



Savannah River Site Watch

## **Email chain and Centerra news release concerning security personnel at DOE's Savannah River Site (SRS) and the status of personnel security reviews by Centerra, the company managing security at SRS and which took over that role from G4S, the company that employed the Orlando shooter, in November 2014**

### **1. Inquiry of SRS Watch to SRS Office of External Affairs, June 12, 2016**

From: ([SRS Watch](#))  
To: DOE-[SROEA@srs.gov](mailto:SROEA@srs.gov)  
Date: 06/12/2016 04:32 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Security review of Centerra-SRS or its personnel (as Centerra may have inherited employees from G4S - company or Orlando shooter)?

-----Original Message-----

Subject: Security review of Centerra-SRS or its personnel (as Centerra may have inherited employees from G4S - company or Orlando shooter)?

#### **Re Centerra-SRS and security at the Savannah River Site in aftermath of Orlando shooting?**

Various press reports - see one blog below - state that the shooter at the Orlando nightclub worked for the GS4 security company, the security company previously at the Savannah River Site. I can't confirm this and am only seeing various press reports that state that the shooter was a "security guard" with G4S.

The Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle reported in article (linked below) on November 25, 2014 that GS4 personnel at SRS would transfer to Centerra:

"G4S Government Solutions Inc., the parent company of WSI-SRS, announced Tuesday that it was sold to an unnamed private equity firm. The company's name will change to Centerra Group LLC after about 30 days, according to a new release on the sale.

WSI-SRS has been the security contractor at SRS since 1983.

G4S Government Solutions said that there should be no changes to personnel or staffing due to the ownership change."

Centerra-SRS states on the SRS website (linked below) that "Prior to employment, Centerra-SRS employees go through an extensive background screening. It includes a check of police records, personal references, and verification of background and citizenship. Personnel in security positions establish their qualifications through prior education and/or experience in law enforcement or the military."

>>>> **Questions:**

**Will DOE or the Savannah River Operations Office assess if there is any need for action to 1) review the background of any Centerra employees working at the Savannah River Site and/or 2) review the security-clearance process and/or security policies of Centerra-SRS?**

**Will Centerra-SRS, in any self-motivated "responsive" manner or as directed by DOE, review its pertinent policies related to security at SRS and/or security personnel at SRS?**

**Can DOE or SRS provide a statement about this matter, if appropriate?**

Obviously, neither DOE nor the public want to see an inside job (via the "insider threat") at a site storing both nuclear waste and Special Nuclear Materials (including about 13 metric tons of weapon-grade plutonium) and has taken steps to try and make sure that doesn't happen. It is expected that DOE and SRS will take all steps necessary to make sure the site is secure and that DOE will react appropriately and as necessary to the largest shooting in U.S. history.

Thank you for response to these questions, posed on the day that information about the horrid massacre in Orlando is unfolding.

Savannah River Site Watch  
Columbia, South Carolina

Atomic City Underground blog

June 13, 2016

<http://knoxblogs.com/atomiccity/>

<http://knoxblogs.com/atomiccity/2016/06/12/orlando-shooter-worked-g4s/>

## **Orlando shooter worked for G4S**

The Orlando nightclub shooter worked for G4S, one of the world's largest security companies, according to multiple news reports. WPBF, a TV station in Palm Beach County, Fla., where the company is based, quoted a statement issued by G4S that said Omar Mateen had worked for the company since Sept. 10, 2007. "We are cooperating fully with all law enforcement authorities, including the FBI, as they conduct their investigation. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the friends, families and people affected by this unspeakable tragedy," the statement said in part.

G4S, formerly known as Wackenhut, was a major security provider at the government facilities in Oak Ridge until it lost its contracts in the wake of the 2012 break-in by protesters at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant. Mateen reportedly lived in Fort Pierce, Fla., and there is no indication he was ever involved in any Oak Ridge-related activities.

Wackenhut provided security at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge facilities, beginning in 2000. Its security contract at Y-12 was terminated after the security breach, and B&W Y-12 — the managing contractor at the time — absorbed the security duties as part of its work.

G4S/Wackenhut also lost its contract to provide security at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Oak Ridge Federal Building in 2013 when DOE awarded the job to National Strategic Protective Services.

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**Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle**

## **SRS security firm bought by private group**

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/business/2014-11-25/srs-security-firm-bought-private-group#>

From staff reports

[Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014](#)

The parent company of the firm that provides security for Savannah River Site has a new owner, and will be changing the name of the security company.

G4S Government Solutions Inc., the parent company of WSI-SRS, announced Tuesday that it was sold to an unnamed private equity firm. The company's name will change to Centerra Group LLC after about 30 days, according to a new release on the sale.

WSI-SRS has been the security contractor at SRS since 1983.

G4S Government Solutions said that there should be no changes to personnel or staffing due to the ownership change.

"For over 31 years, our employees have earned a reputation for excellence within the DOE security contractor community," said Mark Bolton, the vice president and general manager for WSI-SRS. "We are extremely proud of our many achievements under the WSI name, and now look forward to continuing that success under our new Company name, Centerra Group LLC."

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Post about Centerra-SRS on SRS website: <http://sro.srs.gov/centerrasrs.html>

"Prior to employment, Centerra-SRS employees go through an extensive background screening. It includes a check of police records, personal references, and verification of background and citizenship. Personnel in security positions establish their qualifications through prior education and/or experience in law enforcement or the military. They must also meet strict medical and physical fitness standards."

Centerra website, listing "DOE Savannah River Site" as a federal security customer:  
<http://www.centerragroup.com/federal-and-commercial-security.html>

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## 2. SRS response to SRS Watch, June 14, 2016

**Cc:** DOE-SROEA <DOE-SROEA@srs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: Security review of Centerra-SRS or its personnel (as Centerra may have inherited employees from G4S - company or Orlando shooter)?

**Date:** Tue, Jun 14, 2016 9:57 am

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Here is some background on the hiring process of our security personnel. We do not have an overall statement in regards to your questions.

**POINTS OF NOTE:**

- Centerra-SRS is not affiliated with G4S in any capacity.
- Our security policies and processes are routinely reviewed.

**BACKGROUND:**

Applicants for employment by Centerra-SRS go through a pre-employment screening process. Phase I of the process involves verification of information contained on the candidate's application and/or resume. All employment offers are contingent on verification of references, employment, education, traffic, and credit history. Phase II of the pre-employment screening includes a physical examination, urinalysis drug screen, and psychological test.

Upon employment, Centerra employees are then submitted for Federal security clearances. The Federal security clearance process involves further screening by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Federal Investigative Services. The background investigations include a review of an individual's records from law enforcement entities, educational institutions, prior employers, social media, and additional background information. In addition, investigators contact neighbors and others who have been in contact with the individuals. Employees in critical positions must adhere to additional criteria in the DOE's Human Reliability Program — a security and safety reliability program designed to ensure individuals who occupy positions with access to certain materials, facilities, and programs meet the highest standards of reliability and physical and mental suitability. Under this program, employees are continuously evaluated for any condition or circumstance that may pose a security or safety concern.

Although we do not comment on specifics of the SRS security posture, we do have a deliberate assessment program. The assessment program involves both internal and independent external agency reviews to validate the effectiveness of site security. In addition, employees who are granted security clearances are regularly reinvestigated in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations.

Office of External Affairs  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Savannah River Ops Office

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### 3. Centerra's news release on the matter, June 14, 2016

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/public-statement-by-centerra-group-llc-300284635.html>

## Public Statement By Centerra Group, LLC

Jun 14, 2016, 15:57 ET from [Centerra Group, LLC](#)

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla., June 14, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- In response to the misinformation that Centerra Group, LLC, formerly G4S Government Solutions, Inc. (G4S GS), is the employer of the Orlando shooter:

*"As we learn more about the tragic events this weekend, I first want to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims of this horrific incident. Accurate root cause analysis is a key element in preventing future events. To help with misinformation, it's important our US Government customers understand we have been Centerra Group, LLC since 2014 – privately owned and operated. Prior, we were G4S Government and/or WSI, and retained 100% of all operational and organizational control by law. U.S. law mandates classified US Government contracts operate behind a legal firewall. Early information about the shooter's potential employment at classified US Government sites or in his ability to be employed by one within our firm is inaccurate as most early reports are. We'll continue to address misinformation, and as a security provider to the US Government for over 50 years, continue to look introspectively at what we can do better."*

--Paul Donahue, President & CEO, Centerra Group, LLC

Established in 1960, Centerra Group, LLC, is one of the world's leading international government solutions groups specializing in sectors where security, safety and countenance of operation risks are considered a strategic threat. Headquartered in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, with regional and subsidiary offices worldwide, Centerra is a multidisciplinary service provider with a global focus on securing critical infrastructure. "Protecting Critical Priorities" – that is Centerra's mission. For more information, please call 800-325-5432 or visit [www.centerragroup.com](http://www.centerragroup.com).

Logo - <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20160614/379112LOGO>

SOURCE Centerra Group, LLC

### Related Links

<http://www.centerragroup.com>