

FEBRUARY, 20, 2018

### **An Open Letter to Law Enforcement regarding the recent events in Parkland, FL**

The recent school shooting in Parkland, FL has caused me to reach out to law enforcement across the nation. The rampage of Nikolas Cruz was forewarned and documented; it could have been prevented.

For over 13 years my company, POLICE TECHNICAL, has provided technical training to law enforcement at all levels (Federal, State, and Local). We specialize in Open Source and Online Investigations training. We also provide training in Google and Dark Web Investigations. Any of these classes would have trained personnel in procedures which could have identified Nikolas Cruz.

I have never advertised our training services after a critical incident; but the events in Florida (both the shooting and the post event conferences) have changed my mind:

On February 15, 2018, FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert Lasky said at a news conference in Parkland, FL, that the FBI was informed of a comment by a user named "Nikolas Cruz" that read: "Im [sic] going to be a professional school shooter."

"No other information was included with that comment, which would indicate a time, location or the true identity of the person who made the comment. The FBI conducted database reviews, checks, but was unable to further identify the person who actually made the comment," Lasky said. (emphasis mine)

**Cruz' comment was posted on an open forum, by a registered user on YouTube (a Google property). With the information available in September 2017, he should have been identified and engaged by law enforcement.**

#### **Thomas Manson and POLICE TECHNICAL**

I'm nearly 50, and I've been working with law enforcement since I was in the US Border Patrol in my 20s. I'm nobody's savior, but I've dedicated my life to this Field. I believe in our courses, instructors and process, and respectfully, I believe our training could have made a difference.

We provide training in Open Source and Online Investigations. This is what we do. We could help here.

If you'd like to speak with me about what we can do for your department and community in these areas, I'd have that conversation.

Thank you.  
Respectfully,



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## “Review and Checks” Could Not Identify Source of the YouTube Comment

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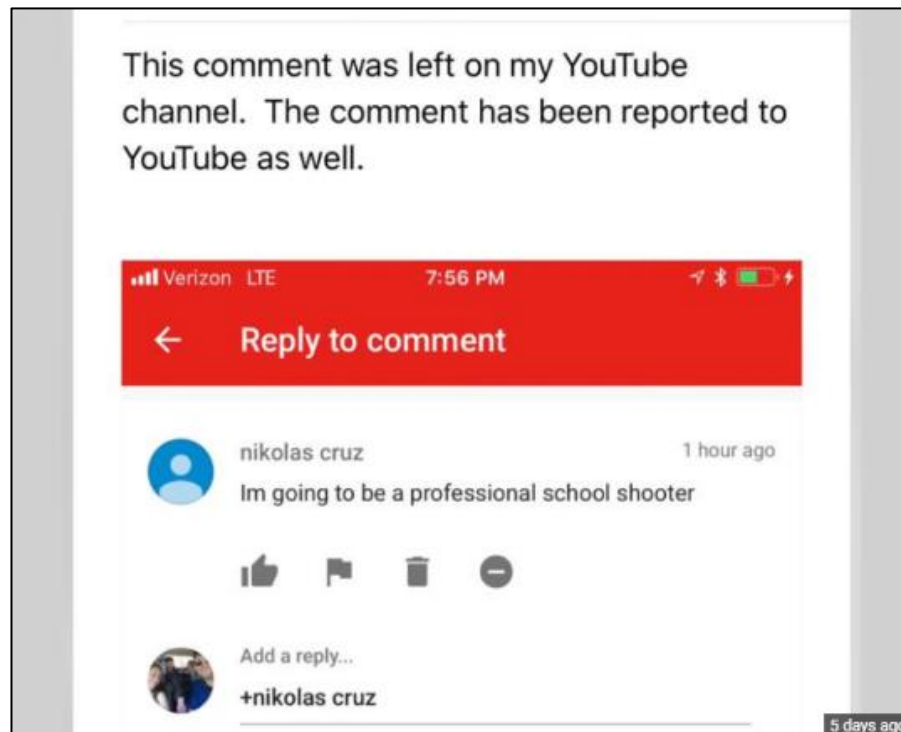
Multiple online sources reported earlier Thursday that a YouTube user named Ben Bennight contacted the Bureau last September regarding the comment. Nikolas Cruz, 19, was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder Thursday morning after he opened fire in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, killing 17 people and injuring more than a dozen others.

### “If You See Something, Say Something”...He tried

Ben Bennight contacted the FBI's tip account in September 2017 and sent a screenshot of the comment (see below). He said agents responded "immediately" and interviewed him. "They came to my office the next morning and asked me if I knew anything about the person," Bennight added. "I didn't. They took a copy of the screenshot and that was the last I heard from them."

### Too Late

Bennight said he was contacted again Wednesday after the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School. "I think we spoke with you in the past about a complaint that you made about someone making a comment on your YouTube channel," an FBI Agent, Ryan Furr, said in a message. "I just wanted to follow up with you on that and ask you a question with something that's come up, if you wouldn't mind giving me a ring."



### References

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