

# SRO or School Resource Officer Program

Police in our schools?



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# Why have police in our schools?



#11: Red Lake High School massacre; 10 killed | 12 injured | Jeff Weise

March 21, 2005 : At Red Lake Senior High School in Minnesota, 16-year-old student Jeff Weise opened fire, killing five fellow students, a teacher and the SRO. Prior to the rampage, he had shot his grandfather and his grandfather's girlfriend. It later became apparent that Weise had visited neo-Nazi Web sites prior to the shooting.



# #10



- ◆ The École Polytechnique Massacre; 15 killed, 14 injured | Marc Lépine | "The worst school massacre in Canada's history."
- ◆ December 6, 1989 : Twenty-five-year-old Marc Lepine killed 14 women and wounded a further 13 people at the École Polytechnique at the University of Montreal in the worst school massacre in Canada's history. He then took his own life. In a letter he left behind, he indicated a hate for feminists as a motive for the shooting. It remains to this day the worst massacre in Canadian history.



# #9



- ◆ **Columbine High School Massacre; 15 died | 24 injured | Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold**
- ◆ **April 20, 1999 : Two students stormed Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and murdered 12 other students aged 14 to 18 as well as a teacher. A further 24 people were injured before the attackers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, killed themselves.**



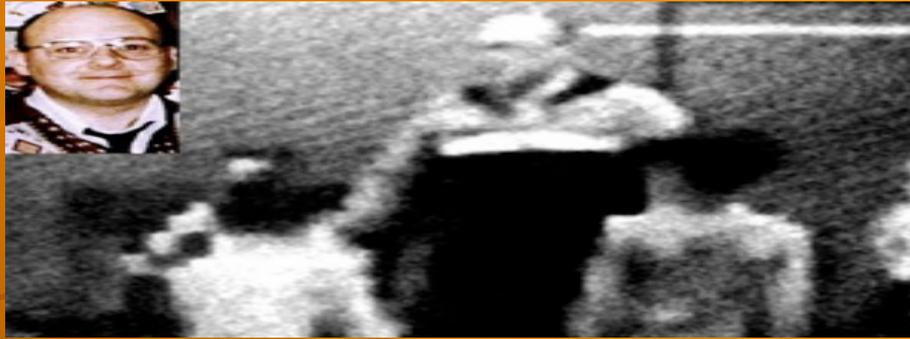
# #8



- ◆ University of Texas Clock Tower Shootings; 18 killed | 31 injured | Charles Whitman
- ◆ August 1, 1966 : University of Texas Clock Tower Shootings. After killing his wife and mother, Charles Whitman pointed a rifle from the observation deck of the University of Texas at Austin's Tower and began shooting in a homicidal rampage that went on for 96 minutes. He killed fifteen people and wounded 31 others before being shot dead by police. David Gunby was wounded in the shooting but died 35 years later after ceasing dialysis



# #7



- ◆ **Dunblane massacre; 18 killed | Thomas Hamilton | "The deadliest attack on children in United Kingdom history"**
- ◆ **March 13, 1996 : Dunblane massacre.** Unemployed former shopkeeper and Scout leader Thomas Hamilton walked into Dunblane Primary School armed with two 9 mm pistols and two .357 Magnum revolvers. He killed sixteen small children and a teacher. The subsequent police investigation revealed that Hamilton had loaded the magazines for his Browning with an alternating combination of fully metal jacketed and hollow point ammunition. This event led to the banning of handguns in the UK.



# #6



- ◆ Erfurt massacre; 17 killed | 7 injured | Robert Steinhäuser, "Worst German Rampage"
- ◆ April 26, 2002 : Eighteen people died when an expelled former pupil went on a shooting spree at his school in the eastern German city of Erfurt. Masked and dressed in black, the gunman walked through classrooms killing 14 teachers, two schoolgirls and one of the first policemen on the scene before taking his own life.



# #5



- ◆ Ma'alot massacre; 26 killed | 60 wounded | DFLP, PLO | Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Palestine Liberation Organization
- ◆ May 15, 1974: The Ma'alot massacre was an attack, carried out in Ma'alot, Israel by members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, that occurred on May 15, 1974, the 26th anniversary of Israeli independence. In this massacre members of the DFLP murdered 22 religious high school students from the city of Safed. Ma'alot, located on a plateau in the hills of the Western Galilee region of Israel, some six miles south of the Lebanese border, was a development town founded in 1957 by Jewish refugees, mainly from Morocco and other Arab countries such as Tunisia. The terrorist attack was perpetrated by three members of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP), al-Jabha al-Dimuqratiyya li-Tahrir Filastin.



# #4



- ◆ **Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting** ,
- ◆ Newtown, Connecticut
- ◆ **Date:** December 14, 2012 , 9:35 a.m.
- ◆ On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza, age 20, fatally shot twenty children and six adult staff members and wounded two at Sandy Hook Elementary School in the village of Sandy Hook in the town of Newtown, Connecticut.
- ◆ Before driving to the school, Lanza had shot and killed his mother, Nancy Lanza, at their Newtown home.
- ◆ As first responders arrived, Lanza committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.



# #3



- ◆ Virginia Tech; 32 killed, many more injured | Seung-Hui Cho
- ◆ The Virginia Tech massacre was a school shooting comprising two separate attacks about two hours apart on April 16, 2007, on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Virginia, United States. The perpetrator, Seung-Hui Cho, killed 32 people and wounded many more, before committing suicide, making it the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.



## #2



- ◆ Bath School disaster; 45 died | 58 injured | Andrew Kehoe
- ◆ May 18, 1927 : In the deadliest mass school murder in United States history, former school board member Andrew Kehoe set off three bombs in Bath Township, Michigan killing 45 people and wounding 58. Kehoe killed himself and the superintendent by blowing up his own vehicle.



# #1



- ◆ Beslan school hostage crisis; At least 386 dead, including 31 hostage takers | Over 700 injured | Shamil Basayev's Riyadus Salihiin group

- ◆ 1 September 2004: A group of pro-Chechen armed rebels took more than 1,200 school children and adults hostage on September 1, 2004, at School Number One (SNO) in the town of Beslan, North Ossetia. On the third day of the standoff, gunfire broke out between the hostage-takers and Russian security forces.



# Is that all?

◆ **Oct. 2, 2006 Nickel Mines, Pa:** Charles Carl Roberts, 32, took 10 girls hostage in an Amish school in Nickel Mines, Pa., killing five of them before killing himself.

**Sept. 29, 2006 Cazenovia, Wi:** Weston High School shooting - Eric Hainstock, 15, took two guns into Weston High School and fatally shot the principal before being captured and arrested.

**Sept. 27, 2006 Bailey, Co:** Duane Morrison, 53, took six girls hostage at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Co., molesting them and holding them for hours before fatally shooting one girl and then himself.

**Nov. 8, 2005 Jacksboro, Tenn:** Assistant principal Ken Bruce was killed and two other administrators seriously wounded when Kenny Bartley, a 15-year-old student, opened fire in a Jacksboro, Tennessee high school.

**Nov. 24, 2004 Indiana:** James Lewerke, a 15-year-old student at Valparaiso High School in northern Indiana, pulled two large knives out of his pants and stabbed seven of his classmates. None of the injuries was life-threatening.

Do I have to go on?



# Every week there are;

- ◆ Reports of students, teachers, administrators, and parents being shot at schools around the country.
- ◆ Many do not even make the national news due to the violent location of some of the schools; ie. Gang involved.
- ◆ Sooner or later your home school may be the one. It's impossible to predict.



# School Resource Officers are;

- ◆ Full time police officers are placed in local schools to perform as a law enforcement liaison between students, parents, teachers, administrators, secretary's, custodians, neighbors, graduates, military representatives, grounds keepers, coaches, postal delivery employees, garbage men, as well as all of the feeder schools and their significant lists. The list goes on!



# Official SRO Duties...

- ◆ General Misconceptions:
  - ◆ SRO's only conduct investigations when asked by the school.
  - ◆ SRO's spend much of the day watching the 68 surveillance monitors.
  - ◆ SRO's participate in "Nap Time" with the 1<sup>st</sup> graders!
  - ◆ In reality, it is one of the most demanding positions within the police department.



# What SRO's are trained to do..

- ◆ We are certified by NASRO, the National Association of School Resource Officers
- ◆ They teach the Triad concept which has been proven to be very effective.
- ◆ The three points of the triad are; To act as an armed law enforcement officer, a counselor, and educator.



# Law Enforcement duties..

- ◆ Being responsible for a High School and its feeders is very much like being a deputy of a small town.
- ◆ There are approximately 2500 people in our high schools at any given time, and that includes students, staff, etc..  
"The same crimes that occur on the street, occur in our schools much like a small town."
- ◆ On a daily basis you are investigating; all drugs, several thefts, accidents, battery, gang activity, weapons, alcohol, vandalism, sexting, text and Facebook threats and altercations, no contact orders by students, parents and teachers, student burglars, runaways, adult and juvenile probation, warrants, robberies as well as homicides. The list is endless.
- ◆ Most times SRO's are notified of homicides by students the next morning. They give information on where, when, how, and who they think did it. Often times they are right!
- ◆ Occasionally we are involved with firearms, rapes, sexual battery, molestation, domestic battery, stalking, and any other violent crime.
- ◆ Did I mention we are the security figurehead that ensures every student and staff member is safe, which means we plan, organize and execute most of the serious safety measures of the school.. i.e.. Active shooters, etc..



# Now for the Proactive...

- ◆ The previous list of law enforcement issues was just the reactive measures..
- ◆ Every day you can search out contraband in plain view in our parking lots, which generally leads to searches and the elimination of weapons, drugs, problem students, etc..
- ◆ You can patrol for truant students leaving the building with criminal motives; smoking, drugs, burglary, theft, etc.. This generally leads to searches by administrators.
- ◆ SRO's can work proactively on theft investigations, by conducting operations to monitor suspects and apprehend them in the act.
- ◆ Keeping a detailed log of graffiti and active gang members with their close associates can prove beneficial in identifying taggers in the area or gang related crime.
- ◆ The proactive list is as endless as the drive of the officer which could lead to complacent behavior.
- ◆ SRO's are also a visual deterrent to crime!



# Counseling...

- ◆ Counseling takes approximately 75% of an SRO's time and energy.
- ◆ We don't just counsel students, we also counsel several adults no matter what position they may hold.
- ◆ We are told to counsel on law related issues, but often times it is just being a good listener, and or a mentor and friend.
- ◆ Often times we may be the only role model in these individuals lives, which does make us responsible. It is imperative that we act as role models within the school, which means always keep your best foot forward. (video, someone is always watching.)
- ◆ Conflict mediation is a major aspect of our counseling role. Often times we quickly switch from counselor to officer when our mediation doesn't adequately function.
- ◆ As most officers know, counseling is the most psychologically draining function we provide.



# Educator...

- ◆ This may appear to be the least important or the concept to be left behind, but it shouldn't be.
- ◆ SRO's should make lesson plans for student presentations on; Rights and Laws, Drugs, Alcohol, Date Rape, Internet Safety, Women's Safety, Search and Seizure, Child Abuse, Bullying, Choices and Consequences, New Drivers, etc..
- ◆ SRO's should plan mock accidents for prom season and SADD programs, as well as working with the Drug and Alcohol Consortium and No Alcohol and No Drugs (NAND) of Allen County, and helping with their programs.
- ◆ SRO's should also possess lesson plans to give on-going collaboration to teachers and staff on; Drug Awareness, Gang Identifiers, Policies- Procedures & expectations during Lock downs or any emergency action.
- ◆ SRO's should participate in programs for parents to educate them on the warning signs of drug use.
- ◆ SRO's need to enjoy public speaking, it is a focal point of their position.
- ◆ Reminder: Presentations and programs is where SRO's build relations with not only the bad kids, but also the good students that we rarely are in contact with. This will build the needed relations that spawn information that may just save the lives of many!



# Negatives...

- ◆ Burnout by the end of the year.. SRO's are carrying the problems of the same 2500 people they see every day all year..
- ◆ SRO's are usually confined to the same buildings all day, unlike street officers who can leave a scene as well as the stupidity behind.
- ◆ With regular availability, the SRO's are contacted about EVERYTHING law related or not, because officers are problem solvers.
- ◆ Many officers and citizens have huge preconceived notions of what SRO's do and what they SHOULD be doing, which most times they are wrong.



# History of the program..

- ◆ Since 1953 there have been several communities in our country place officers in the schools to build rapport with the students and family's in the neighborhood.
- ◆ Fort Wayne started a pilot SRO program in 1999, by placing Officer Reggie Moore FWPD in Snider High School.
- ◆ The hope was to place a specialty NASRO trained officer into the school system so that it may provide a large measure of prevention, education, and security. It worked!



# SRO's and school security have different roles...

- ◆ Fort Wayne Community Schools provide several part time positions for police officers to work security in the schools, sporting events, and transportation routes. A helpful duty of the SRO is to promote these security positions and recruit qualified officers to work details.
- ◆ These are part time positions, with only one detail in mind and that is security and law enforcement.
- ◆ No matter what shift you work, there are more than likely openings either in 2 hour blocks all the way up to 7 hour shifts.
- ◆ Many of our schools are always looking for fill in security, that could turn into regular scheduled hours. If you are interested please contact one of the SRO's, and we will help you any way we can.



# Lastly, the positives..

- ◆ "Thanks to you, I graduated when I didn't think I could."
- ◆ "Thanks to you, I had a friend to talk to every day, when I didn't think I would."
- ◆ "Thanks to you, I don't cut myself any more."
- ◆ "Thanks to you, I now see there is more to life than my street."
- ◆ And when you see old graduated students come back to school or see you at the grocery and say "Because of you, I want to help people and be just like you!" It makes it all worth it.



# Any questions?...



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