

*CBS Evening News with Tony Dokoupil*

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6:30:19 p.m. [TEASE]

17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; New Developments in Air Base Bomb Threat]

TONY DOKOUPIL: Also developing tonight, the FBI says it knows who placed a bomb outside MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa this month. The base key to U.S. operations in Iran and the indictments coming down late today. Two siblings charged, the sister arrested, her brother still on the run.

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6:34:01 p.m.

2 minutes and 3 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: MacDill Air Force Base Bomb Plot]

DOKOUPIL: Now to that major news out of Tampa. What authorities say was a potentially deadly explosive device found outside MacDill Air Force Base. The FBI says it was placed there by a 20-year-old man who has since fled to China. CBS News correspondent Cristian Benavides is at the base, which is home to U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. Cristian, good evening. What have you learned?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Siblings Indicted After Bomb Found at Air Force Base]

CRISTIAN BENAVIDES: Tony, what is so frightening here is that officials say it took six days for this explosive device to be discovered. They say that it was real. It could have killed a lot of people, but for some reason it did not detonate. According to federal authorities, Alen Zheng planted an explosive device on March 10th near MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Minutes later, a 911 call reported a bomb had been placed on the base.

U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA GREGORY KEHOE: The MacDill personnel searched the base and I'm the entire base and did not find the device at that time.

BENAVIDES: It was eventually discovered on March 16. By then, prosecutors say Zheng and his sister, Ann Mary Zheng had sold the black Mercedes used to transport the bomb to the base and fled to China. Ann Mary Zheng later returned and was charged with being an accessory after the fact and tampering with evidence. Alen is facing three counts, including attempting to destroy government property and making and possessing an explosive device.

KEHOE: A search warrant was obtained by the FBI to search Zheng's home, and they found IED

components consistent with the bomb that had been placed at MacDill Air Force Base.

BENAVIDES: MacDill Air Force Base houses Central Command, in charge of military operations in the Middle East, including the war with Iran. Officials say they have no motive.

KEHOE: We're exploring every avenue we can to get him back to the United States.

BENAVIDES: China does not have an extradition treaty with the U.S. although it does negotiate in some cases, prosecutors say they don't have any evidence that Zheng was working with the Chinese government, Tony.

DOKOUPIL: Cristian, thank you very much.