

Bulletin of Applied Criminal Justice

Volume 1 Number 1



ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE



Active Shooter Response Evolution

While it is unfortunate that active shooter events continue to occur in our society, it is our responsibility as law enforcement to review and study these incidents in order to ensure that we are properly trained and prepared to address future active shooter situations.

Mental Illness & Police Response

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From the Squad Room

In recognition of **National Police Week** and to honor and support the men and women who work in the trenches of the criminal justice system, we are proud to present to you the inaugural edition of the *Bulletin of Applied Criminal Justice (BACJ)*, a law enforcement publication by law enforcement for law enforcement. The *BACJ* is free to all law-enforcement individuals and agencies.

The primary purpose of the *BACJ* is to bring relevant discussion on current issues to working law enforcement professionals. What you will find in these issues are discussions on topics written by police, sheriff and correctional administrators; articles written by street officers, detectives, training officers, and others; and discussions on current case law written by prosecutors.

What you will find is current research on topics you may be able to apply in your agency such as techniques to increase your minority applicants.

What you will not find are vendor advertisements, although you may see articles on equipment written by officers who have tried and tested the equipment; you will not find theoretical research (as a police officer and chief of police, I was more interested in how to preserve evidence than I was the propensity of 5' 8", blue-eyed, male welfare recipients to be involved in food stamp fraud).

A second purpose for the *BACJ* is to bring relevant applied research to working professionals. The editorial staff recognizes there can be a disconnect between working criminal justice professionals and faculty who teach criminal justice. The *BACJ* has been designed to help bridge that gap.

Criminal justice faculty need to recognize they have a valuable resource in working professionals.

When framing a research study or simply needing a clearer understanding of text content, who better to ask than someone who is doing the job for a living?

Partnerships with local law enforcement can open up internship possibilities, explorer or cadet programs, and employment possibilities for students.

Criminal justice organizations have a great and often untapped resource in faculty, particularly faculty who do applied research. When criminal justice agencies need relevant research to help with a project or proposal, who better to ask than people who earn their livelihoods this way?

Finally, I would ask that you, as a reader, help us with content. When you come across a topic you would like more information on, send us an email. If you have an area of interest or have addressed an issue in your department that you believe other departments might find interesting, write it up and send it to us.

This is a broad spectrum, applied criminal justice publication. Send us your stuff!

Thank you for reviewing the *BACJ*. We look forward to serving your department's needs.

"Hey, let's be careful out there!"

Professionally,

Dennis W. Bulen
Chief of Police, Retired
editorbacj@gmail.com



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is free to all
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agencies and
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By Tyler Pottkotter
Police Officer, Wright State University Police Department

Active Shooter Response Evolution

Active shooter incidents are occurring more and more frequently in today's society. They can happen anywhere (schools, malls, businesses, movie theaters, etc.) at any time. As law enforcement officers we are trained to respond and to address these incidents.

With each new incident we gather additional information which leads to new and better tactics. This assists law enforcement in our continuous struggle to confront and ultimately neutralize these types of threats as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

The first major active shooter incident that led to a change in police response occurred at Columbine High School in Columbine, Colorado, in April 1999.

At the time, police officers had been trained that in the event of a shooting, they were to surround the building, set up a perimeter, and contain the damage—which is exactly what responding officers did.

Following the incident, it was revealed that there were officers on scene at the same time that students were being shot and killed inside the school.

This was considered unacceptable and led to a much needed change in response tactics.

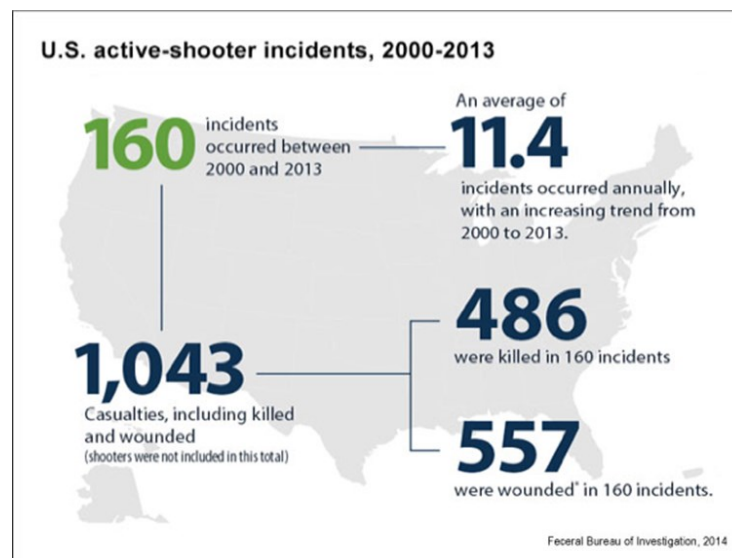
Following Columbine, a new tactic was developed from the United States Military known as the "Quad" response. For this response, police officers were

trained to enter the building or structure as a team of four officers in a diamond shaped formation. Their purpose being to locate the shooter and neutralize the threat. These officers would bypass any and all injured victims in order to find and stop the shooter as soon as possible.

This tactic was considered to be an improvement on the former

age of their surroundings as they searched for the active shooter.

The problem that arose with the Quad response was the amount of time it takes for four police officers to arrive on scene. In some jurisdictions, particularly rural ones, it may take additional officers fifteen to twenty minutes or more to respond to the scene.



method as it allowed for a quicker and more direct approach in addressing the threat, thus lessening the time an active shooter would have to kill people without facing confrontation from on-the-scene law enforcement.

The four-officer, or "Quad" response, also received high marks in regards to officer safety, as four officers allowed for three hundred and sixty degree cover-

This is a major concern as historically most active shooter incidents are over in less than ten minutes time.

There have been multiple active shooter incidents where two or three police officers are waiting outside for additional backup while a single shooter is inside killing people.

It became clear that while the Quad response was a good solid

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Active Shooter Response Evolution, cont.

tactic, it was not the ideal response for every situation. Following the review of these and other active shooter incidents a new tactic was introduced, labeled the “Solo Engagement.”

Solo Engagement, or Single-Officer Response to an active shooter, is a single police officer, once on scene, entering the building or structure alone, and aggressively searching for and engaging the shooter in order to neutral the threat.

As with the Quad response, the single officer would also bypass any and all injured victims in order to find and stop the shooter as quickly as possible.

Studies of past active shooter events have led to the realization that the shooters do not appear to want any confrontation with law enforcement.

This notion is supported by the fact that in past events once police intervene in these situations, the active shooters often take their own lives.

The idea behind Solo Engagement is that a single police officer, properly trained in solo response, would be able to address and stop the threat more quickly and thereby save more lives.

Like the tactics that came before it, Solo Engagement is not the catch-all tactic for every active shooter situation.

We as responding police officers need to weigh the variables (number of shooters, number of officers on scene, ETA of additional officers, location of the shooter or shooters, number & type of weapons involved, etc.) and decide the best course of action based upon the situational intelligence that we have at the time.

While it is unfortunate that active shooter events continue to occur in our society, it is our responsibility as law enforcement to review and study these incidents in order to ensure that we are properly trained and prepared to address future active shooter situations.



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By Kenna Longstreath
Ohio Adult Parole Authority

Mental Illness & Police Response



As debates rage over the use of deadly force by police, particularly against minorities, questions often arise about the mental state of the offender in question.

Recently, the *Washington Post* wrote an article and analyzed 124 killings in which the mental health of the victim appeared to play a role, either because the person expressed suicidal intent or because family members confirmed a history of mental illness.

Is your department trained on dealing with the mentally ill? How important is this training? A joint report conducted in 2013 by the Treatment Advocacy Center and the National Sheriffs' Association states that "multiple informal studies and accounts support the conclusion that at least half of the people shot and killed by police each year in this country have mental health problems."

One in five adults in the US experience some sort of mental illness. One quarter of police shooting deaths in the first half of 2015 involved individuals in mental or emotional crisis. The *Washington Post* released an analysis of the 462 police shooting deaths it counted in the US in the first half of 2015 and reported one quarter of those deaths involved people "in the throes of emotional or mental crisis."

The vast majority of these people were armed, but in most cases the police officers were not responding to reports of a crime but had been called by relatives, neighbors or other bystanders worried that a mentally ill person was behaving erratically. According to a survey by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), on average new recruits have 60 hours of training to learn how to handle a firearm but

only 8 hours of training to learn strategies for dealing with the mentally ill. There are some studies that suggest approximately 10% of all police contacts with the public involve persons with serious mental illness.

Calls involving persons experiencing mental health crises can be particularly problematic for police officers. Officers have reported that they do not feel adequately trained to effectively respond to mental health crises.

The calls involving the mentally ill can be very time consuming and divert officers from other serious calls.

Traditional training teaches police to control situations by demanding compliance. It is a safe assumption that mental illness is often one in the same with unpredictable behavior.

Many times police respond to a call involving a mentally ill person experiencing severe symptoms and are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Police often find these calls volatile. It is safe to say that mental illness is one in the same with unpredictable behavior and can be easily misinterpreted as a threat to an officer and escalate quickly. These encounters challenge police agencies in various ways.

Such incidents can present an increased risk of injury to the person with mental illness and to the officer.

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Mental Illness & Police Response, cont.

There are often outward signs which indicate an individual is suffering from a mental illness which are easy to overlook if officers aren't trained on what to look for.

Besides someone acting erratically, oftentimes individuals suffering from mental illness lose their train of thought during conversations, jump from one topic to another at random and give answers to unrelated questions. Individuals may speak continuously, providing numerous irrelevant details and never get to the point.

Other behaviors could range from inappropriate personal hygiene to unpredictable and bizarre socially inappropriate outbursts. For example, people may not dress appropriately for the weather, may wear odd or inappropriate makeup or mutter continuously to themselves.

Catatonic motor behaviors are a type of disturbed behavior that sometimes occurs when schizophrenia goes untreated. In this instance, a person's reaction to his or her surroundings becomes remarkably decreased.

Often, patients show unresponsive facial expressions, have poor eye contact and little body language or movement. Some people who have serious mental

illness often go through cycles which often include ups and downs. These severe mood swings often lead to self-medicating.

As a result of the increasing calls police respond to involving mental illness, many departments are implementing Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT). CIT is a training program developed in many states to help police officers react appropriately to situations involving mental illness or developmental disabilities. These teams take a collaborative approach to safely and effectively address the needs of persons with mental illness, link them to appropriate services, and divert them from the criminal justice system if appropriate.

The Crisis Intervention Program is a community-based partnership which includes behavioral health and human services providers, consumers and their families, along with law enforcement working towards the common goals of providing safer intervention for officers and community members while showing concern for the citizens' well being.

Officers who partake in the CIT training receive 40 hours of specialized training from behavioral health experts from their community, previously trained CIT

officers and actual consumers and their families. It is considered a "Best Practice" model in law enforcement.

Upon completion of the course, officers are better prepared to understand signs and symptoms of mental illnesses, recognize when those signs and symptoms represent a crisis situation, safely de-escalate individuals experiencing behavioral health crises and utilize community resources and diversion strategies that are available to provide emergency assistance.

Memphis was the first city to introduce a CIT as a component in 1988 as a response to the community's demand for safer, first responder services. Since then, increasing numbers of departments have adopted the Crisis Intervention Team Model.

Approximately 3,000 of the nation's 18,000 police agencies employ some level of crisis intervention. Officers involved in Crisis Intervention Teams are trained to a higher level in how to diffuse the tension with a difficult or desperate person.

Officers will often get the person evaluated at a local hospital but will follow up to get the person connected to local social service agencies.

"The Crisis Intervention Program is a community-based partnership which includes behavioral health and human services providers, consumers and their families, along with law enforcement working towards the common goals of providing safer intervention for officers and community members while showing concern for the citizens' well-being."

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Mental Illness & Police Response, cont.



The program requires the police to work with mental health care experts to make sure that those with mental illness get help and don't end up in the criminal justice system. Some police departments work more closely than others with mental health experts. Some departments employ mental-health experts, and they often respond to calls along with the police.

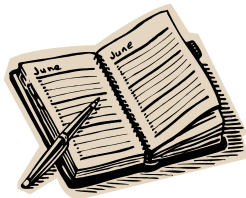
According to the Bazelon Center, the rate of arrest for individuals with mental illness is roughly 4.5 times higher than the arrest rate for those in the general population.

Many of these arrests are not for violent crimes but minor offenses such as loitering, sleeping in abandoned buildings or using drugs.

If your department is interested in developing a CIT, contact

CIT International
111 S Highland Street
Box 71—Dept 2
Memphis, TN 38111

END OF WATCH



Master Police Officer Joseph William Shinners
Provo Police Department, UT
EOW: Saturday, January 5, 2019

Police Officer Dale James Woods
Colerain Township Police Department, OH
EOW: Monday, January 7, 2019

Police Officer Clayton Joel Townsend
Salt River Police Department, TR
EOW: Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Police Officer Natalie Becky Corona
Davis Police Department, CA
EOW: Thursday, January 10, 2019

Trooper Christopher Lambert
Illinois State Police, IL
EOW: Saturday, January 12, 2019

Sergeant WyTasha Lamar Carter
Birmingham Police Department, AL
EOW: Sunday, January 13, 2019

Supervisory Deputy US Marshal Norman D. Merkel
United States Department of Justice - United States Marshals Service, US
EOW: Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Deputy Sheriff Ray Elwin Horn, III
Comal County Sheriff's Office, TX
EOW: Thursday, January 17, 2019

Police Officer Sean Paul Tuder
Mobile Police Department, AL
EOW: Sunday, January 20, 2019

Lieutenant Robert "Bo" McCallister
Susquehanna Township Police Department, PA
EOW: Sunday, January 20, 2019

Deputy Sheriff Joshua Bryan "LJ" Ryer, Jr.
Glascock County Sheriff's Office, GA
EOW: Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Corporal Shane Michael Totty
Baton Rouge Police Department, LA
EOW: Friday, February 1, 2019

Detective William Lee Brewer
Clermont County Sheriff's Office, OH
EOW: Saturday, February 2, 2019

Border Patrol Agent Donna Doss
United States Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Protection - United States Border Patrol, US
EOW: Saturday, February 2, 2019

Trooper Lucas Bartley Dowell
Virginia State Police, VA
EOW: Monday, February 4, 2019

Police Officer Matthew J. Rittner
Milwaukee Police Department, WI
EOW: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Detective Brian P. Simonsen
New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Agent Alfred Zanyet-Pérez
Puerto Rico Police Department, PR
EOW: Friday, February 15, 2019

Lieutenant Daniel Duane Hinton
Florida Highway Patrol, FL
EOW: Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Undersheriff Monty Thomas Johnson
Pawnee County Sheriff's Office, OK
EOW: Thursday, February 21, 2019

Police Officer Nicholas Scott Galinger
Chattanooga Police Department, TN
EOW: Sunday, February 24, 2019

Sergeant Steve Hinkle
Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, TN
EOW: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Police Officer Nathan Hayden Heidelberg
Midland Police Department, TX
EOW: Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Deputy Sheriff Jacob Howard Keltner
McHenry County Sheriff's Office, IL
EOW: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Corporal Daniel H. Groves
Colorado State Patrol, CO
EOW: Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Deputy Sheriff Ryan Shane Thompson
Kittitas County Sheriff's Office, WA
EOW: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Police Officer Paul Thomas Rutherford
Phoenix Police Department, AZ
EOW: Thursday, March 21, 2019

Deputy Sheriff Peter Herrera
El Paso County Sheriff's Office, TX
EOW: Sunday, March 24, 2019

Trooper Brooke Jones-Story
Illinois State Police, IL
EOW: Thursday, March 28, 2019

Trooper Gerald Wayne Ellis
Illinois State Police, IL
EOW: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Detective Benjamin J. Campbell
Maine State Police, ME
EOW: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Deputy Sheriff II Spencer Allen Englett
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, GA
EOW: Thursday, April 4, 2019

Deputy Sheriff Justin Richard DeRosier
Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, WA
EOW: Sunday, April 14, 2019

Police Officer Kyle Olinger
Montgomery County Police Department, MD
EOW: Thursday, April 18, 2019

Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn, Jr.
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Enforcement Division, MN
EOW: Friday, April 19, 2019

Special Agent in Charge Liat A. "Leo" Khan
United States Army Criminal Investigation Division, US
EOW: Tuesday, April 30, 2019

K9 Officer Jordan Harris Sheldon
Mooresville Police Department, NC
EOW: Saturday, May 4, 2019

Police Officer Robert McKeithen
Biloxi Police Department, MS
EOW: Sunday, May 5, 2019

Police Officer Anthony Neri
Sanibel Police Department, FL
EOW: Monday, May 6, 2019

Trooper Matthew Elias Gatti
Tennessee Highway Patrol, TN
EOW: Monday, May 6, 2019

Constable Willie Houston "Hoot" West
Lowndes County Constable's Office, MS
EOW: Thursday, May 9, 2019

Sergeant Kelvin Ansari
Savannah Police Department, GA
EOW: Saturday, May 11, 2019

Police Officer William Buechner
Auburn Police Division, AL
EOW: Sunday, May 19, 2019

Police Officer Jesus Marrero-Martínez
Manatí Municipal Police Department, PR
EOW: Saturday, May 25, 2019