

# Countering Terrorism in Our Schools



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## ***DISCLAIMER:***

The goal of this presentation is not to predict future school related terrorism or terroristic events; rather to increase awareness and help to identify skills, and actions needed to prevent, deter and/or negate the impact and recover from such an incident or event should one occur. Neither is it designed to make anyone an expert on terrorism but merely to stimulate vigilance and a conscious prevention posture. There are no absolutes or guarantees in Crime Prevention that can or will provide 100% protection against any criminal activity.

## WHAT IS “TERRORISM”?

- The unlawful use of force against persons or property to intimidate a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives.
- The unlawful use or threat of violence against the state or the public as a politically motivated means of attack or coercion; violent or intimidating gang activity.

## WHO OR WHAT IS A “TERRORIST”?

- Criminals
- Crazies
- Crusaders



# TYPES of TERRORISM:

- **INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM:**



- **DOMESTIC TERRORISM:**



## NAME THAT TERRORIST



**Ramadan Abdulla Mohammed**



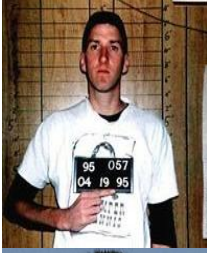
**Fahid Mohammed Ali**



**Saif Al-Adel**



**Osama Bin Laden**

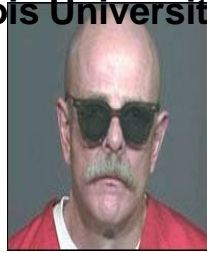


## NAME THAT TERRORIST

**Timothy McVeigh**  
Oklahoma City Bomber



**Steve Kazmierczak**  
Northern Illinois University Shooter



**Barry Mills**  
Aryan Nations



**Seung Hui Cho**  
Virginia Tech Shooter

## WHY WOULD A TERRORIST TARGET A SCHOOL?

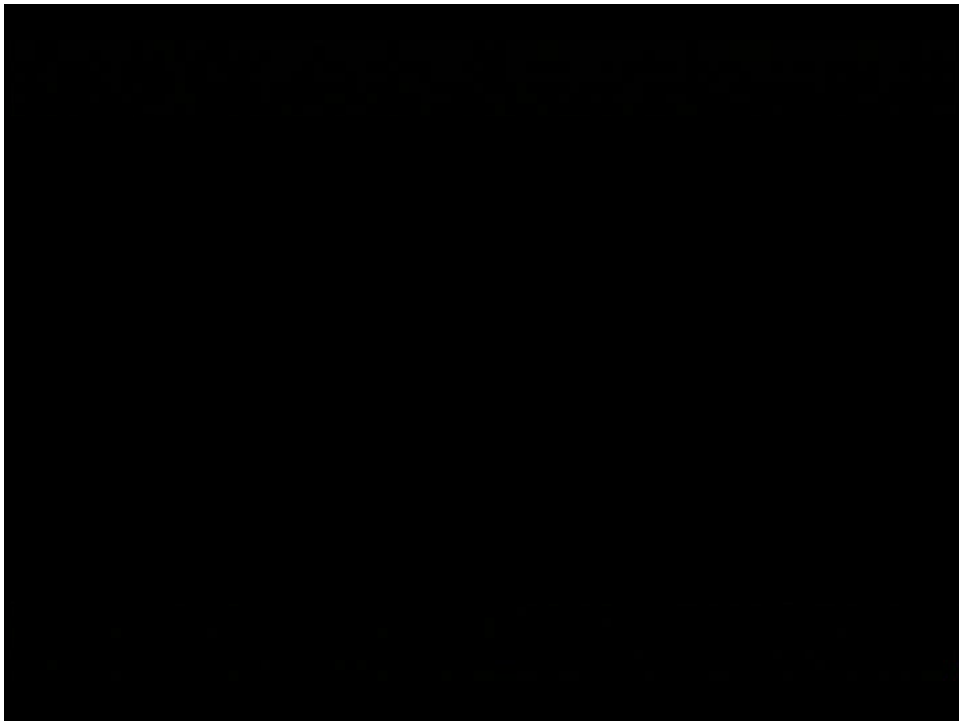
- **May 1977: Bovendsmille, Holland.** A group of Moluccan Terrorist took more than 100 students hostage in an elementary school in Bovendsmille Holland. Dutch Royal Marines performed highly successful tactical rescue freeing all hostages and capturing all terrorist without firing a shot.

**INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

## WHY WOULD A TERRORIST TARGET A SCHOOL?

May 1986: Cokeville, Wyoming. David and Doris Young (both of whom held extremist views and wished to create a brave new world) took teachers and students hostage in an elementary school using firearms and explosives. The David shot a teacher in the back and accidentally detonating the explosives killing his wife (Doris) and injured some of the hostages.

**DOMESTIC TERRORISM**



## International Terrorism

**February 1993: New York City.** A terrorist cell living within the United States detonated a bomb in the parking garage of the World Trade Center in an attempt to collapse both towers. A deliberate and planned attack – strike at the symbol of American business in downtown New York City. Six people were killed and more than 1000 were injured (mass casualty scene). Schools in immediate vicinity were effected.

## Domestic Terrorism

**April 19th, 1995: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.** A rental truck packed with highly volatile explosives was detonated by Timothy McVeigh. This explosion took out half of the structure of the Murray Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 168 people were killed including children. It was called “Terror in the Heartland” by the media.



- **March 1998: American school in Amman Jordan.**

Rocked by explosion by terrorist who were upset by U.S. conflict with Iraq over UN arms inspection.

- **August 1999: Los Angeles, California.**

Jewish Community Center (Day Care) anti-Semitic (Neo Nazi) gunman opened fire inside day care center killed several children



- **September 2001: Adam Junction in Israel.**

Terrorist attacked a mini-school bus loaded with kindergarten teachers killing two and seriously wounding three more, while simultaneously another terrorist suicide bomber prematurely blew himself up before he entered the school in Jerusalem and a bomb was thrown at a group of Catholic school girls wounding four officers who were escorting the girls.

- **September 11th, 2001: New York City.**

Both Towers were hit by Al Qaeda suicide bombers flying U.S. based air planes





- **October 7th, 2002: Bowie, Maryland.**

D.C. Sniper Lee Boyd Malvo killed a 13-year old boy as he arrived at Benjamin Tasker MS. Malvo and John Allen Mohammed killed 16 people before their killing spree ended.



- **September 2004: Beslan, Russia.**





**CHARONBOAT.COM - Beslan, Russia (09/01/2004)**







## “SOFT-TARGETS”.

- Schools are very powerful – attention getting symbolic targets.
- Our children are our country’s “Most Precious Natural Resource”.
- School can create a mass casualty event, with large numbers of young children as victims.



## “SOFT-TARGETS” Continued

- Terrorist know that attacks on innocent children will gain maximum media coverage.



- An attack on a school is a strike at the “HEART of AMERICA”.

## TERRORIST MOTIVATIONS TO ATTACK SCHOOLS:

- Schools and school buses and school events are relative soft targets.
- Perceived as to time-consuming and costly to defend against.
- Schools typically do not have the level of physical security or force protection.



- If we loose a child it is very emotional and devastating to our lives.
- Attacking our schools make people feel an inability to protect the children.
- Humiliate government.
- Creates “FEAR” and causes panic.

## Oklahoma City Bombing



**Many still have image of this picture,  
some 13-years later!**





**CNN:** The source of timely  
and accurate information  
for us as well as  
for “**TERRORIST**”



How many times has  
your school initiated  
a full scale rehearsal  
of your  
**E**mergency **O**perations **P**lan  
in the last two years?



**TERRORIST TRAIN  
and REHEARSE  
CONSISTENTLY.**





**A crisis at an elementary school  
instantly evokes strong  
emotional parental response.**



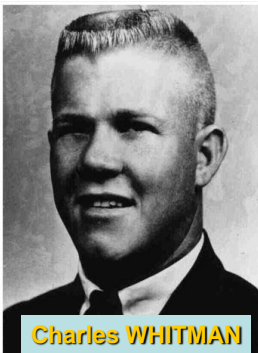
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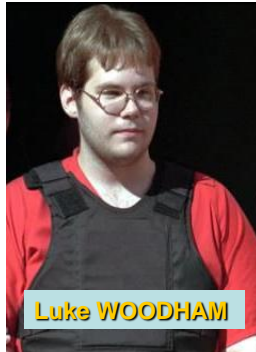
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## Domestic School Incidents

- **October 1st, 1997 Pearl, Mississippi.** Luke Woodham 16-year old shot and killed his mother. He then went to his High School Where he shot 9-students killing two.
- **March 24th, 1998 - Jonesboro, Arkansas.** Mitchell Johnson 14 and Andrew Golden pulled a fire alarm and shot students when they came outside killed 4-students, 1-teacher and wounded 10 other children
- **November 19th, 1999 – Deming New Mexico.** Victor Cordova Jr. 12 shot 13-year girl in the head while she sat in a classroom.



Charles WHITMAN



Luke WOODHAM



Mitchell JOHNSON



Andrew GOLDEN



Victor CORDOVA

## School **Violence** Perpetrators





## Other reasons our school are soft-targets

- Law enforcement working at a school campus who does not know school EOP.
- Administrators decide they will handle and deal with and failing to report or document incidents at his/her school.

## Other reasons our school are soft-targets - Continued

- Someone observed taking photographs and no action taken.
- Test schedules and requirements verses time.
- Administrator Catch-22

- **Media over-reacting to proactive schools.**
- **School kids demanding right to carry weapons.**
- **What will be next – teachers carrying or packing heat?**



- **TERRORIST WILL ATTEMPT TO DRAW SCRUTINY ON THE GOVERNMENT .**
- **RATIONALIZATION FOR VIOLENCE.**
- **IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL PLANNING.**

## **IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL PLANNING**

- **Vigilant defensive and common-sense posture.**
- **Holistic and comprehensive all-hazards emergency operations plan.**
- **Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) can help you – call or visit their website**

# *Texas School Safety Center*

877 – 304 - 2727

[www.cscs.txstate.edu](http://www.cscs.txstate.edu)

## IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL PLANNING – continued:

- Beware of so-called experts.
- Crime prevention history since 17<sup>th</sup> century – there are no guarantees.
- Avoid over-reacting



## IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL PLANNING – continued:

- **TRAINING** helps over come fear.
- People will **respond** they way they have been **trained** – instinctively.
- **If it does not look right – report it!** Don't sit on information - communicate.

## BASICS for Prevention

- **Holistic** written all hazard EOP.
- **Vulnerability** - threat assessment.
- Full scale **rehearsals**.



## BASICS for Prevention

- **Vigilance and a common sense approach. Realistic training.**
- **SBLE Officers viable first responders**
- **Immediate training can deter an incident in seconds count.....**





## **Follow the State Law**

### **EC 37.108**

#### **Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan; Security Audit.**

(a) Each school district shall adopt and implement a multi-hazard emergency operations plan for use in district schools. The plan must address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as defined by the commissioner in conjunction with the governor's office of homeland security. The plan must provide for:

(1) district employee training in responding to an emergency;

#### **§ EC 37.108. Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan; Security Audit – Continued:**

- (a) (2) mandatory school drills to prepare district students and employees for responding to an emergency;
- (3) measures to ensure coordination with local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, and fire departments in the event of an emergency; and
- (4) the implementation of a security audit as required by Subsection (b).

## § EC 37.108. Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan; Security Audit – Continued:

- (b) At least **once every three years**, a school district shall **conduct a security audit** of the district's facilities. To the extent possible, a district shall follow security audit procedures developed by the Texas School Safety Center or a comparable public or private entity.
- (c) A school district shall report the results of the security audit conducted under Subsection (b) to the district's board of trustees.

## SCHOOL BUSES AND TERRORISM

- **May 8th, 1970 Palestinian terrorist murdered nine children and crippled for life 19-other children when he (lone gunman) attacked a school bus.**



## SCHOOL BUSES AND TERRORISM

- Terrorist clearly demonstrated that a school bus attack – makes a statement.
- Desirable and vulnerable (soft) targets of opportunity.



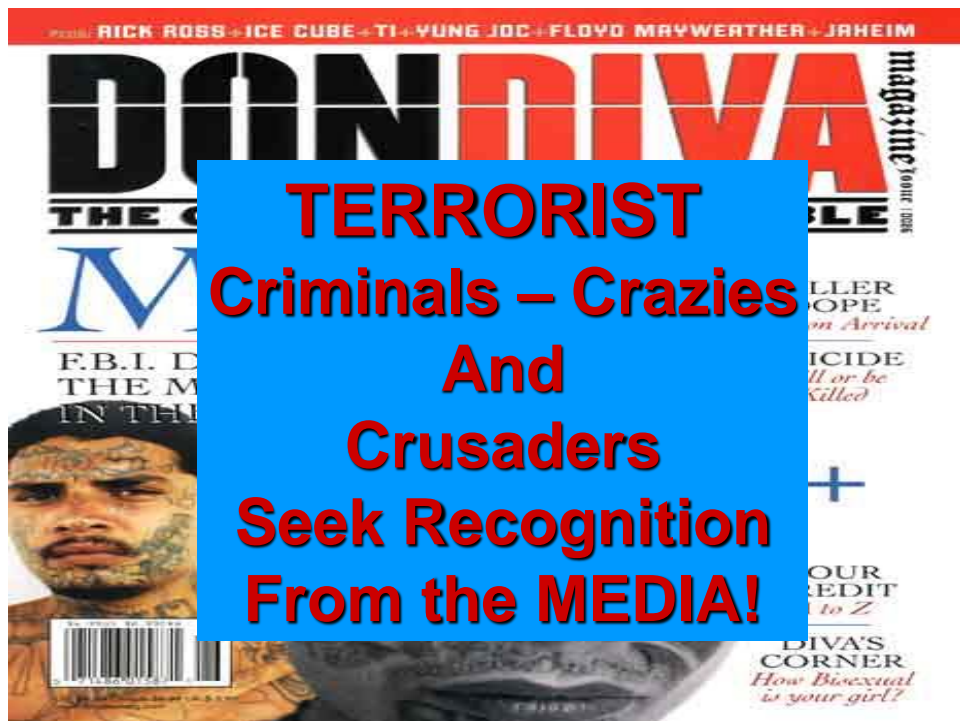
## WHAT IS A SCHOOL BUS TO A TERRORIST?

- Visual extension of the school itself.
- Symbol of local government.



## Other considerations

- If a student armed only with a sword can force a school bus to drive from Nevada to California – what do you think a well-armed terrorist can do?



## TERRORIST BUS ATTACK HISTORY

- **September 2001:** Palestinian Terrorist attack mini school bus kill two and injure 3-more
- **November 2001:** Palestinian Terrorist attack school bus kill two and severely wound 3-more
- **June 18th, 2002:** Suicide-bomber Terrorists kill 19 wound 74 others.
- **February 22, 2004:** Terrorists kills 8 and wounds 60 others.

Are school buses targets? **YES**

### **DISCLAIMER:**

- **For the record ladies and gentlemen – No one is saying here or even predicting our school buses are; or will be the number one target for any foreign or domestic terrorist. This is mere information or statement of facts that school buses are vulnerable.**



## Hardening Security Posture for School Buses:

- Security cameras.
- Electronic tracking systems.
- Numbering roof tops of buses.
- Emergency warning light.



## Hardening Security Posture for School Buses - continued:

- Security for buses after hours.
- 2-way radios.
- Training for bus drivers.
- Background checks on drivers.

## WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO?

- Take a holistic all hazards approach in developing/writing EOP.
- Practice (table top exercises).
- At minimum one full rehearsal per year.

## WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO?

- **Emergency Operations Plan** should be tailored to your school.
- **TRAINING**

## Four Phases of Emergency Management

- **Mitigation/Prevention:**
- **Preparedness:**
- **Response:**
- **Recovery:**



**He/she that prepares,  
trains and practices  
today is ready for  
tomorrow.**



## **Presenter Contact Information**



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TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
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