

University of Maryland  
Police Department  
College Park



Chief David B. Mitchell  
Active Shooter / Threat  
Concepts / Programs / Principles

# Active Threats / Pre-planning

- This is an “uncomfortable” conversation, but one that we need to have.
- This is about surviving in a worst-case scenario...in a situation you are in every day.
- This discussion alone could be a survival thought process that saves lives.
- Situational Awareness.

# Active Threat / Threat Defined

One or more subjects who participate in a shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. Their overriding objective appears to be mass murder, rather than other criminal conduct, such as robbery, hostage taking, etc.

# Definitions

- **Active Threat:** Similar to an active shooter, this is a suspect who is causing death or serious bodily injury, but with weapons other than a gun. This may include a knife or explosive device. This is a DYNAMIC situation.
- **Barricaded Suspect:** A suspect who is barricaded in a room or a building and is armed and has displayed violence. May or may not be holding hostages and there is no indication that the subject's activity is immediately causing death or serious bodily injury. This is a STATIC situation.
- **Traditional Deployment:** A tactical concept where Officers maintain a secure perimeter around a life threatening armed suspect situation and wait until specially trained units (S.W.A.T.) arrive at the scene to finally intervene.
- **Rapid Deployment:** The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement personnel to on-going, life threatening situations.



# What measures have been taken by University of Maryland Police Department ?

Policy / Procedures

Internal Training

External Training

Collaborative Training

Follow-Through

# Policy & Procedures

- Agencies from across the State have introduced best Police practices into the policies/procedures for which they operate.
- These policies discuss response to:
  - Incidents of Active Shooter/Threats
  - Incident command
  - Recovery
  - Resources
  - Training of our stakeholders

# Internal Training

- Basic principles / concepts associated with best police practices nation wide on Active Threat / Shooter training.
- Consistency on response from neighboring jurisdictions.
- In-service training with the nationally recognized ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) system.
- Incident Command Training for Command Level.
- Scenario based training with force on force (simmunitions).
  - These are important rehearsal drills to evaluate our performance.

# Internal

- Go bags / Ready bags.
- Military surplus equipment.
  - Rifle / Shotgun program
  - Rescue vehicles
- Introduction of acoustic reporting system (ShotSpotter). (Stamp Student Union and other various areas of the campus)
- Introduction of PERT Video and pre-recorded messages)
- Video cameras around campus-monitored 24 hours.
- Laser shot system. (Training Simulator-video based)
- Police link-ups uniform and plain clothes.
  - \*Just some of the training employed



# External Training

- Stakeholders of the University
  - Faculty / Staff / Students /  
Surrounding communities
- Educating all with Run / Hide / Fight concepts
- See something say something
- Active shooter response (Quick series)
- ShotSpotter
- UMD Alert system / Guardian App
- [apps.reslife.umd.edu/sos/](https://apps.reslife.umd.edu/sos/)
- BETA team on campus
- Go-bags / Ready bags for our stakeholders
- Location to evacuate to for debrief and accountability purposes.

# Collaborative Training

- Joint training efforts for large scale exercise
- Assist other neighboring jurisdictions with their training exercises.
- Reviewing all incidents and training to incorporate best police practices.
- Provide safe care by EMS to casualties.
- Social Media efforts to unveil potential risks to the University Systems.

# Follow-Through

- Prepare all persons for the risk of an event such as Active Shooter/Threat.
- Continue to evaluate the agencies response by conducting drills.
- Continue to train our Stakeholders.
- Evaluate where we are as a Nation and Law Enforcement agency, so that we are in a prepared state of mind.

# National facts

- **Campus shootings are not increasing**
  - U.S. government studies show the number of incidents have held steady or decreased over the last two decades
- **Campus violence is workplace violence**
  - Schools and colleges are workplaces before they are campuses
- **Workplace violence of all calibers except homicide are on the increase**
  - Harassment to assault to robbery and rape are much more likely than homicide.

# First Responder Goals

- To aid the First Responder in their abilities to effectively isolate, distract, and neutralize an *“Active Shooter/Threat”*
- To empower the First Responder with the tools and tactics necessary to combat the most dedicated murder(s)
- Studies show that every 4 to 9 seconds another life is taken by these single-minded subjects!

**To Save As Many Lives As Possible!!!**

# Domestic Historical Events

- Austin Texas (Texas Tower 8-1-66)
- Columbine Colorado (High School 4-20-99)
- Trolley Square (Salt Lake City Utah 2-12-07)
- Virginia Tech (College Campus 4-16-07)
- Tucson Arizona (Congresswoman 1-08-11)
- Aurora Colorado (Movie Theatre 7-20-12)
- Sandy Hook Conn. (Elementary School 12-14-12)
- Navy Yard (Secured Military Base 9-16-13)
- San Bernardino (Social Service facility 12-2-15)

# Foreign Historical Events

- 911 terrorist attack on the USA
- Beslan, Russia 2004
- Mumbai, India 2008
- Paris, France 2015
- Brussel 2016

# Phases of Behavior

- Fantasy
- Planning
- Preparation
- Approach
- Implementation



Many Observable Behaviors Which  
Should Be Reported

This Is Where You Stay Away and call 911!



# When You Report

Be prepared to give the 911 call taker the following information:

- Location of incident
- Number of possible shooters/hostage takers
- Physical description and names of shooters/hostage takers, if possible
- Number of possible hostages
- Any weapons the suspect may have
- Your name
- Your location and phone number



Officers train in active shooter and other critical incidents. Here officers are evaluated as they advance through the Health Center in an active shooter exercise.

# Evacuation Plans (RUN)

- If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:
  - Have an escape route and plan in mind
  - Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
  - Leave your belongings behind
  - Help others escape, if possible
  - Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be
  - Keep your hands visible and up
  - Follow the instructions of any police officers
  - Do not attempt to move wounded people
  - Have a plan in place When / Then thinking concepts

# Hide

- If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should:
  - Be out of the active shooter's view
  - Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door)
  - Not trap you or restrict your options for movement

To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:

- Lock the door
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture

# HIDE (CONT)

- If the active shooter is nearby:
  - Lock the door
  - Silence your cell phone
  - Turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions)
  - Barricade the door (door closer, table across door, etc)
  - Hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks)
  - Remain quiet

# Fight

- As a **last resort**, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:
  - Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her
  - Throwing items and improvising weapons
  - Yelling
  - Committing to your actions

# Run, Hide, Fight

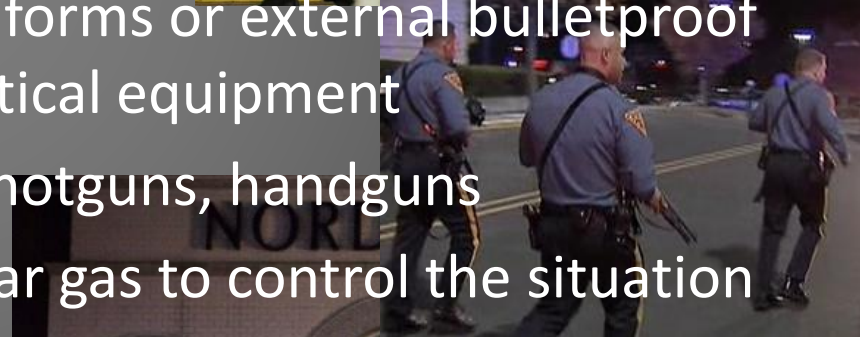
**RUN > HIDE > FIGHT**

**>>> SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT**



# When Law Enforcement Officers Respond (LEO)

- Remember – law enforcement officers will not know who the shooter is, so EVERYONE is a suspect!
- Law enforcement's purpose is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard.
- Officers may wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, handguns
- Officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation
- Officers may shout commands, and may push individuals to the ground for their safety



# What to expect from LEO

- The first officers to arrive to the scene will not stop to help injured persons. Priority is to stop the killing!
  - They may advise you options or throw medical items to you!
- Rescue teams comprised of officers and emergency medical personnel will follow the initial entry.
  - These rescue teams will treat and remove any injured persons.
  - They may call upon able-bodied individuals to assist in removing the wounded from the premises.
- Once you have reached a safe location or an assembly point, you will likely be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control, and all witnesses have been identified and questioned.
- Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.



# Your Response to LEOs

- How to react when law enforcement arrives:
  - Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions
  - Put down any items in your hands (i.e., cell phones, bags, jackets)
  - Immediately raise hands and spread fingers
  - Keep hands visible at all times
  - Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
  - Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
  - Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises



# How Staff Can Help

- The staff should be prepared to support and aide responders:
  - Provide the layout of the property.
  - Point out the fastest route to the threat.
  - Provide access keys if required to hasten response.
  - Notify responders of the status of evacuation and shelter-in-place.
  - Notify responders of any changes or modifications in floor plans.
  - Notify responders of areas under construction.
- If the facility has a control room with cameras, law enforcement needs direct communications with, or access to, the control room to track the suspects.
- Identify closest routes to the active shooter.

# In Conclusion

- Resolution can be effectively accomplished through a collaborative effort amongst all University Systems, allied agencies and stakeholders; by educating, training, concise planning and a sought after law enforcement response to the Active Shooter/ Threat.

**WE MUST SAVE LIVES!**

# Contact Information

Capt. Ken Ecker

[kecker@umpd.umd.edu](mailto:kecker@umpd.umd.edu)

Sgt. Mike Weller

[mweller@umpd.umd.edu](mailto:mweller@umpd.umd.edu)

Sgt. David Fields

[dfields@umpd.umd.edu](mailto:dfields@umpd.umd.edu)