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Building Campus Resilience: Pre-Disaster Mitigation & Preparedness

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BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH PRE-DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/MITIGATION
RESILIENCE?

BACK TO BASICS

Bounce back
Resistant
Strength
Flexible
Self-reliant
Good planning
Solid training
Regular exercises
Standards
Evaluations
Whole of Community Partnerships and Outreach
A DISCLAIMER FOR ALL HAZARDS APPROACH

I am a whole-heartedly, full out advocate of the all hazards approach to emergency management.

I am devoting my time to the pre-disaster activities and outreach in behalf of preparedness and mitigation.

So, as we discuss campus resilience, that is my approach.

The first step would be conducting a risk assessment, creating an informed set of stakeholders who would then begin the processes of mitigation, planning, training, higher education, exercises, evaluations.

I would use NFPA 1600 and EMAP guidance and standards, as a checklist for a campus program.
INDIVIDUALS

My grandson at Virginia Tech, a Junior Engineering Student
Holocaust survivor Professor Liviu Librescu and Alec Calhoun

In room 204, Norris Hall

Insisted on students escaping for 22 foot jump to ground out of window

He held the door closed until most of students out

Shot multiple times through the door

One student killed, others injured.
First assault, killed two students.

During this second assault, Cho fired at least 174 rounds, killing 30 people and wounding 17 more.

All of the victims were shot at least three times each; of the 30 killed, 28 were shot in the head.

During the investigation, State Police Superintendent William Flaherty told a state panel that police found 203 live rounds in Norris Hall. "He was well prepared to continue..."

In total, Cho killed five faculty members and 27 students before committing suicide.

The Virginia Tech Review Panel reported that Cho's gunshots wounded 17 other people; six more were injured when they jumped from second-story windows to escape.
FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE
DETECTING/DISRUPTING THREATS

While most difficult, this strategy has the greatest potential to fully prevent loss of life from an Active Shooter situation.

It seeks to completely prevent attacks from materializing at the facility due to successful mental health and/or law enforcement interventions far away from the potential target.
SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE
REDUcing VULNERABILITIES

Security strategies for deterring, detecting and delaying attacks, once an individual arrives at a facility can help reduce casualties and other damage from an Active Shooter who does arrive at a protected

• combination of armed guards;
• quick reaction teams;
• integrated gunshot detection alerting
• trigger alerts, evacuations, and door closure/lock-down procedures and exercises
THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE
REDUCING CONSEQUENCES

• evacuate potential victims and speed treatment to the wounded to attempt to reduce the loss of life from the attack
• employ police and emergency evacuation and medical response drills, resources, and procedures
• dependent upon the conclusion of an attack to be effective, so last line of defense
• the average police response to an Active Shooter scene is 18 minutes, while the average Active Shooter situation lasts 12.5 minutes
• not suitable by itself as the only response an organization takes to defend its facilities and occupants from an Active Shooter
SYSTEMS

Do they provide situational awareness to all?
Is there a good business continuity plan for them?
Science and Technology Directorate is searching the universe for best of breed

US Department of Education has a Readiness and Emergency Management section on their website for best practices, lessons learned during the time when they had a vigorous SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

FEMA worked closely with them through the years in behalf of preparedness and mitigation for campuses, following Columbine, until the program was recommended for elimination by the President and Congress
FACILITIES/BUILDING

Physical Security Training
Draft Plans
HVAC Systems
Police
Alerts
Assessments of buildings
Nearby landscaping

My first job after FEMA was EDS, our physical security was designed under Ross Perot’s watch, using architecture, landscaping, and engineering to the max.
STANDARDS – EMAP AND NFPA 1600

Program Management/Administration/Coordinator
Advisory Committee
Program Evaluation
Laws and Authorities/Finance and Administration
Risk Assessment
Incident Prevention
Mitigation
Resource Management and Logistics
Mutual Aid/Assistance
Planning
Incident Management/Operational Procedures
Communications and Warning
Facilities
Training, Exercises, Evaluations, and Corrective Actions
Crisis Communication and Public Information
LET THE CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE

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WHOLE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Students
Faculty
Counselors
Security
Administration
Superintendent
Board of Education/School Board
PTA
City officials – Mayor, Council, Fire, Police, EMS, EM, Public Works, Recreation and Parks

IEMC at FEMA
Multiple hazard school courses
Nonprofit leaders