

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

azcentral.com

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Laurence Taylor, who heads the United Kingdom’s counterterrorism police, said three white vans had been subject to extensive examination and police still had “significant resources deployed at the scene” at RAF Fairford air base in England. TOBY SHEPHEARD/REUTERS

U.K. probes alleged plot against U.S.-used base

5 to be released on bail; Iran says it’s not involved

Toby Shephard
REUTERS

FAIRFORD, England – British police said on Sept. 28 they were investigating whether individuals acting for a foreign state were involved in an apparent plot to attack an airbase used by the United States but said five suspects they had arrested would be released on bail. The five men, all British nationals from London in their early 20s, were detained early on Sept. 27 after police were alerted by a local farmer about three white vans driving toward RAF Fairford, a base in England that houses U.S. bombers that fly missions against Iran.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said in July the base was a legitimate target.

Laurence Taylor, who heads the British counterterrorism police, said the men, who had been arrested on suspicion of explosives offenses and planning a terrorist act, would be released under stringent bail conditions later on Sept. 28.

“To be very clear, this does not mean that the investigation is over,” Taylor said in a statement outside London police headquarters. “They absolutely remain under investigation as we explore multiple lines of inquiry.”

A source familiar with the investigation said an Iranian-linked motive was considered the most likely, although a Russian sabotage operation or an Islamist plot were also being looked at as possibilities.

Iran’s embassy in London said in a statement it “categorically rejects and strongly condemns the recent unfounded and malicious speculations,” which it said would fuel “Iranophobia propaganda” in the United Kingdom.

Taylor said the three white vans had been subject to extensive examination, with the support of the military and forensic experts, and police still had “significant resources deployed at the scene.”

President Donald Trump said Sept. 27 that the suspects had been looking to do “big damage” and had been under investigation by British and U.S. authorities.



Security measures have been stepped up at British military bases that support U.S. forces following an incident at RAF Fairford in England on Sept. 27. DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

ties, but doubts were voiced in British media about the degree to which they had been under surveillance, given how close they had come to the base.

The source familiar with the investigation said the arrests were not “intelligence-led” although security had been heightened at the base, suggesting authorities were aware of an increased threat.

The farmer who alerted the police told reporters she had seen a group of “hooded and masked men” running into fields. The farmer, who has not been identified, said she believed it was her phone call to the 999 emergency hotline that foiled any plot and that she thought she had seen up to 10 people at the scene.

Defense minister Wes Streeting told the BBC the farmer, who has not been identified, had only a “partial picture” of the investigation, without providing further clarification.

After the Fairford arrests, the U.S. Embassy issued a security alert saying U.S. citizens should “exercise caution” and be “mindful of personal security.” Security was stepped up at other U.S. airbases in the country.

New study eyes safety worries at Kirk event

Review: College deferred to TPUSA over security

Stephanie Murray
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Utah Valley University deferred to Turning Point USA leaders on crucial event security decisions in the lead-up to Charlie Kirk’s assassination, according to a new review commissioned by the school.

Kirk, the popular conservative activist, was shot and killed by a rooftop sniper while debating college students at an outdoor event on the Utah Valley University campus Sept. 10, 2025.

Kirk, 31, was the co-founder of Phoenix-based Turning Point USA and a close ally of President Donald Trump.

UVU did not act in bad faith or “in willful and wanton disregard for the safety of others,” but the event hosted on its campus had pivotal safety shortcomings, according to a new 158-page report released Sept. 24.

“Several key event-security decisions were deferred to the TPUSA field representative even though UVU staff members raised concerns, including concerns related to holding the event in the outdoor Fountain Courtyard area and using TPUSA’s ticketing process,” the report said.

The probe was released after Kirk’s family filed a notice of claim against the state of Utah and university leaders that alleged the school failed to act on a tip that a rooftop near Kirk’s event posed a security risk. The filing was a step toward filing a wrongful death lawsuit.

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Conservative activist Charlie Kirk is pictured throwing hats to the crowd shortly before he was fatally shot at a Utah Valley University speaking event on Sept. 10, 2025. TRENT NELSON/THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE VIA REUTERS

Republic parent company acquires Arizona Daily Star

Sandy Mazza
USA TODAY NETWORK

USA TODAY Co., the nation’s largest publisher of news and information, welcomed the Arizona Daily Star into its portfolio Sept. 28, in a deal with local news publisher Lee Enterprises Inc.

The deal allows each company to focus on markets where they already have operations, said USA TODAY Network Senior Vice President of Local News Michael A. Anastasi.

“This thoughtful transaction reflects a strategic decision to best serve these communities and support the future of local journalism,” Anastasi said.

Lee Enterprises assumed ownership of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, Aberdeen American News (including Farm Forum) and Watertown Public Opinion in South Dakota, as well as the Great Falls Tribune in Montana.

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DIVISION WOES CONTINUE 1B



The Cardinals’ losing streak against NFC West rivals grew to eight Sept. 27. DARREN YAMASHITA/IMAGN IMAGES

Pre-election squabbles

Secretary of State Adrian Fontes accused Maricopa County’s top voter registration official of playing “immature” political games before the election. 3A

Autumn attractions

When Arizona sees the arrival of cooler weather, locals begin making plans for fall favorites, which can include a trip to a pumpkin patch. 1C

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Volume 137 | No. 134
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