



## ACTIVE SHOOTER

**I hope you do not perceive this correspondence as the act of an ambulance chaser. My experience in the many years that I have been a security professional, is that sensational criminal events, prompt sociopathic copycats to action.**

**Remember, security is an anticipatory proactive discipline. These includes the ability to reasonably anticipate and quantify the threat to persons and property, and therefore, the possible liability claims of inadequate security.**

**If past is prologue, traditional security methodologies, are not enough for the mitigation, of an active shooter assault. This means that the incipient signs of imminent attack must be recognized and attended to, including behavioral symptom recognition, as behavioral modification in terms of effective deterrence.**

**Beginning with Columbine, it has been my observation, that in the wake of these high-profile shootings, there is an uptick of active shooter events in the wake of these terroristic acts. It is well to remember that security is a proactive preventative discipline. The direct and indirect response going forward, is worthy of consideration.**

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### **Columbine - Sandy Hook in Connecticut**

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Security is an anticipatory, proactive discipline with the goal of reasonable deterrence.

For a criminal act to occur, the preconditions include motive means, and opportunity.

Anecdote: When SMSI goes out on a security consulting project, it is our practice to sit down with the management team in order to better understand stand our clients' needs. I remember such a meeting, when working with a Midwest hospital a few years ago. At the time of this C-Suite meeting, the shooting at Columbine was fresh on everyone's mind. During that presentation, I made an allusion to the potential for copycat act of terrorism is generally higher than normal. On the following day of this meeting, the shooting at the Sandy Hook school occurred in Connecticut.

The potential for further act of terrorism is now higher than usual (the Texas and Ohio Shootings).

Security is an anticipatory discipline with the goal of reasonable deterrence. Effective security programs require teamwork, including staff involvement, teamwork with local law enforcement and a well-designed security program. Because security is a situational discipline, the objective security assessment in a must. Objectivity is achieved when the consultation is provided by security professionals who are independent and objective, without ties to the security service industry, such as the alarm industry and/or, the uniformed security industry.

SMSI offers onsite security training as well as comprehensive security assessments. Our team also continues to provide expert witness services related to security driven litigation.





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