

Mass Shootings Planning and Response Awareness

IIIP – EMForum.org

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Introduction

- A rapid, safe and successful response to these chaotic situations requires planning and preparation.
- The likelihood of a mass shooting/active shooter incident is low, **BUT** school, college and public safety officials must prepare for these situations.
- Today's goal is to provide you with some basic tools and information needed to develop or assess a multi-agency mass shooting plan.

Threat Groups

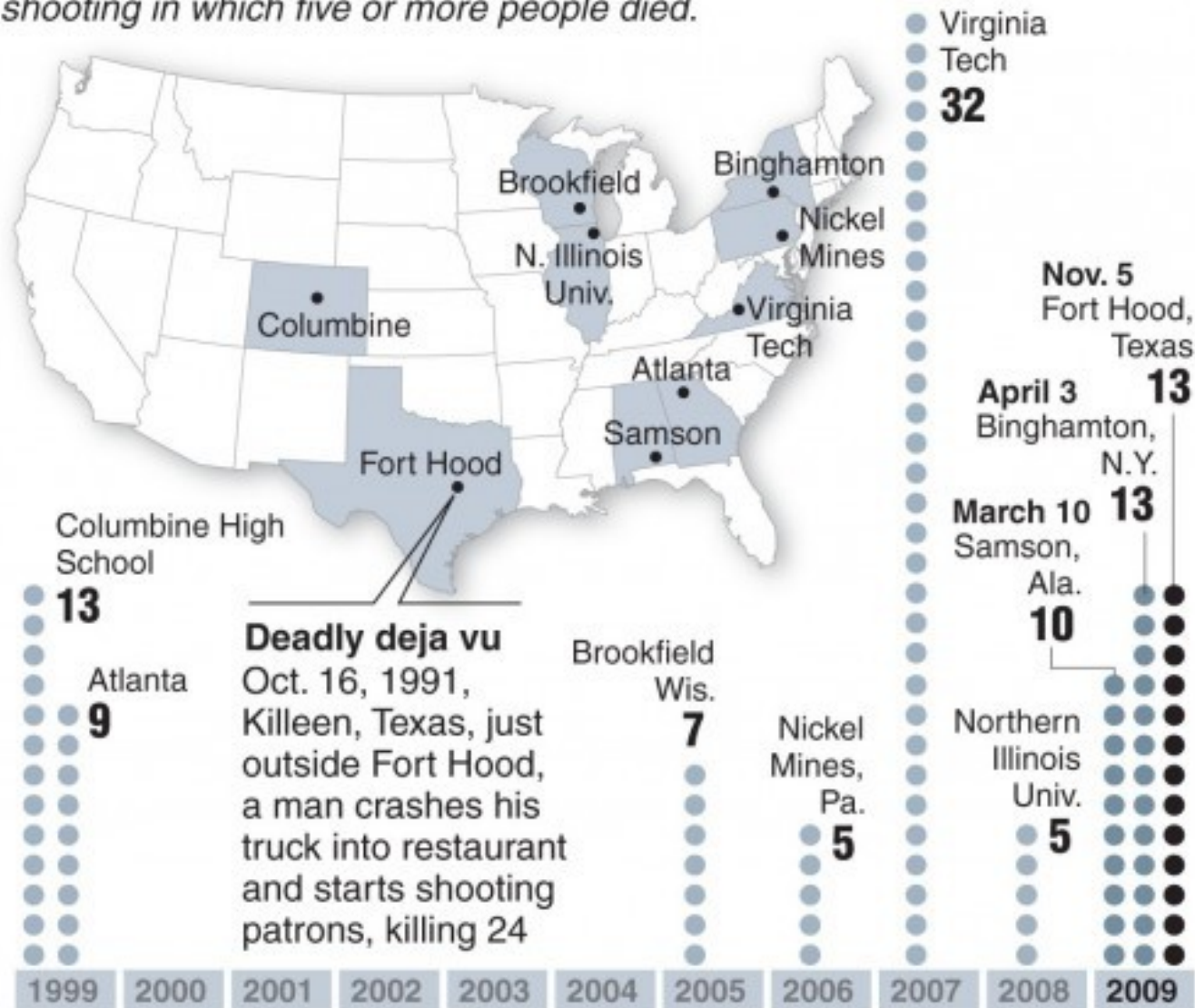
- It appears that the “bad guys” (lone wolves, criminal elements and terrorists) are more determined, violent and heavily armed than ever before.
- Crisis situations such as terrorist events, criminal attacks, active shooters, attacks on law enforcement and threatening situations are occurring with alarming frequency.
- No two incidents are the same. Factors ranging from the shooter’s motive, weapon used, knowledge of the location, security measures, response times and number of staff and visitors can all influence the outcome of an incident.

THREATS

- The attackers in mass violence incidents may act out of a sense of anger or revenge because of some perceived persecutions or slights, or have some other individualized motivation such as a desire for notoriety, political belief system or religious based concepts.
- The majority of these incidents are planned, while a limited few may be spontaneous, carried out in a sudden fit of rage. Successful execution of some of these types of attacks require some form of, or even extensive, pre-operational surveillance and detailed planning by the attackers.

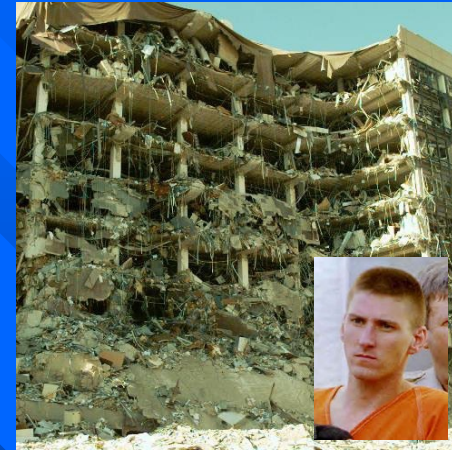
Deadly decade for shootings

The killing of 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, marks the ninth time since 1999 there has been a mass shooting in which five or more people died.



TYPES OF ADVERSARIES

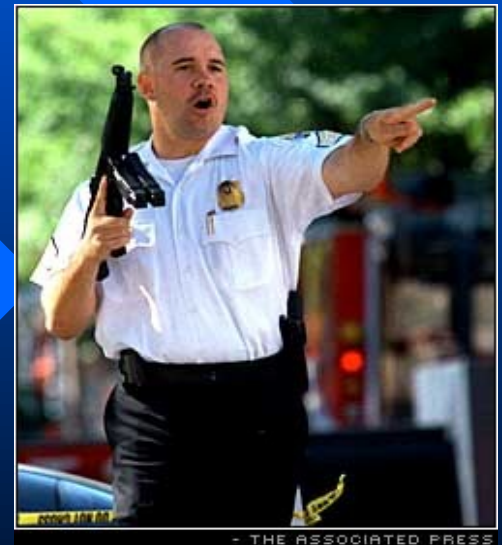
- International Terrorist Groups
- Domestic Terrorists
- Extremists Groups
- Criminal Elements
- Gangs
- Insider Threat
- “Lone Wolf”



INSIDER THREAT

Types:

- **DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE**
- **DISGRUNTLED STUDENT**
- **LAYOFFS/REDUCTIONS**
- **BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS**
- **MENTAL PROBLEMS**
- **DESIRE FOR NOTORIETY**
- **POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS**
- **“I AM SMARTER THAN YOU”**



Threat Assessments

- Large percentage of mass shooting events begin with warnings or threats.
- Threats can be alarming behavior, statements, actions or physical items (weapons, plans, "death lists", obsessions, art, websites, videos, blogs, web searches, or notes).
- The threat assessment process is based on several factors such as behavior, activities, history, intent, willingness and capability.
- FBI statistics show that in **81%** of school violence incidents, there was "leakage," or other persons who had knowledge that something was going to occur.

Bomb Threats

- There has never been a bomb found in an American Classroom based on a phone tip?
 - Stated in the *Gift of Fear* by Gavin DeBecker
- Never evacuate a school based solely on a phone call?
 - Classroom is the safest place
 - Do not evacuate to parking lots

Pre-Incident Planning

- Many organizations have historically regarded safety and security as a **low priority rather** than an **important** school/business **function** and **responsibility**. “Spare tire” mentality.
- This sense of security and complacency has been shattered by recent events, including numerous mass shooting incidents.

Facts of Life!

- Everyone is responsible for safety and security at schools, colleges and the workplace.
- There is no perfect solution for school, campus or workplace safety. No magic formula for threat assessments.
- E-mail is NOT a primary means of communications during an emergency. OK for mass communications/notifications. Face to face, media, crisis teams, etc.
- “Call 911” is not a plan.

Pre-Incident Planning

- Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, School System and other officials all share some of the same priorities during a mass-shooting event. (***Life Safety and Incident Stabilization***).
- Planning and interagency cooperation for a mass shooting or any “critical incident” type of event should be paramount.
- *Mass shootings can and do occur in metro, urban, suburban and rural settings.*

Pre-Incident Planning "Crisis Response Box"

- Every school/facility/campus should have a "crisis kit". It is important that these boxes be updated and ready for immediate use.
- The kit should be in a location that is readily accessible to the staff responsible for box upkeep, transport and security.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICING!



\$295⁰⁰ EACH KIT (5 KIT MINIMUM)
CUSTOMIZATION AVAILABLE

★ [CLICK HERE TO ADD TO CART](#) ★

Incident Command System

- ✓ Keys / Diagrams of campus
- ✓ Teacher, Student and Employee Roster (with photos if possible)
- ✓ List of students with special needs
- ✓ Blueprint of school buildings
- ✓ Maps of surrounding area
- ✓ Aerial photos of campus
- ✓ (ICS) Key Responder List
- ✓ Emergency Resource List
- ✓ Designated Command Post and staging sites
- ✓ Fire, EMS, Triage sites
- ✓ Evacuation Sites (Parents)
- ✓ Media site
- ✓ City & County officials site
- ✓ Public utilities staging site



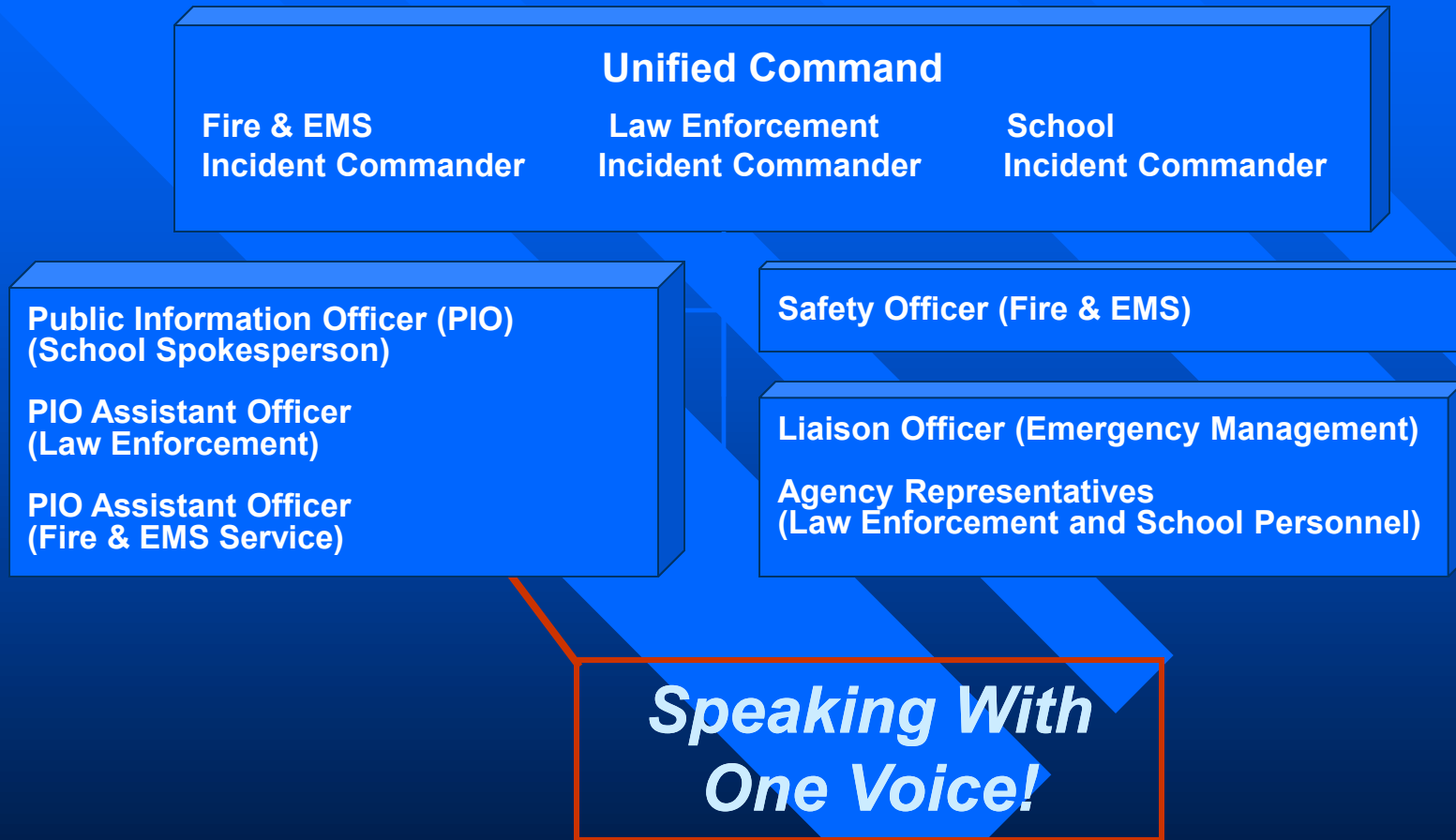
- ✓ Fire alarm & Sprinkler System turn-off procedures
- ✓ Utility shut-off valves
- ✓ Gas line and Utility lines lay-out
- ✓ Cable Television & Phone Shut-off
- ✓ First Aid Supplies

Unified Command Benefits

- A shared understanding of priorities and restrictions.
- A single set of incident objectives.
- Collaborative strategies.
- Improved internal and external information flow.
- Less duplication of efforts.
- Better resource utilization.
- Media, Media, Media



School Incident: Unified Command



Law Enforcement Preparation

- On a positive note, it appears that by now the majority of local and state law enforcement agencies in the United States have trained for the mass shooting/active shooter scenario in some form or fashion.
- This specific threat can no longer be handled only by specially trained and equipped Special Response/Tactical Response Teams.
- With the majority of these incidents occurring in the 4-8 minute timeframe, it will be the first-in patrol units, officers and deputies who will be responding to, neutralizing the threat, and securing the scene.

What is Workplace Violence?

- Violence or threat of violence against workers. It can occur at or outside the workplace and can range from threats and verbal abuse to physical assaults and homicide.

***per OSHA**

www.osha.gov

**Safety and Health Topics
Workplace Violence**

FIRST RESPONDERS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE, HANDLE, APPROACH OR DISARM A CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED IED OR HME; THIS IS A JOB FOR SPECIALLY TRAINED PERSONNEL.



Unified Command: Action Items

- Establish a command post (CP) after contact and rescue teams have been deployed.
- Communicate with contact and rescue teams.
- Deploy responding officers (inner and outer perimeter; relief personnel).
- Deploy medical and fire first responders.
- Designate staging area for arriving units and equipment.
- Contain and protect spectators, families, media.

Response Issues

- These situations could become a hostage or barricade event.
- Events most likely to occur during business/school hours.
- Young students may not understand instructions and may even hide from responders.

Response Issues

- Notify all key agencies supporting entities as soon as possible (Emergency Management, hospitals, etc.)
- Plan on large and immediate media response.
- Plan on large and immediate parents, family and friends response to the incident scene.



Scene Assistance



- Local **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** should be activated as soon as possible for long term response, recovery, management, investigative and support efforts.
- **Joint Information Center (JIC)** should be established involving all key agencies and players to manage the local and national media efforts.

- Prepare for VIP visits after an incident.



Scene Assistance

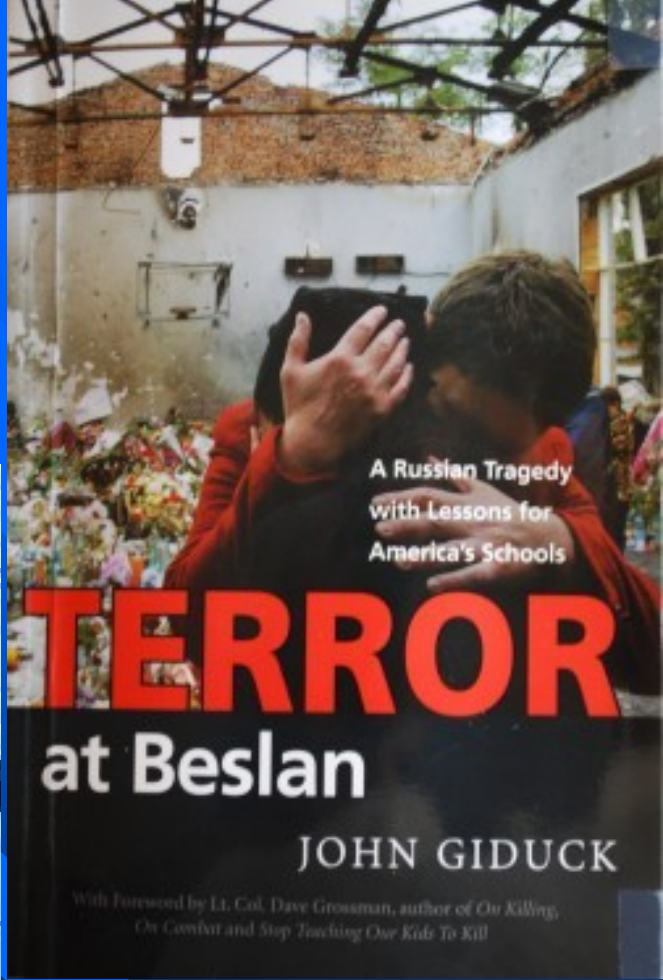
- Family Assistance Centers (**FAC**) may need to be established near the site and other remote locations.
- Helpline phone numbers should be initiated.
- **CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management)** efforts should be considered for all responders and victims.
- **CISM: Therapy dogs and “responder” counselors.**



COLUMBINE



INSIDE THE MIND
OF A TEEN
KILLER



Questions?



Thank you & be safe!
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