

NBC's *Today*  
04/27/26  
7:03:26 a.m.  
33 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Arraignment Today]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: An arraignment is scheduled today for Cole Tomas Allen, the 31-year-old suspect who investigators say was armed and believed to be targeting President Trump and other high-level officials who were attending the dinner. And here's some chilling video. It shows the armed suspect trying to rush into the Washington Hilton ballroom. One Secret Service member was shot did survive, thanks to a bulletproof vest.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Speaking Out]

CRAIG MELVIN: Meanwhile, President Trump speaking out overnight amid new details about anti-Trump messages the suspect sent to family members.

(...)

7:05:28 a.m.  
8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Details Emerge in DC Dinner Shooting]

GABE GUTIERREZ: A senior administration official says Cole sent writings to family members expressing a desire to target administration officials.

(...)

7:07:32 a.m.  
2 minutes and 14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Security Questions Surround DC Shooting]

KELLY O'DONNELL: He also left behind writings that authorities say could unlock a motive. New this morning, the man who allegedly described himself as "a friendly federal assassin" is expected to face charges in court here in Washington. Authorities say they hope to identify what they call a triggering event for 31-year-old Cole Allen. President Trump on *60 Minutes* claimed the suspect has been radicalized.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [on CBS's *60 Minutes*, 04/26/26]: He's been going through a lot, based on what he wrote. His brother complained about him and I think reported him to the police and the sister likewise complained about him. His family was very concerned.

O'DONNELL: Investigators say Allen e-mailed a message to family shortly before he raced through a security perimeter, one floor above the dinner event. NBC News reviewed a transcript of that note provided by a senior White House official, which talked about "intended targets," without naming the President, but appeared to refer to him and top cabinet officials who were in that packed ballroom.

ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL TODD BLANCHE [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 04/26/26]: We believe that he was targeting administration officials in this attack — attempted attack. But that's again, quite preliminary.

O'DONNELL: Allen's message also criticized what he perceived to be lax security at the hotel. He had checked in to the same hotel one day before the correspondents' dinner, earlier traveling cross-country by train. Authorities say he had knives and legally obtained shotgun and handgun. A Sunday search for evidence also focused on his southern California home. Employed as a test prep teacher and trained as an engineer, Allen appeared on a 2017 local TV segment about products designed for seniors.

COLE THOMAS ALLEN [to KABC in 2017]: The wheelchair brakes tend to lock the wheels, but don't actually lock the chair to the ground.

O'DONNELL: The President noted the suspect's failure.

TRUMP [on CBS's *60 Minutes*, 04/26/26]: He got caught. And he got caught pretty easily, so I would say he was pretty incompetent.

O'DONNELL: Authorities say they have interviewed the suspect's brother, who alerted local police in Connecticut and also a sister, who talked about escalating rhetoric from his brother — from her brother, about world events. And that will be part of what is used in evidence.

(...)

7:09:59 a.m.

1 minute and 15 seconds

GUTHRIE: You've seen some of the writings that this suspect left. Can you characterize what was in the writing, what the tenor of this was?

TOM WINTER: There is no room for interpretation in this writing. It is very clear. After the first Trump assassination attempt, which is still hard to believe we're saying that statement, Thomas Matthew Crooks, we could find anything online about a social media presence, there's no writings or any sort of anything that's been left behind. This is the complete opposite. This person told you why they were doing it, talked about the planning, said, look, I looked for other opportunities, effectively, this was the first and best opportunity to get close to the Trump administration. Didn't even seem to put a priority necessarily on attacking the President. Just anybody in the Trump administration, the cabinet, listed a priority of potential targets. Talked

about how you know, he planned for this. And had a note at the end [for] Secret Service about security, so he even criticized them. And as Kelly has been reporting, took a lot of time to plan for this. Using the stairway. Knew what to do, knew how to approach — approach toward the end of the event, when they were breaking down the magnetometers and the security checkpoint. Was that intentional? Thought he could rush through this area? So, it's very clear this was well planned and this is someone that was clearly intent on killing a member of the Trump administration.

(...)

7:13:08 a.m.

1 minute and 16 seconds

GUTHRIE: Although, I mean, you just have to remark again, this is the very Washington Hilton where President Reagan was shot 1981 right outside, lead to security changes. So, given what Evy is saying, this is a different posture. A third attempt on the President's life.

WINTER: That's right, Savannah. Look, we sat here on July 14, 2024, this exact set, and talked about the concern following the first Trump administration attempt. What did that mean? And law enforcement's biggest concern is that the idea that you could solve your political problems or your personal problems through violence and targeted attacks could then take root in American society. Well, let's look at what's happened since then. A second attempt on Donald Trump's life. A third attempt. The Charlie Kirk shooting. The Minnesota lawmakers that were shot. The United Healthcare CEO that was shot a couple of blocks away from where we're sitting. We've had other shootings and bombings targeted for the same type of reasons. So, this was the fear on that morning. You have the king arriving this week. This been a number of threats and attacks that have occurred in Britain, so British authorities are working with the U.S. authorities on that. Looking ahead, what do we have this summer? It's being called the summer of security. You've got the FIFA World Cup, America 250. And we've got a war in the Middle East. You've got the threats that are emanating from there. This is the worst environment we've seen in a very long time.