School Security: The Approach at Sandy Hook

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Agenda

1. Standards for school security
2. Developing a security program
3. The 3 legs of school security
   - Security through architecture
   - Security through technology
   - Security through operations
4. Questions
What is being done to generate standards for security?

- No standards from building code, security industry, or other recognized sanctioning body.
- There continues to be work done at the federal and state level, but still no true “standards” have been developed or legislated.
- Wide variance in school setting and demographic make standard development difficult.

- Establish security program guidelines:
  - Threats
  - Vulnerabilities
  - Subsequent risks
Security Program Development

How can a district work to develop its own standards?
- Assemble a multidisciplinary security working group
- Determine resource base/commitment
- Identification of threats
- Understand vulnerabilities resulting from threats
- Assign risk profile
- Develop mitigation strategies using the three legs of school security

Lots of information is available to help
- FEMA
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Consultants and SMEs
Three Legs of School Security

**Architecture**
- School Layout
- Traffic
- Sightlines
- Fencing
- Portals

**Technology**
- Surveillance
- Access Control
- Alarm Point
- Monitoring
- Communications

**Operations**
- Staffing
- Policies
- Procedures
- Training
Uncompromising Architecture
Elements of a Nurturing Learning Environment

+ Welcoming Entry
+ Sense of “Home”
+ Coherent Circulation
+ Daylight / Views / Air
+ Nature / Biophilia
Security through Architecture
Using Layers to Deter, Detect and Delay

- Security at the Campus Perimeter
- Security at the Building Perimeter
- Security at the Classroom Perimeter
Security through Architecture
Site Strategies

+ Define Area / Express Ownership
  - Fences
  - Gates / Intercom
  - Streetscape
  - Natural Features / Modify Landscape
  - Signage / Lighting
  - Barriers

+ Maximize Natural Surveillance
  - View Corridor to/from Building Entry
  - “Eyes on the Street”
Security through Architecture

Security at the Campus Perimeter

+ Person Interdiction
  - Are fences helpful or do they require too much manpower and maintenance?
  - Is it reasonable to expect to stop someone from walking onto the campus?

+ Parking Management
  - Controlled lots
  - Early warning of approaching vehicles
  - Traffic plan and visitor parking

+ Vehicle Interdiction
  - Streetscape
  - Landscape
  - Barriers
Security through Architecture

Building Strategies

+ Discourage Easy Access
  - Plinthing the building
  - Landscaping

+ Layer the Building
  - Managed entries
  - Public spaces
  - Partitionable wings
Security through Architecture

Security at the Building Perimeter

+ Visitor Management
  - Visitor arrival and vetting process
  - Secure vestibule at building entrance
  - Placement and use of administrative areas/offices

+ After Hours School Areas
  - Partitioning of after hours facilities from classroom areas of the building
  - Dedicated restroom and janitorial facilities

+ Perimeter Windows / Doors
  - Laminated glass, bullet resistant assemblies
  - Exterior access points
Security through Architecture
Approaches for the Classroom

+ The Classroom as a Safe Room
  - Door / Wall construction
  - Forced entry resistance
  - Alternate escape route?

+ Views In / Out
  - Sidelites / Door lites
  - Operable exterior windows

+ Door Hardware
  - Ease of mind

+ Communication
  - Phones / PA system
  - Panic button
  - Cell phones / text message
Security through Technology
Designing the Right Tools for the Environment

Is this man effectively monitoring video cameras?

+ Common Technology Pitfalls/Misconceptions:
  - Technology supports security, and more tools provide more security
  - Support tools and technology should form the basis of any security program
  - Security staff are incredibly efficient and effective at using security technology tools
Security through Technology
Designing the Right Tools for the Environment

Technology Design - Best Practices:

- Design the security program **first**, then the supportive tools to go with it
- Use technology as a tool to help mitigate your school’s risk profile
- Understand your manpower and what they are capable of
- Organize and implement your security technology so it can be used as a force *multiplier*
Security through Technology
Designing the Right Tools for the Environment

- Technology Design – Most Common System Elements:
  - Alarm monitoring of perimeter doors
  - Access control for building and city staff
  - Semi-automated dispatch and lockdown capabilities
  - Video surveillance of entryways and perimeter locations
  - Digital video recording for archival
  - Local monitoring capabilities
  - Networking of multiple schools for centralized monitoring
Security through Technology
A Few Advanced Tools for Particular Applications
Security through Operations

+ It all comes down to a live, thinking human being (no robots...yet)
  - Situational awareness – what is happening around and in my school?
  - C3I – Communications, Coordination, Control, and Information
  - The value of the permanent post
  - Training, training, training
    - Staff (after hours)
    - Teachers (after hours)
    - Other town or district stakeholders
  - How are operations affected by the type of school?