Auvinen gave his gun

2011 Norway Attacks

22 July	Anniversary of Anders Breivik’s attack
2083	Title of Anders Breivik’s manifesto was “2083: <i>A European Declaration of Independence</i> ”
Andrew Berwick	Pseudonym for Anders Breivik

Additional Key References

1488	1488 does not refer to the year; “14” refers to a 14-word motto of many white supremacists: “ <i>We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children.</i> ” “88” refers to “Heil Hitler” because <i>h</i> is the eighth letter of the alphabet. Several school shooters, such as Karl Pierson (Arapahoe High School shooter), William Atchison (Aztec High School shooter), and Seung Hui Cho used these numbers in their attack propaganda. 1488 has been used by other perpetrators of ideological violence.
“Alea iacta est”	Latin for “ <i>the die is cast;</i> ” attributed to Julius Caesar; Karl Pierson wrote this on his arm and Marc Lépine (École Polytechnique de Montréal shooter) included it in his suicide note

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The Anarchist Cookbook

Provides instruction on making explosives from household materials; owned by various perpetrators of targeted violence such as **Clay Shrout** (killed his family and took a classroom hostage at Ryle High School), **Michael Carneal** (Heath High School shooter), **Kip Kinkel** (Thurston High School shooter), **Eric Harris**, **Jared Loughner** (2011 Tucson shooter), and **Karl Pierson**.

Andrew Blaze

Alias for **Randy Stair** (Eaton Township Weis Markets shooter)

“Born to kill”

Phrase used by **Kimveer Gill** (Dawson College shooter)

Angel of Death

Used on T-shirt by **Dimitrios Pagourtzis** (Santa Fe High School shooter)

Day of Retribution

Name **Elliot Rodger** (2014 Isla Vista shooter) used for his attack

Rage

Novel by Stephen King published under pseudonym Richard Bachman about a student who kills two teachers and holds a class hostage. Read by several school shooters, some of whom appear to have imitated the story in their attacks: **Kristofer Hans** (Fergus County High School shooter), **Gary Scott Pennington** (East Carter High School shooter), **Barry Loukaitis** (Frontier Middle School shooter), and **Michael Carneal**.

Ragnarok

Title of **Alex Hribal’s** (knife attack at Franklin Regional High School) last piece of writing and perhaps his attack; derived from Norse mythology

“Supreme gentleman”

A reference to **Elliot Rodger**—perpetrator of targeted violence in California—in his final video, he addressed himself to women as the “*supreme gentleman*.” **Alek Minassian** (Toronto Van attacker) posted “*All hail the Supreme Gentleman, Elliot Rodger,*” on social media just before his rampage.

Trench

Nickname used by **Kimveer Gill** online, perhaps as a reference to the trenchcoats worn by **Eric Harris** and **Dylan Klebold** or the Trenchcoat Mafia

Other Notorious Dates by Month

14 February

Two school attacks have occurred on Valentine’s Day, but no known connection to the holiday; the perpetrators were **Steven Kazmierczak** (Northern Illinois University shooter) and **Nikolas Cruz** (Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooter)

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9 April

Eric Harris's birthday; **Alex Hribal** committed his attack on this date; he wanted it to be on 20 April, the anniversary of Columbine, but that date fell on a weekend, so he chose Harris's birthday

19 April

Anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and the burning of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas; **Eric Harris** was influenced by both attacks and possibly planned his attack close to this date because of his fixation

20 April

In addition to the Columbine High School attacks, **Sky Bouche** (Forest High School shooter) committed his attack on this date; others have planned to commit attacks on this anniversary but were thwarted

30 August

Kip Kinkel's birthday; **Alvaro Castillo** (Orange High School shooter) chose to commit his attack on Kinkel's birthday

11 September

Dylan Klebold's birthday; reference to this date may be indicative of either targeted violence or terrorism

Source:

Langman, Peter, Ph.D., "A Guide to Insider References Used by School Shooters and Other Attackers," SchoolShooters.Info, 3 March 2020.

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