



Police Threat Response Program

POLICING CHALLENGES

When systems fail and a violent incident occurs, police are called upon to respond to the threat. In the aftermath, departments may face criticism for using force or failing to prevent the incident because the perpetrator was "known" to the police. However, traditional law enforcement practices are not always suited to prevent targeted acts of violence or provide the sustained services needed to mitigate threats. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, further articulated the challenge as:

"Traditional law enforcement techniques historically have focused on the apprehension and prosecution of violent offenders after violent crimes are committed. When police are given information that someone may potentially commit a crime or become violent in the future, their responsibilities, authorities, and available investigative tools are suddenly less clear." (FBI NCAVC, 2018).

Federal law enforcement agencies such as the United States Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Capitol Police have operationalized behavioral threat assessment into protective intelligence and investigative protocols. Likewise, police departments across the country are implementing threat management units to respond to the rising frequency and severity of active shooter attacks. However, not every police department has the resources to stand up a threat response unit. If sufficient resources do exist, how does the department identify quality training? Police departments face two formidable challenges:

1. Changing from a reactive to a proactive policing approach to preventing violence and adverse police encounter with community members in crisis.
2. The complicated process of balancing public safety with the needs of a community member of concern.

SOLUTION: AT-RISK INTERNATIONAL POLICE THREAT RESPONSE PROGRAM

No one system can prevent targeted acts of violence. Prevention takes a multidisciplinary approach that combines law enforcement, mental health, and other community systems. AT-RISK International Certified Threat Managers synthesize current policing practices such as crisis intervention, school resource officer, and community policing programs with the highest Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) policy design and training standards.

The BTAM process allows for a flexible public health approach to assess, intervene, and manage persons of concern for targeted violence. The program combines the recommended universal prevention for the whole community with designated or intensive intervention for a few and selective or targeted interventions for some high-risk cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS

United States Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center

"Threat assessment is the best practice for preventing targeted school violence" (2021).

Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

"We believe that, as a nation, we can more effectively prevent targeted violence by identifying concerning behavior as early as possible and applying established, evidence-based management techniques, knowledge, and strategy through the informed efforts of multiple disciplines functioning as a team" (2019).

Federal Bureau of Investigation

"Prevention is not and cannot be a passive process. It requires a strong and overt commitment by organizations and communities to prioritizing public safety and caretaking for those in need. This is manifested by adoption of policies and programs to support targeted violence prevention efforts, establishment of threat assessment and management teams, and education to underscore the importance of these processes and to promote acceptance and engagement by all" (2018).

ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- The program contains beginner to advanced BTAM training for patrol, investigators, crime analysts, and school resource officers. In addition, each program includes resource mapping, gap analysis of your existing violence prevention strategies, individualized development of threat management protocols, assessment guides, and forms.
- The program is customized to each state's laws, general orders, departmental, and community-based resources.
- The program is customized to your training needs and contains a full complement of consultancy and training options. The range of possibilities includes organization-wide roll call or virtual academy training modules, virtual instructor-led live or recorded webinars, or in-person instruction. In addition, the program provides ongoing technical assistance to facilitate the BTAM implementation process.
- AT-RISK International's law enforcement and mental health experts designed the program and have successfully delivered it to local, county, and state-wide law enforcement agencies.

AT-RISK International is a global protection agency specializing in security services for individuals and organizations. Our team of experts creates and maintains secure environments by providing threat analysis, protection, investigations, consulting, intelligence and security training services. Since 2003, our mission has been to discretely mitigate security threats before they occur. Through advanced research, analysis and preparations, we protect companies and individuals throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Asia Pacific.

