

**School Safety**  
Considerations

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**FIRST**

- Prevention is the key
- If it can be predicted, it can be prevented.
- The single most important aspect of School Safety is the development of Actionable Intelligence
- Identify and deal with potential problems BEFORE they mature into a crisis
- Create a system where people are comfortable with reporting troubling behavior
- Caution: Don't train students to blindly accept a "Big Brother" system

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**Police**

- Response
  - Training
    - ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Reaction Training) or similar
    - Encourage regular training with school personnel actively involved
    - Establish methods of distinguishing "good guys" from the "bad."
      - Familiarity from joint training
      - Colored gloves
      - Arm bands
      - Hats
      - Etc.

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**Police**

- Weaponry
  - Proficiency
    - Can they hit what they shoot at
      - Public perception is that all officers are expert shots – NOT necessarily true
    - Maximum standard qualification distance in Arkansas is 15 yds. School hallways may be 75 yds. or more in length.
    - Reality training
      - Difference between “punching paper” and actual shooting situations
      - Even the best range shooters can suffer degradation of skills under combat conditions

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**Police**

- Weaponry
  - Are available weapons appropriate for the task
    - Opponent is likely armed with a long gun giving them a distinct advantage
    - Handguns are defensive, not offensive
    - What training do the officers have with any long guns they carry (distance, conditions, etc.?)

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**SRO**

- Everything that applies to Police in general - especially applies to the SRO
  - SRO’s should be carefully selected
  - Tendency for Agencies to not place their “best” officers in the SRO slots
    - SRO’s should be among the best officers
      - Psychologically
      - Attitude/aptitude
      - Tactically

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### SRO

- Consider giving SRO, at least, access to long guns
- Regular training in recognizing/identifying potential troubled students
- Regular tactical training both as lone operatives and team members – ALERRT or similar
- Reality based

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### Commissioned School Security Officers

- Selection
  - DO NOT arm anyone who does not want to be armed
  - Those who do want to be armed should be carefully screened and vetted
  - Just because someone wants to be armed doesn't mean they should be armed
    - Are they psychologically and physically equipped to not only handle a weapon, but also a deadly force situation

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### Commissioned School Security Officers and Teachers

- The Clarksville Model seems to be a good foundation for "Best Practice"
- Consider creating a mechanism for *in the classroom* defense when escape is not feasible
  - Access blocking
  - Student protection
    - If teacher meets criteria to be armed:
      - Firearm available under lock & key with biometric safeguard
      - In room security only – not actively seeking shooter

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### Additional

- Flexibility in threat recognition and response
- Fads and Trends
  - Firearms (AR platform weapons to shotguns, to ?)
  - IEDs
  - Chemical

Threats will always change in an attempt to overcome defenses. Our ability to respond should be flexible and adaptable to the latest trends.

Class room -to- Bus stop -to- Sporting events -to- ???

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### Additional

- Commit
  - Don't let this be a one and done
- "No matter what you are talking about, you are still talking about money."
  - Either provide the money to accomplish the goals or make it easily affordable to the school districts.
  - Don't create onerous unfunded mandates
  - Allow Districts flexibility to develop programs to meet their needs and means
- Training is the cheapest insurance you can buy

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