NEWLY RELEASED ACTIVE SHOOTER REPORT
KEY FINDINGS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADER

The U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation just released the report, Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2022. The findings of this report offer an opportunity to examine some of the most recent data concerning mass violence to help guide agency efforts in preventing and responding to targeted violence.

Key Findings:

- ☐ The FBI designated 50 shootings as active shooter incidents.

- ☐ The number of active shooter incidents in 2022 decreased by 18% from 2021 while also increasing by 66.7% when comparing 2018 to 2022.

- ☐ There were 313 casualties (100 killed and 213 wounded).

- ☐ The number of wounded increased by 52.1% from 2021 to 2022.

- ☐ One law enforcement officer was killed and 21 wounded.

- ☐ The month of May had the highest number of active shooter incidents.

- ☐ In 48% of the incidents, the shooter had a known connection to the location and/or at least one victim.

- ☐ Based on location, 46% of the incidents occurred in open spaces, 28% in commerce, and 8% in education.

- ☐ The greatest number of active shooter incidents occurred between the hours of 1200 – 1759 hours.

- ☐ Sunday was the most common day of the week for an active shooter event.

These key findings and the other details in the report offer an opportunity for law enforcement professionals to practice "what if" through roll call discussions, tabletop exercises, formal training events, and strategic meetings with partners representing multiple disciplines.

Some Considerations:

- ☐ The law enforcement response to the active shooter event at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, in March 2023 has been appropriately praised as heroic. However, agency leaders should ask themselves and those in their agency, "What if the school official didn't hand the officer the key so he could unlock the school door?" "What if the door was heavily reinforced, and if so, do patrol officers have the necessary tools to breach the door?" As schools obtain additional funding, successfully forcing entry into a school without advanced breaching tools will likely become significantly more complicated.

- ☐ While considering the number of injured during active shooter incidents increased by 52.1% from 2021 to 2022, have agencies worked with local partners and other first responders in adequately preparing for the possibility of handling larger than before mass casualty events?

- ☐ Often such targeted violence is misappropriately identified as being "random." However, in 2022, in 48% of the incidents, the shooter had a connection to the location or a victim. This is why law enforcement must emphasize that everyone has a role in prevention. All law enforcement officers should read the Risk Analysis, Law Enforcement Has a Unique Role in Active Shooter/Mass Violence Prevention.

☐ Understandably, the media, local leaders, and the law enforcement community focus heavily on active shooter response at educational institutions. However, in 2022, educational facilities accounted for just 8% of active shooter incidents. The number one location for such mass violence was open space. Have agency leaders addressed this risk? Are officers prepared for "rolling" active shooter events throughout a neighborhood or involving multiple adjoining jurisdictions? Does the law enforcement agency have a robust communication platform that can immediately reach their community members to warn them of such a threat?

☐ It is well understood that targeted violence can happen anywhere and anytime. However, while knowing that the month of May had the highest number of active shooter incidents in 2022, this May should present the opportunity for law enforcement officers to examine these most recent findings, develop strategies to mitigate and respond to such violence, and always ask "what if" to help prepare for what lies ahead.

If you have any questions, please contact your Law Enforcement Risk Control Consultant.