

Active Shooters

Historical Perspective and Challenges

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History of Active Shooters

From
Austin, TX (1966)
to
Oslo, Norway (2011)



Definitions

- Active Shooter
 - Suspect's activity is immediately causing death or serious bodily injury
 - The activity is not contained
 - There is immediate risk of death or serious injury to potential victims
- Immediate Deployment
 - The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to **ongoing**, life threatening situations where delayed deployment could otherwise result in death or great bodily injury to innocent persons

Definitions (Cont.)

- Dynamic Situation
 - The situation is evolving very rapidly along with the suspect's action
 - Example: shooting and moving
- Static Situation
 - The situation is not evolving or in motion
 - Suspect's actions appear to be contained
 - Example: suspect is barricaded in a room

Definitions (Cont.)

- Barricade Suspect
 - Suspect is in a position of advantage, usually barricaded in a room or building
 - Suspect is armed and has displayed violence
 - May or may not be holding a hostage(s)
 - There is no indication that the suspect's activity is immediately causing death or serious bodily injury
 - The event is not dynamic but rather static

Definitions (Cont.)

- **Soft Target**
 - A person or location that is relatively unprotected or vulnerable, especially to a terrorist attack
- **Time Line of Violence**
 - The period of time from the suspects first violent action until his action is stopped or transitions to another activity
- **Incident Transition**
 - That point in the incident where the “active shooter” stops their violent actions and tries to escape or barricade themselves

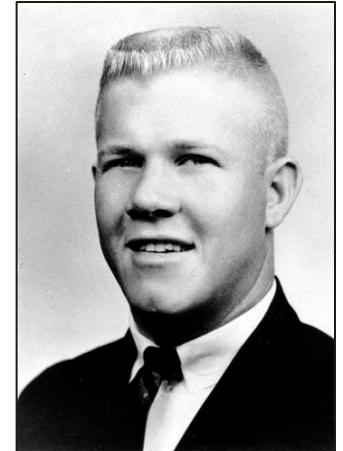
Police Priorities

- Lives of the hostage(s)
- Lives of innocent bystanders
- Lives of police officers
- Lives of the suspect(s)
- Neutralize the suspect(s)

Texas Tower Incident

August 1, 1966

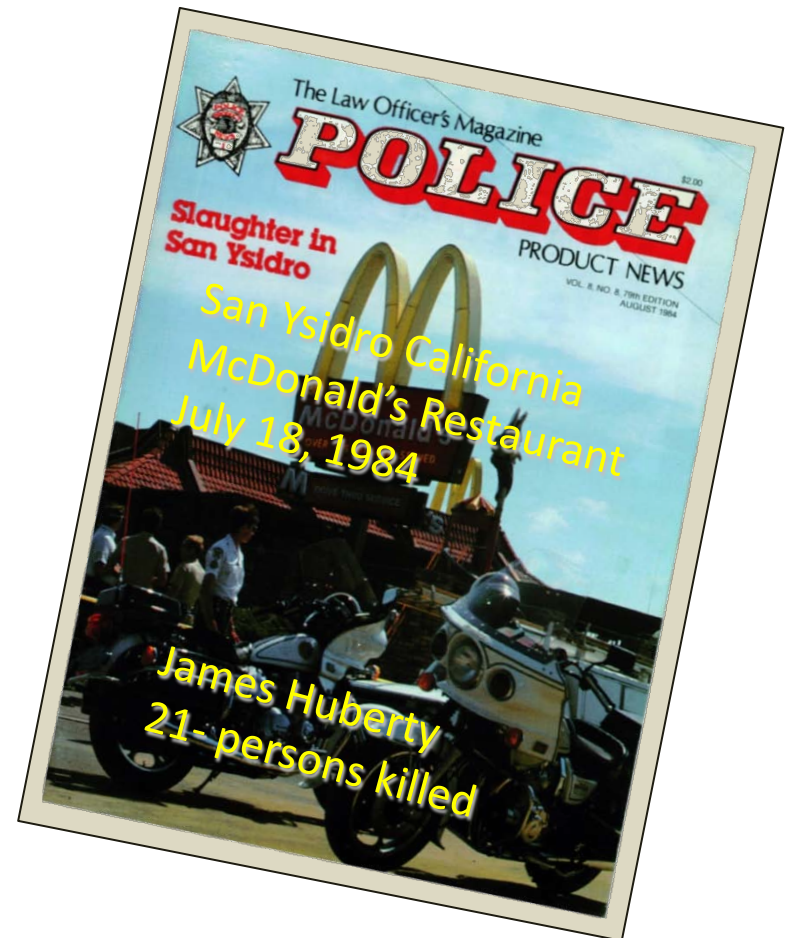
- Suspect: Charles Whitman
- Location: Austin, TX
- Casualties: Killed 15 people (including an unborn baby); and wounded 31 people (as far as 2 blocks away)
- Outcome: Suspect killed by police officers



McDonald's Massacre

July 18, 1984

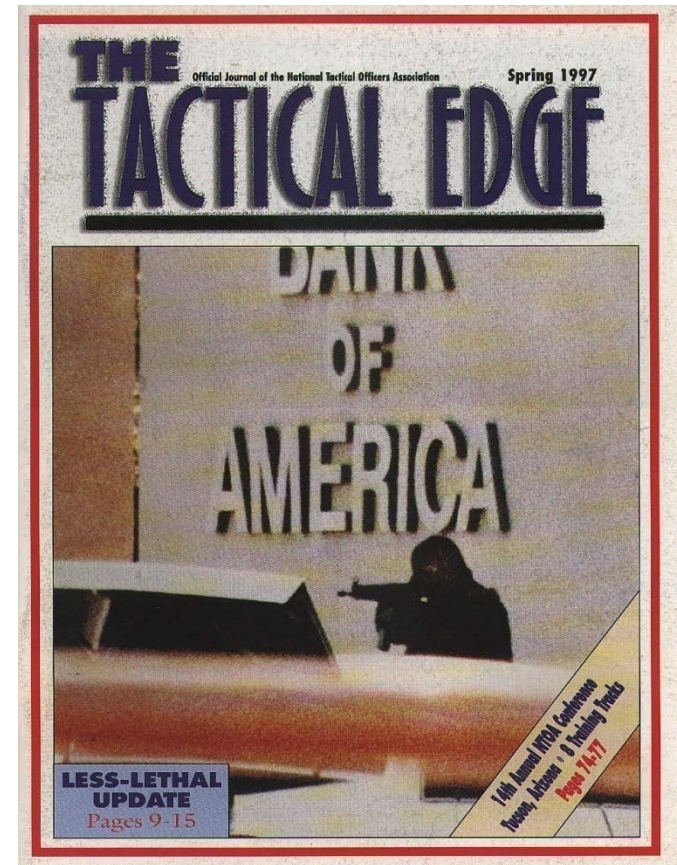
- Suspect: James Huberty
- Location: San Ysidro, CA
- Casualties: Killed 21 people; and wounded 11 people
- Outcome: Suspect killed by police marksman



North Hollywood Bank Robbery

February 28, 1997

- Suspects:
 - Larry Phillips
 - Emil Matasareanu
- Location: North Hollywood, CA
- Started as bank robbery; transitioned to active shooter
- Casualties: Wounded 18 people (11 police officers, and 7 civilians)
- Outcome: One suspect committed suicide; the other was killed by SWAT



Columbine High School

April 20, 1999

- Suspects:
 - Eric Harris
 - Dylan Klebold
- Location: Littleton, CO
- Casualties: Killed 13 people; and wounded 20 people
- Outcome: Both suspects committed suicide



Eric Harris



Dylan Klebold



Trolley Square

February 12, 2007

- Suspect: Sulejman Talovic
- Location: Salt Lake City, UT
- Casualties: Killed 5 people; and wounded 4 people
- Outcome: Suspect killed by police



Virginia Tech

April 16, 2007

- Suspect: Seung-Hui Cho
- Location: Blacksburg, VA
- Casualties: Killed 32 people; and wounded 23 people
- Outcome: Suspect committed suicide
- Worst mass shooting in U.S. history



Virginia Tech (Cont.)

April 16, 2007

- Shooter chained three doors from the inside
- It took an estimated five minutes for first responding police to force open doors
- Once inside, moved toward the sound of gunfire
- The last shot heard was Cho committing suicide



U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

June 10, 2009

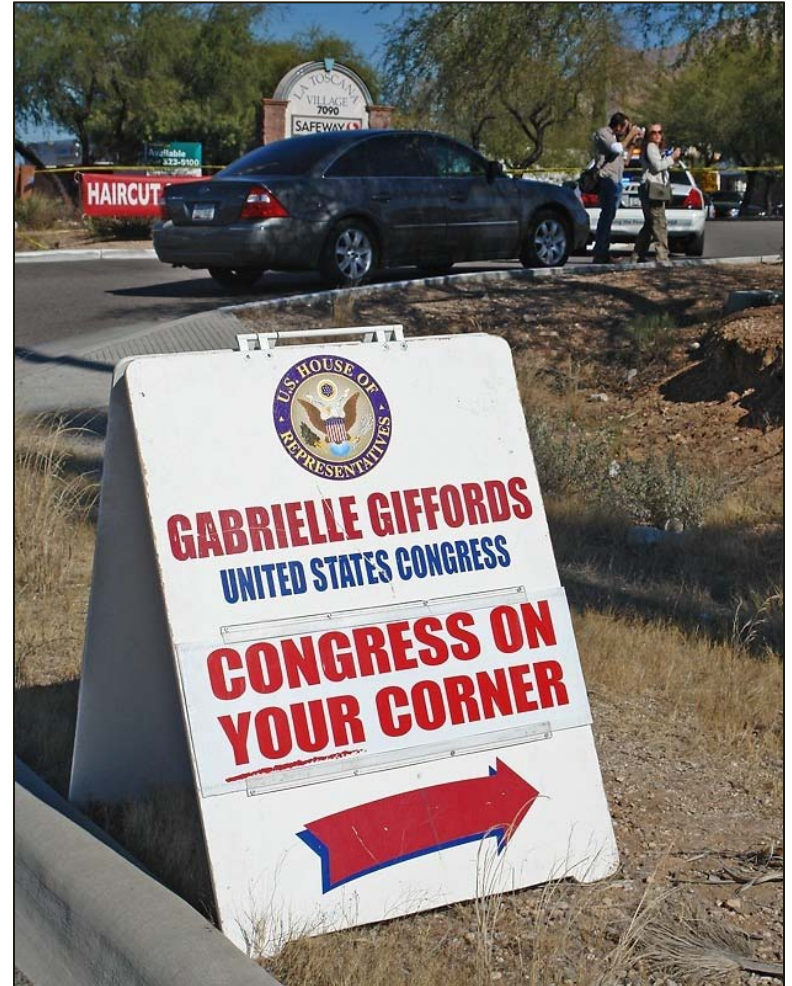
- Suspect: James W. von Brunn, 88 years old
- Location: Washington, DC
- Casualties: Killed 1 person (security officer)
- Outcome: Suspect shot by police, then arrested
- Suspect opened fire with a rifle inside the crowded U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum



Gabrielle Giffords Shooting

January 8, 2011

- Suspect: Jared Lee Loughner
- Location: Tuscon, AZ
- Casualties: Killed 6 people (including a Federal judge); and wounded 14 people (Rep. Giffords critically injured)
- Outcome: Suspect arrested
- Loughner targeted the Congresswoman's constituent event (soft target)



Mumbai, India

November 26, 2008

- Suspects: Between 10 – 12 militants (split into four sections)
- Location: Mumbai, India
- Casualties: Attacked targets on foot, by taxi or motorcycle; killed a total of 164 people; and wounded 308 people
- AK-47s, handguns, pistols; large amount of ammo—knives, grenades, explosives, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs)
- Outcome: 1 terrorist caught alive (Ajmal Amir) and sentenced to death on May 6, 2010; 9 terrorists committed suicide or were killed by the Indian military; it is unknown if any other terrorists escaped



Ajmal Amir, the only terrorist caught alive

Comparison of Columbine and Mumbai

Columbine

- Multiple Shooters
- Planning – extensive
- Attempted casualties – 300 of their classmates
- Explosive Devices IED's
- Pre-planted IED's for diversion tactics
- Semi-automatic weapons
- Weapons vests

Mumbai

- Multiple Shooters
- Planning – extensive
- Actual casualties – 164 wounded 308
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Oslo, Norway

July 22, 2011

- Suspect: Anders Behring Breivik
- Location: Oslo, Norway; and Utøya Island
- Casualties: Killed 76 people (8 in Oslo bombing and 68 in Utøya shooting); wounded 60 people
- Outcome: Suspect surrendered to police
- Political Terrorism (Target: Norway Labor Party)
- Vehicle Borne IED, Ruger Mini-14 Carbine, Glock 17 pistol; reportedly bought supplies on eBay



Lessons Learned

- Incidents are spontaneous with little or no warning
- Suspects' behavior unpredictable
- Occur in a target rich environment
- Law enforcement outgunned and/or no training to respond
- Multi-jurisdictional response issues
- Coordinated response plans between potential targets and law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical units
- Training and patrol rifles needed to counter suspects
- Tactical intervention too late, not a SWAT operation
- Transportation capabilities

Lessons Learned (Cont.)

- Recognizing the dynamics associated with different businesses and critical infrastructure:
 - Malls
 - Multiple entrances, difficult to secure, terrorist blending in with the shoppers
 - Airports
 - No security at baggage areas, affords a high success rate along with high casualty count
 - Schools
 - Most schools are still considered soft targets, this is due to easy access
 - There is still little or no security at most schools
 - Outdoor venues
 - Depending on geographic area, it may be difficult to secure an open venue; the outdoors may afford the perpetrator different options for their attack, such as both hand held weapons (guns) and pre-planted explosive devices

Change in Response and Tactics

- Response most likely by patrol
- Non-traditional response
- Minimum number of officers
- More tactically equipped
- Specialized training
- Able to transition from an active shooting situation into a barricade situation
- Team movement
- Team training
- IED training
- Booby traps training
- Explosive breaching programs
- Rapid command, control, and communications

New Tactical Considerations

- Small arms and grenade attacks on multiple targets
- High level of planning and preparation required
- Three attacks culminated in hostage standoffs
- No known negotiations
- Time-initiated IEDs placed at two of the attack locations to target responding security forces
- Time-initiated IEDs left on taxis used by militants
- Special event planning to include response capabilities and obstacles that may be associated with response
 - Example: watercraft

New Tactical Considerations (Cont.)

- Militants determined to prolong the attacks as long as possible
- UK, US, and Israeli citizens specifically targeted at more than one location
- Attacks designed to cause high casualties and economic damage
- Command and control
- Communications



New Equipment

- Now many police departments are putting basic breaching tools in their squad cars
 - Bolt cutters
 - Small sledge hammers
 - Small tactical cutting torch
 - Pry bars
- Although we continue to review, revise, and train in new tactics and with new equipment for potential terrorists incidents, the active shooters continue to learn from previous incidents and increase the number of people they kill and/or wound

Contact Information

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