

Security News

JUNE 2007

Security in our Schools - Jim O'Donnell

The chances that your child, even if an adult in college, could be injured or killed at school are very low. We do not want to add to the hype currently blazing across the news media resulting from these recent, spectacularly tragic homicides. In the vein of circumspection though, we recognize that the chances of tragedy are higher now than at any previous time in our lives.

This year, I have attended two extensive out-of-town classes taught by John Giduck and Col. David Grossman. Both are world renowned professionals on school murders involving domestic and foreign terrorists. Resulting from these seminars I have a few comments on what we need to do as a nation and as parents about our children's safety. This generally has nothing to do with our security business, we just want all your kids to be safe. So please understand that this isn't a sales tool to get anyone to buy anything from our company, we simply believe that as your security company, we should pass along whatever experiences or wisdom we might have gleaned from our own work or in dealing with other professionals who specialize in this arena of school security.

A little history is in order here. It was not so long ago that we had rifle teams in our schools comprised of students who competed in shooting as a sport just like the soccer, baseball and basketball teams. Something is different between when we routinely had guns available to us in or after school and today when "gun free" zones

are routinely violated by students. I went to a large, urban high school of nearly 4,000 students. No one was killed by gun violence in the 4 years when I was there. Nor did my own children experience any gun violence in school either. In my high school, we often shot rifles after school several times a week. Guns were very available to all of us and were thought of as innocent recreation, not instruments of destruction. I went on to become a Sheriff's Deputy and never saw gun violence in any school. Fast-forward thirty years and the world has changed.

Foreign Terrorism:

The Beslan School #5 in Russia was attacked on September 1, 2004 by heavily armed radical Muslim extremists who ended up killing nearly 400 teachers and students by the end of the third day of their hostage-taking drama. The consensus of all the knowledgeable investigators is that this was an operational test to perfect the takeover of a school, to capture national attention, to shock the citizens by intentionally raping young girls, murdering helpless captives and to create mayhem using ever growing levels of atrocities.

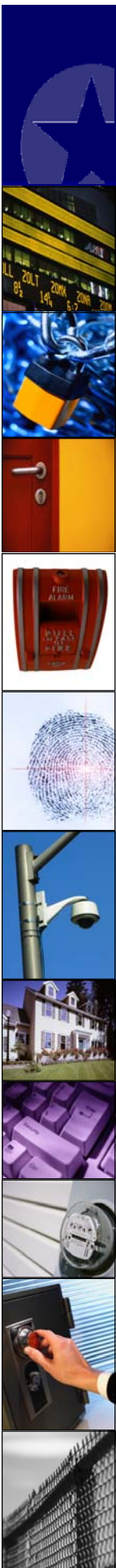
Active surveillance of at least 14 U.S. schools by suspicious teams has been verified in disparate areas, both urban and rural. These same ideological groups have destroyed over 300 schools in Turkey in an attempt to undermine civil authority, create havoc and bankrupt the government by expending billions on school security that could be spent on other social or economic programs. These criminals are here in America to work their plan and they will likely be successful at some point. We likely cannot focus sufficient resources to protect all schools everywhere. Cameras, metal detectors and other physical protection measures might be appropriate for general use but they will not impede a determined group of attackers who are willing to change the course of a nation's resolve by sacrificing themselves for the cause of forcing the West to accept their brand of obligatory religion.

Domestic Terrorism:

On the domestic front our schools have become increasingly dangerous places. We are facing terrorists who have grown up within our own ranks, they are our own children! Educators have a growing and hostile sub population within our schools to manage. Schools are increasingly confronted with violent current and former students who have come back to "get even" with teachers, administrators and students that they perceived have wronged them in various ways that defy logic.



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Security in our Schools Continued

Crime statistics for the general population in the US show the attempted homicide rate from 1957 to 2005 is up by 5 times. Yes, we live in a violent world but it's not just America that has a problem and it's not just guns that give rise to this new breed of violence. In Canada where



gun control is actively enforced, the rate is up 4 times, in France it's up 4 times and in other European nations it's up 2 times since 1957. All these countries have far more restrictive gun control than the US. It's not my point here to debate gun control and ask that we either ban all guns or hand them out indiscriminately. This new social disease is almost completely confined to Western industrialized nations. In the US, expenditures for police are up 16 times, adjusted for inflation, over costs in 1900, so this might not be a manpower or lack-of-resources challenge. This problem is not confined to the US, even though you generally hear

our cases reported repetitiously because of the cycle of our 24 hour news. We also find the foreign cases are often muted or not reported on at all. In the US, the Beslan attack was mostly ignored as the major US news media had declared the Kobe Bryant rape trial far more interesting fodder. But it could be Paris Hilton, American Idol or other icons of our (un?) popular culture that next grab the headlines in mind numbing replay.

Additionally, we have sociopaths and psychopaths who, by age 9 or 10, are

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Buying a Safe (www.homesecurityinformation.com)

Safes are a great way to protect your valuables from smash-and-grab burglars and from people you invite into your home or office to do work. We estimate about half of the losses in homes from visitors are because valuables are left out or in easily identified locations: A. Near the bed, B. In the bathroom, C. In the refrigerator.

Buying a safe is a wise investment and they are available in many formats, sizes and costs. Items like jewelry, coin collections, furs, and cameras are easy for thieves to fence, thus making appealing targets. Experienced burglars know where to look for your valuables and we are always amazed at their intuitive powers, so your favorite hiding place might not be as secure as you think. A bank safe deposit box is the most secure place to store your valuables, but these tend to limit what you can put in them. Gun safes, because of their overall size, are excellent for reams of documents, jewelry cases, specialized computer data or bulky items.

Before you buy a safe, make sure you understand the different levels of protection. All good safes will have Underwriters Laboratories, or UL, ratings.

These ratings determined how fire-resistant a safe is and fall into the following categories:

- **Class C Safe** -- Protects paper documents for up to 1 hour at temperatures up to 1700°F
- **Class B Safe** -- Protects paper documents for up to 2 hours at temperatures up to 1850°F
- **Class A Safe** -- Protects paper documents for up to 4 hours at 2000°F.

Under most circumstances, a class B or C safe is fine for adequately protecting irreplaceable papers. There are specialized safes available to protect data storage devices and computer disks. A good safe should also protect against damage caused by a collapsing building.

We find that keypad operated safes are used more often than rotary combination safes because they are easier to operate. Additionally, some safes can beep until the correct code is entered if someone tries to guess your safe combination in your absence. Always buy a safe that cannot be casually removed from your home or office. Bigger is better!

If you would like help selecting a safe or would like Statewide Security to install one, please call the office: (425) 558-4640

Facts About DVR's (www.wikipedia.org)

A **digital video recorder (DVR)** (or **personal video recorder (PVR)**) is a device that records video without videotape to a hard drive based digital storage medium. The term includes stand-alone set-top boxes and software for personal computers which enables video capture and playback to and from disk. Some consumer electronic manufacturers have started to offer televisions with DVR hardware and software built in to the television itself. It has also become the main way for closed circuit television (CCTV) companies to record their surveillance, as it provides far longer recording times than the old VCRs.

Security Applications

Digital video recorders configured for physical security applications record video signals from closed circuit television cameras for detection and documentation purposes. Many are designed to record audio as well. DVRs have evolved into devices that are feature rich and provide services that exceed the simple recording of video images that was previously done through VCRs. A DVR CCTV system provides a multitude of advanced functions over VCR technology including video searches by event, time, date and camera. There is also much more control over quality and frame rate allowing disk space usage to be optimized and the DVR can also be set to overwrite the oldest security footage should the disk become full. In some DVR security systems remote access to security footage using a PC can also be achieved by connecting the DVR to a LAN network or the internet.

Security DVRs may be categorized as being either PC based or embedded. A PC based DVR's architecture is a classical personal computer with video capture cards designed to capture video images. An embedded type DVR is specifically designed as a digital video recorder with its operating system and application software contained in firmware or read only memory.

Hardware features

Hardware features of security DVRs vary between manufacturers and may include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Designed for rack mounting or desktop configurations.
- Single or multiple video inputs with connector types consistent with the analogue or digital video provided such as coaxial cable, twisted pair or optical fiber cable. The most common number of inputs are 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 and 32. Systems may be configured with a very large number of inputs by networking or bussing individual DVRs together.
- Looping video outputs for each input which duplicates the corresponding input video signal and connector type. These output signals are used by other video equipment such as matrix switchers, multiplexers, and video monitors.
- Controlled outputs to external video display monitors.
- Front panel switches and indicators that allow the various

features of the machine to be controlled.

- Network connections consistent with the network type and utilized to control features of the recorder and to send and/or receive video signals.
- Connections to external control devices such as keyboards.
- A connection to external pan-tilt-zoom drives that position cameras.
- Internal CD, DVD, VCR devices typically for archiving video.
- Connections to external storage media.
- Alarm event inputs from external security detection devices, usually one per video input.

Alarm event outputs from internal detection features such as motion detection or loss of video.

Software features

Software features vary between manufacturers and may include but are not necessarily limited to:

- User selectable image capture rates either on an all input basis or input by input basis. The capture rate feature may be programmed to automatically adjust the capture rate on the occurrence of an external alarm or an internal event
- Selectable image resolution either on an all input basis or input by input basis. The image resolution feature may be programmed to automatically adjust the image resolution on the occurrence of an external alarm or an internal event.
- Motion detection: Provided on an input by input basis, this feature detects motion detection in the total image or a user definable portion of the image and usually provides sensitivity settings. Detection causes an internal event that may be output to external equipment and/or be used to trigger changes in other internal features.
- Lack of motion detection. Provided on an input by input basis, this feature detects the movement of an object into the field of view and remaining still for a user definable time. Detection causes an internal event that may be output to external equipment and/or used to trigger changes in other internal features.
- Direction of motion detection. Provided on an input by input basis, this feature detects the direction of motion in the image that has been determined by the user as an unacceptable occurrence. Detection causes an internal event that may be output to external equipment and/or be used to trigger changes in other internal features.
- Routing of input video to video monitors based on user inputs or automatically on alarms or events.
- Input, time and date stamping.
- Alarm and event logging on appropriate video inputs.
- Alarm and event search.

Security in our Schools Continued

committed to their own destruction as well as those around them. If you ask your kids who the next likely killers in their schools will be, they can name a couple instantly. I watched several school administrators in one of my seminars immediately think of 10 students they thought to be likely candidates. Just prior to completing my last class, police foiled a conspiracy of five students in Alaska to kill their classmates. Then came the Virginia Tech shootings and right after that one student in Florida was planning on having a body count of 100 as his goal. We see similarities among all these successful and wanna-be killers:

- Virtually none of the domestic school killers is involved in sports, organized clubs like the YMCA or Boy's Clubs etc. They have no deep religious faith of any kind.
- Most of these young people have been loners, disassociated from their families for years.
- None have been involved in ROTC or dedicated martial arts. Over 50% feel they have been severely bullied. They are regularly sleep deprived, have bad diets and are sometimes on heavy anti-depressant medications.
- These kids almost always feel that they are under-appreciated and they demonstrate a hyper sensitivity to any form of criticism. They also have an expanded expectation of entitlement. However, they are not necessarily poor or deprived. Most come from families with middle incomes or better.
- They spend 45 or more hours per week watching TV or playing video games.
- They idolize the Columbine killers, declare them to be "martyrs" and use

the Columbine body counts as base-lines for their own plans to be memorialized by their future crime sprees.

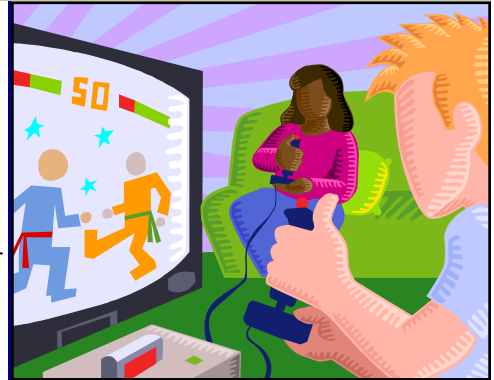
Violent video games as culprits in Western society:

You and I as parents, grandparents and concerned citizens need to be aware of what the children in our society are seeing on a daily basis. Two very popular games come to mind immediately, "Postal II" and "Grand Theft Auto" are, in my opinion, intrinsically bad for young, undeveloped minds to play. Games similar to these may have a number of features that any rational person could reasonably question as being appropriate for a child to get a game reward, extra game "health" or reinforcement for:

- Stealing? Killing? Robbery? Selling drugs?
- Burning victims as they laugh at them?
- Getting points for killing police officers?

I have left out more graphic examples!

Do you know if your kids are playing these types of games? Do you know the content of the games? 30% of second graders admit to playing violent video games. What rational society allows its future leaders to be trained in this way at such a young age? We criticize Muslim radicals for training their children to become homicidal bombers. Is this any worse? This isn't just entertainment, it is formatting of the brain and it primes these young minds to respond in brutal ways when they get frustrated. Will all of them act this way? No, certainly not. But an increasing fraction of them will and as we continue to buy the players and the games and send our offspring in whom we have invested the future, to be poi-



soned by these games. We need to take the lives of our children and grandchildren in our own hands.

Games, movies and TV are all increasingly violent and it appeals to the primitive mid-brains in all of us that control fight, flight, feeding, reproductive activity and desire. It now takes an average of 3 days to detoxify young people and to turn on left brain activity after separating them from violent media content. Brain studies have shown that video games can make entire portions of children's brains inert whereas book reading turns on forebrain activity. Once detoxified their grades rise, obesity drops, attendance at school increases, bladder infections drop, and math, verbal and athletic scores all improve.

As a society, we must take a stand and demand that our children no longer have these poisons available to them. Life is complicated enough and we need them to be happy, productive and stable. If they choose as adults to interact with violent content, at least they should be able to distinguish between reality and fantasy. I have no desire to abolish video games for adults, but we must accept that children are not adults, have not had brain and life experience maturation and need protection from harmful stimuli.

Security in our Schools Continued

It is unlikely that your child will be injured in school, but if they find themselves involved, the immediate steps that we can take to protect our children in school:

1. The best way to not be gravely injured or killed by one of the “Body Count” criminals is to simply not be there. Individuals who actively tried to escape both in our US schools and Beslan, Russia had the best chance of survival. They cannot harm you if you aren’t there.

2. If our kids cannot escape, barricading themselves or fighting back might be their best defense. The killers have no qualms about murdering frightened, cowed victims. They are doing this to have the biggest body count and they expect immediate compliance with their orders and that ultimately results in mass killings of unarmed victims. If you think you might die, then fighting back might save dozens or hundreds of other victims, including yourself. We’ve all heard of Murphy’s Law so try to inject a little Murphy into the killer’s plans. Rally others to help.

3. Report moody, strange, violent or frightening behavior, and writings. Contact authorities, if students or others express what we all now know is criminal intent and planning. If that doesn’t work, move. Find another apartment, get assigned to another class, and create separation from suspect students. Girls who have rejected suitors who won’t take “no” for an answer may be particularly at risk. Students who start acting out violent fantasies should be reported immediately.

4. Immediately restrict news casts on school shootings. The Columbine killers were on the cover of Time magazine twice. This is the kind of notoriety

these confused people crave. If they know in advance they won’t get national and international exposure, the expectation that they will be sensationalized will diminish. We shouldn’t even repeat their names and they should become non-entities who never existed. If we are firm with this policy, then we’ll save unknown thousands of families from future grief and remove from the killers the temptation to use our children’s futures as vehicles to elevate their own wrecked lives into some form of tragic, perverse infamy.

5. Stop denying that this can’t happen to someone we love. Become proactive in our communities and expect accountability from our schools and our legal system. Ask candidates what they are going to do that will have tangible results. Vague “I’ll make schools safer” statements are sops and we need leaders unafraid to make controversial plans.

6. Demand that all junior and senior high schools have armed School Resource Officers. These men and women are the first line of defense in our schools. They should have immediate access to sophisticated weapons, body armor and training without budget constraints. Remember they routinely have practiced and organized attacks by multiple assailants. Armed SRO’s have repeatedly been cited as the reason some schools have not had violence visited upon them. Encourage responsible administrative staff to become trained and armed. They have foiled multiple attacks over the past five years in schools all over the US (although this gets poor reporting because it is politically incorrect). Many school administrators from Oregon told me they are actively looking to change their school policies and are



weighing having armed staff in school as the best deterrent to mass killings.

Ask school administrators to stop moving children to parking lots during bomb scares. How do bombers get big bombs into crowds for high body counts? Why bring a crowd to a potential vehicle borne bomb location? When was the last time any of us heard of a bomb scare that turned out to be true? Locked classrooms are the safest places for our students. Let’s use some uncommon common sense in how we protect our children! This is a multi faceted problem and the current methods of protecting children and the inhibition of criminal acts simply are not working.

As stated before, my purpose for giving you this shocking information is to help protect your children. I welcome your comments.

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We have changed our phone system. Please listen to the options carefully to aid in getting the service you need. If you are not sure which option to select during normal business hours please push 2 and it will connect you with the office. The system is designed to allow you to contact our various departments, sales, service, scheduling, accounting, or central dispatch directly.

The office hours are 8:00am to 5:00pm Pacific Time. When calling after-hours, press 5 to be auto-routed to the Central station who will have the on-call technician return your call promptly.

Statewide Security maintains an "on call" staff of competent journeymen rated technicians and protective specialists, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Summer 2007—Alarm System Maintenance Special

When was the last time you had us out to look over your home or business? Have you made additions, do all of your sensors and smoke detectors work? How long ago was a system test conducted?

Take advantage of our alarm system maintenance special.

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spection by a qualified technician every three years.

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The Alarm System Maintenance Special includes:

1. Test all devices; door and window contacts, motion detectors, glass break detectors, etc.
2. Clean and test smoke detectors.
3. Your first alarm panel back up battery is FREE, included as part of our service.

4. We'll update your emergency call list, add and delete system codes and advise you of any correction that needs to be made to your system.

Call the office to schedule your maintenance service.

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