



87th Security Forces Squadron



Active Shooter Response

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Overview



-
- **Definition**
 - **Warrior Mindset**
 - **Physiological Changes**
 - **Threat Indicators**
 - **History/Past Events**
 - **Lesson Learned**
 - **Immediate Actions for workplaces**

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Definitions



Active Shooter – One or more subjects who participate in a shooting, random or systemic with the intent to continuously harm others.

- In most cases active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. But other weapons such as knives, cross bows, vehicles have been used.

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Warrior Mindset



The first step in enhancing a person's chances of survival is to actively develop and foster a warrior mindset.

- **Toughness-** the uninhibited mental resolution to aggressively react to illegal violence with a fierce and violent defense
- **Decisiveness-** respond immediately with the force necessary to survive.

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Physiological Changes



When faced with a threat physiologic changes occur. The autonomic nervous system controls the parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous system. These are the response to stress.

Sympathetic nervous system is a defense mechanism

- **Fight**
- **Flight**
- **Freeze**

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Active Shooter Situation



- Unpredictable
- Rapidly evolving
- Often over “Before” first responders arrive



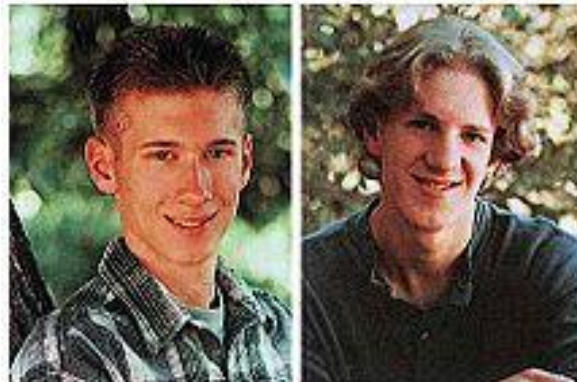
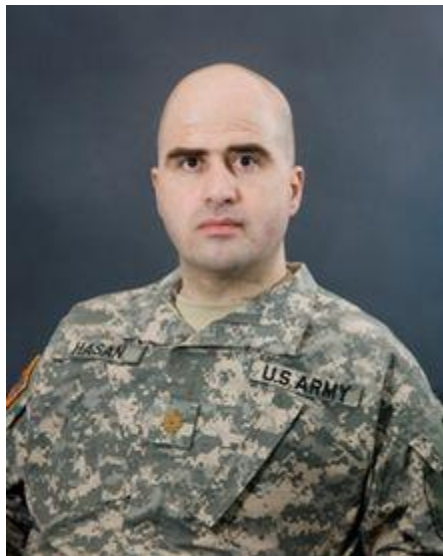
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Characteristics of an Active Shooter Incident



- Incredibly dangerous and difficult because there is no criminal objective (robbery, hostage taking, etc.) involved other than violence.
- Often the shooter has no regard for their life. They kill themselves when police arrive or are killed by the police.



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Active Shooter Phenomenon 5 Stages



Fantasy Stage

- Shooter pictures himself/herself committing the act

■ Planning Stage

- Would be active shooters in this stage will often discuss desires with friends and foes alike either verbally or through written communication
- Suspect is deciding on the “who, what, when, where and how” of his/her day of infamy
- Active Shooters will plan the time and location to ensure the most victims, or in some cases to target specific victims
- Active Shooters will decide how to travel to the target and how to dress to conceal weapons without arousing suspicion

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Active Shooter Phenomenon 5 Stages



Preparation Stage

- Suspect may be obtaining materials for improvised explosive devices (IED's)
- Active Shooters might call friends and tell them not to go to school or work on the scheduled day of the attack in an effort to keep them out of the line of fire

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Active Shooter Phenomenon 5 Stages



Approach Stage

- The shooter has a plan, a weapon and a decision to act
- They may be walking, driving, or riding to the intended target

Implementation Stage

- Active shooter will continue to kill until there are no more victims or no more ammunition
- Active shooter is unique and fully dedicated to going for the “Top Score” measured in the number of kills – the more victims, the better

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Characteristics of Active Shooter Individual(s)



- There is no accurate or useful “profile” of students who engaged in targeted school violence
- They come from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds
- Many attackers felt bullied, persecuted or injured by others prior to the attack
- A history of having been the subject of mental health evaluation, diagnosed with a mental disorder, or involved in substance abuse did not appear to be prevalent among attackers
- Showed some history of suicidal attempts or thoughts, or a history of feeling extreme depression or desperation

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Characteristics of Active Shooter Individual(s)



- Over half the attackers demonstrated some interest in violence, through movies, video games, books and other media
- There was no common type of interest in violence indicated. The interest in violence took various forms
- Most attackers had no history of prior violent or criminal behavior
- Most attackers were known to have had difficulty coping with significant losses or personal failures. Many had considered or attempted suicide

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Key Indicators



1. Threats and intimidating comments
2. Allusions of violence
3. Excess or intimidating references to mass murder or, Shooting sprees, real and fictional
4. Excessive interest in police or military
5. Intimidating weapons comments
6. Inappropriate comments to peers or superiors
7. Documenting or stalking potential victims
8. Depression
9. Anger
10. Paranoia
11. Repeatedly accusing others of causing their problems

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Major Incidents and Responses to An Active Shooter Incident



Major Incident Case Studies

Past events have forged new advances in training that has changed the way police respond to a crisis situation. Events over the past decades have always painted a picture of what is to come.

History will repeat itself.

We as a society often reflect on such horrific events as isolated situations, which often become forgotten.

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Texas Tower



- Date: August 1st, 1966
- Location: Austin Texas
- Weapon(s): Sawed off shotgun
- Scoped Remington 700 bolt-action hunting rifle
- M1 carbine, a Remington .35 caliber pump rifle
- .357 Magnum revolver, 9mm German Luger
- Death(s): **15**
- Injured: **8**
- Perpetrator: Charles Whitman



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McDonald's Massacre



Location: San Ysidro, California

Date: July 18, 1984

Weapon(s): Uzi, Carbine, Browning HP,
12-gauge 1200 Winchester

Death(s): **22** (including perpetrator)

Injured: **19**

Perpetrator: James Huberty



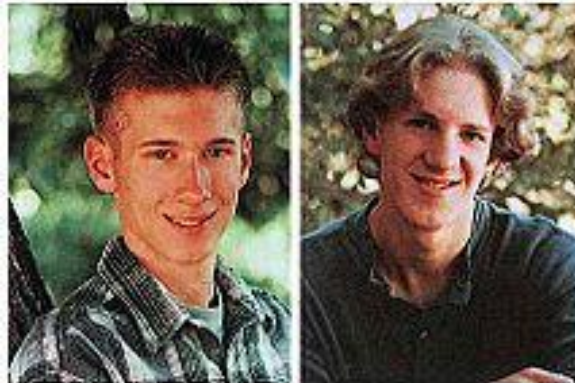
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Columbine High School



- Date: April 20, 1999
- Weapons: Pipe Bombs, 9mm Handguns, 12 gauge Shotguns, 9mm semi-automatic rifle.
- Death(s): **15** (including the 2 perpetrators)
- Injured: **24**
- Perpetrator(s): Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold



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Beslan School Hostage Crisis



- Location: Beslan Russia
- Date 1 September 2004
- Death(s) At least **385**
- Injured About **783**
- Perpetrator(s): Riyadus-Salikhin



- Intelligence gathered – Practice for Attack on US Soil

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Virginia Tech Massacre



Date: August 16, 2007

Weapons: 9mm Handgun, 22 caliber handgun

Deaths: **32**

Injured: **15**

Perpetrator: Seung Hui Cho



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Fort Hood



- Date: November 5, 2009
- Weapon: FN five seven Pistol
- Deaths: **13**
- Injured: **30**
- Perpetrator: Major Nidal Malik Hasan
- Incident Resolved: Subject wounded by civilian Law Enforcement and taken into custody.



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In this country alone we average one incident every three weeks



-
- **Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting 20 Students and six adults (26) killed** 14 December 2012
 - **Umpqua Community College Shooting Oregon 9 killed 8 wounded** 1 October 2015
 - **Orlando Florida Shooting 49 Killed 53 wounded**
12 June 2016
 - **Las Vegas Shooting – 59 killed, 500 wounded** 1
October 2017
 - **Sutherland Springs, Texas 26 killed, 20 wounded**
5 November 2017

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Las Vegas



-
- October 1, 2017
 - Route 91 Harvest Music Festival
 - 58 Killed
 - 422 Wounded
 - Ensuing panic brought the injury total to 850
 - 1000 shots fired in 10 minutes (Elevated Position)
 - Second volley targeted Law Enforcement
 - **Law Enforcement initially started treating the victims until the order was given via radio to get the shooter!**

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Mitigating Factors



- Open Air Venue
- Majority of attendees at the venue were intoxicated
- Majority of attendees were from out of state and did not know where they were
- 14 different reports of an active shooter at different locations
- 899 phone calls to 911, Cell phone towers overloaded
- 3961 Push to Talk radio transmissions, 638 first hour
- No clear mission, Officers initially treating victims
- Had to be given the order to “Attack the shooter”
- Victims friends wanted to stay with the injured and dead

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2019



-
- SunTrust Bank in Sebring, Florida. Five people (four employees and one customer) were killed; no one was wounded. The shooter surrendered to law enforcement after a standoff at the scene. 23 January 2019
 - Henry Pratt Company industrial warehouse in Aurora, Illinois. Five employees (two managers and three co-workers) were killed; six people (one employee and five law enforcement officers) were wounded (one, a law enforcement officer, from injuries incidental to the shooting). The shooter was killed at the scene by law enforcement during an exchange of gunfire. 15 February 2019

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2019



-
- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Two people were killed; one was wounded. The shooter, an active duty sailor, committed suicide at the scene before law enforcement arrived. 4 December 2019
 - Naval Air Station Pensacola, in Pensacola, Florida. Three people were killed; eight people (including two law enforcement officers) were wounded. The shooter, who was participating in aviation training at the station, was killed by law enforcement during an exchange of gunfire at the scene. 6 December 2019

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Lessons Learned



-
- Open lines of communication **MUST** be in place **PRIOR** to the event, it will not occur during the shooting
 - Medical tent was prepped for heat related injuries not mass casualty issues
 - ISIS tried to take responsibility, No evidence
 - No know motive, only note found was related to weapons distance

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Base Populace Response



-
- The following options are what we present to the base populace:
 - Barricade
 - Escape
 - Fight

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OPTIONS



These options are not in any particular order and there are no requirements to progress through one option prior to selecting another.

Each option selected should be done because it provides you the greatest chance of survival!

They are based on two factors.

- Your proximity to the shooter
- Your accessibility to egress routes

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Barricade



-
- Not merely hiding
 - Active effort to hinder the shooters ability to enter the room or facility
 - Close and lock doors
 - Be prepared to fight (if not armed secure an improvised weapon)
 - If Armed cover the point of entry with your weapon
 - Move heavy objects to barricade the door
 - Use objects as obstacles “Defend your Sector”
 - Turn off lights, Remain quiet (Cell Phones, radios)

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Escape



-
- Not directly confronted with the shooter(s)
 - Your egress route is not under the observation of the shooter(s)
 - Pre-identify escape routes
 - Be prepared to fight
 - Do not waste time gathering belongings
 - Notify others to escape
 - If Armed, ***DO NOT*** pursue the threat
 - ***SECURITY FORCES WILL PURSUE THE THREAT***

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Fight



This is **NOT** a last resort!

- Your ability to fight is employed when it offers you the best chance for survival.
- If unarmed secure an improvised weapon
- Commit to the fight
- Attempt to subdue the shooter and secure the weapon
- Continue to evaluate your options if another shooter is involved

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Response to an Active Shooter



At the conclusion of the actual incident the following will need to be accomplished:

- Injured treated, transported and tracked.
- Witness Interviews, victim Interviews will be conducted
- You will be interviewed several times
- Crime scene processing will take place
- Media control (**DO NOT SPEAK TO THE PRESS**) Public Affairs will speak to the press.
- Family members responding to the scene will have to be monitored and directed to the proper sources.

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Questions

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