

SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE THE ROLE OF FUSION CENTERS IN PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE



Presented By the Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center

October 23, 2012

PRESENTERS

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AGENDA

- Project Background
- Scanning
- Analysis
- Response
- Assessment
- Future Expansion
- Questions



SCANNING

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- **Clark County School District encompasses all of Clark County, which covers 7,910 square miles, which includes all of Las Vegas, Henderson, NLV , outlying communities and rural areas**
- **5th largest school district in the country with 309,000 students**
- **Operates 352 schools comprising of 213 Elementary Schools, 59 Middle Schools, 48 High Schools, 24 Alternative Schools, 8 Special Schools**
- **Clark County School District Police (CCSDPD) has 163 sworn officers**

SCANNING

POLICE JURISDICTIONS

- **Population about 1.95 million residents**
- **5 Police Jurisdictions: Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), North Las Vegas Police Department (NLVPD), Henderson Police Department (HPD), Boulder City Police Department (BCPD), and Mesquite Police Department (MPD)**

SCANNING

SOUTHERN NEVADA COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER (SNCTC)

- **Established July 2007**
- **All Crimes, All Hazards Philosophy**
- **LVMPD is the host agency**
- **17 Partner Agencies**
- **24/7 Watch Station**
- **Analytical and Operational Component**





SCANNING

PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL HOMICIDE

- **February 15, 2008 Chris Privett was shot and killed walking home after school**
- **Two high school students were charged with and convicted of murder**
- **Both were gang members of a local hybrid gang called Squad Up**
- **This incident sparked community outrage and a media frenzy**
- **A Town Hall Meeting was held with community leaders, community members, and high school students**
- **Sheriff Doug Gillespie made preventing school shootings a top priority for LVMPD**
- **March 3, 2008 School Liaison is assigned to SNCTC**

SCANNING

CHEERS CRITERIA

- **Community - School Violence negatively impacts a large portion of Clark County. Students of all ages are a very vulnerable population**
- **Harm - The harm stemming from these incidents greatly increases citizen fear of crime, psychological damage to children, loss of confidence in police and school leaders, and serious injury or death**
- **Expectation – The public exchange during the Town Hall meeting and the outcry documented in editorials and the media clearly demonstrated the public’s expectations that the police intervene and find a solution to stem school violence**
- **Events - A cursory review of school violence incidents since 2000 revealed three types of dangerous behaviors: predatory, conflict, and endangerment**

SCANNING

CHEERS CRITERIA

- **Recurring** – The Privett homicide was not the first incident of school violence on or near schools. Since 2000, there were 12 incidents on school violence either at school, on a school bus or at a school bus stop. In fact the frequency was increasing with 4 shootings since December of 2007
- **Similar** – All of the incidents involved shootings that killed or injured CCSD students or placed them at greater risk of death or injury
- **CHEERS** analysis that the problem of school shooting could be addressed using a problem-oriented policing approach

ANALYSIS

ANALYTICAL GOALS

- **Analyze the previous shootings to learn more about the scope and nature of the problem**
- **Evaluating existing police protocols, strategies, and tactics**
- **Utilize external resources to identify ‘best practices’ for preventing school shootings**

ANALYSIS

PROBLEM ANALYSIS TRIANGLE

- **Victims** – Of the twelve incidents, nine involved students and three were citizens. High School students were involved in eight incidents and one middle school student was involved
- **Offenders** – Half of the incidents involved students. Five involved non-student offenders and one was an officer involved shooting. A significant finding was that only five incidents involved gang members
- **Place** – Not all of the shootings took place at high schools. Five shootings took place at schools (3 high schools, and one middle school and elementary school) six occurred on routes to and from school, and one took place at a bus stop

ANALYSIS

EXISTING TACTICS, STRATEGIES, AND PROTOCOLS

- Agency representatives met to discuss existing responses to school violence
- Weaknesses were identified: there was no existing communication protocol, the number of agencies involved, the size of LVMPD and the number of specialized units
- Calls For Service (CFS) data existed that indicated a potential for violence but wasn't collected or disseminated

ANALYSIS

EXISTING TACTICS, STRATEGIES, AND PROTOCOLS

- **Reports from students, parents, teachers, or administrators existed identifying potential incidents**
- **There was no consistent or timely dissemination of any collected information**
- **There was an overreliance on the Gang Unit**

ANALYSIS

RESEARCH ON BEST PRACTICES

- **Center For Problem-Oriented Policing POP Guides were identified as potential resources for developing solutions. The guides, ‘Drive-By Shootings’, ‘Gun Violence Among Serious Young Offenders’, and ‘Bullying In Schools’ were used to identify potential responses**
- **Researched what other law enforcement agencies were doing to curb violence**
- **Strong partnership with Criminal Justice Department at University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

ANALYSIS

MAJOR FINDINGS

- **Misplaced Resources – Analysis revealed that school violence was not strictly a gang problem and the overreliance on the Gang Unit was not the appropriate response**
- **Information Silos – Pre-incident information existed but there was no formalized procedure for information sharing. This made it difficult, and often impossible, to identify patterns and intervene to prevent potentially fatal events**
- **Lack of Coordination and Accountability – No protocol was in place to compile and disseminate information in a timely manner to the appropriate personnel**

RESPONSE

THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE (SVI)

- **Analysis revealed that improved collection management and dissemination of intelligence would provide the best approach to preventing school shootings and the school violence that acts as the precursors to these events**
- **The SVI uses a reiterative problem-solving approach. Assessments and analysis continues throughout the response phase**
- **The SVI uses nine interventions that work in tandem to reduce opportunities for school shootings and violence**

RESPONSE

THE NINE INTERVENTIONS

#1: The use of SNCTC as the information sharing hub. The Watch Station is used for 24/7 real time information dissemination. It also allows analysts and officers horizontal information sharing

#2: CCSDPD embedded a school liaison officer at SNCTC. Improves communication between CCSDPD and the other partner agencies. Liaison officer keeps a daily log of all school incidents and analyzes the log for emerging trends

#3: Sheriff Gillespie issued a Patrol Directive outlining responsibilities in responding to information regarding school violence

#4: Routine planning meetings are held on a routine basis to review the existing protocols, emerging trends, and to identify any new methods of intervention

#5: The identification of Core and Watch Schools. These Core and Watch lists afford the police agencies to direct resources to high-risk schools

RESPONSE

THE NINE INTERVENTIONS

#6: Public Service Announcements (PSAs) are used to increase communication between the police and the public

#7: For specific incidents, social media is used to determine a threat level. In many instances, concerned parents is our best source of information

#8: Incident Action Plans (IAPs) are used to coordinate police resources during traditional problem school days

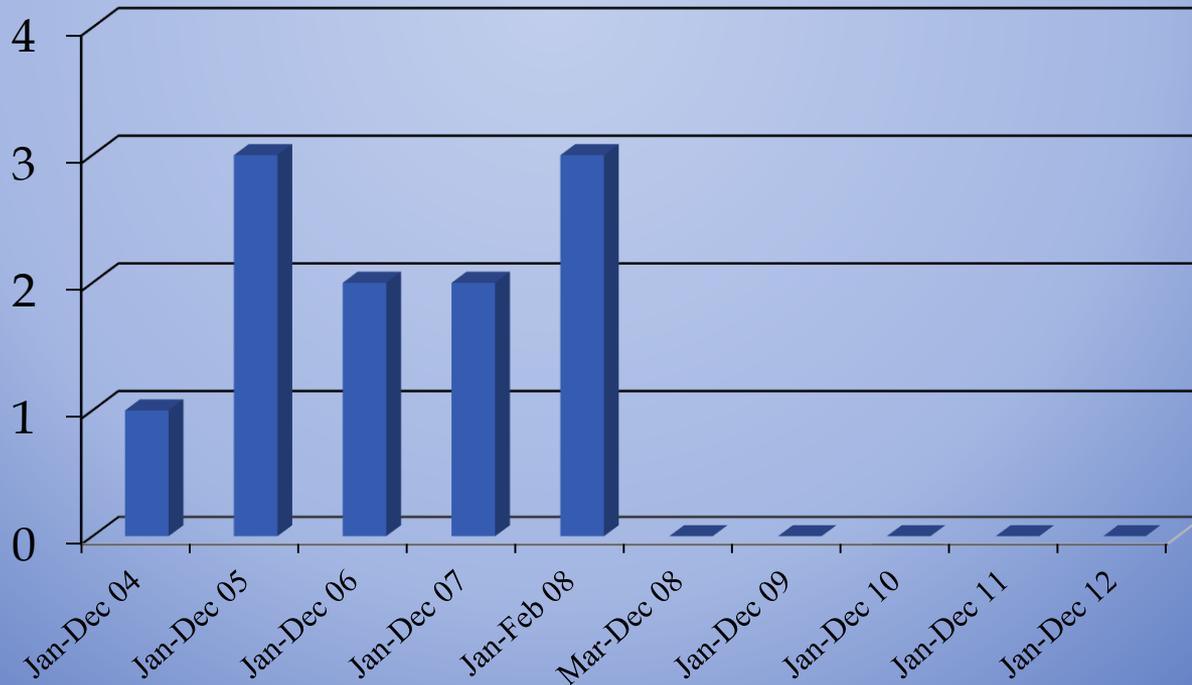
#9: The training of the CCSDPD liaison officer in crime analytical techniques has been useful in identifying trends and patterns and communicating with SNCTC analysts. This position also has been trained in local gang identification and culture

ASSESSMENT

THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE (SVI)

- Since the inception of the program in March of 2008, there have been no school shootings

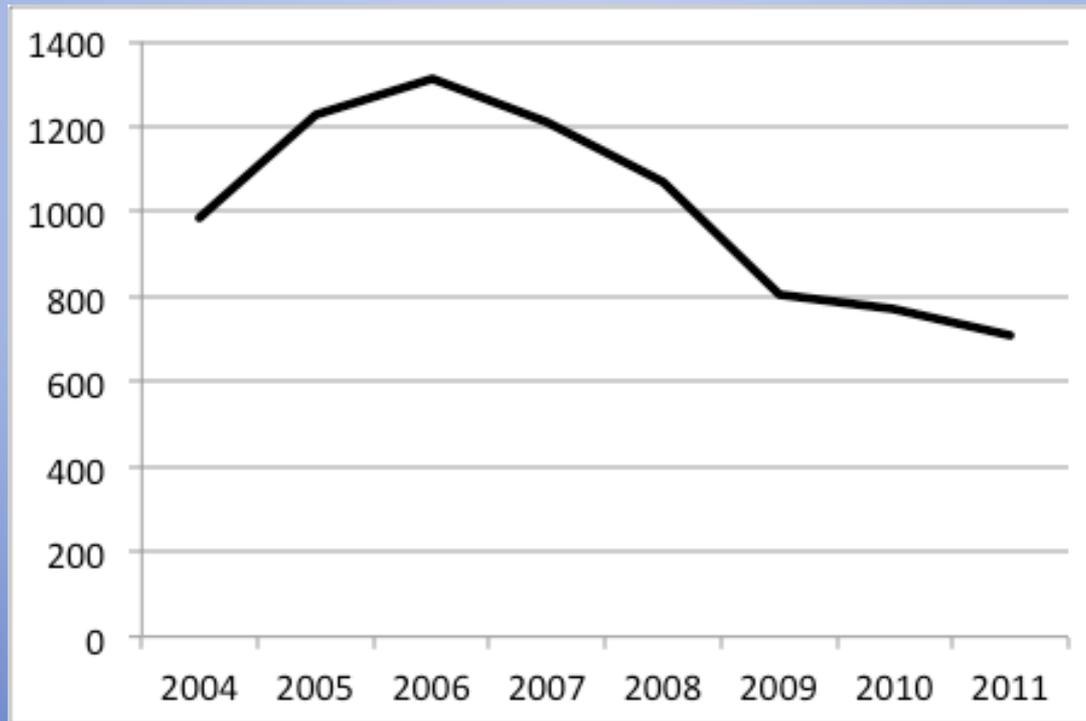
Number of School Shootings



ASSESSMENT

THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE (SVI)

- There appears to be no spatial displacement of gun violence. Gun violence has continued to decrease in Clark County



ASSESSMENT

THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE (SVI)

- Handgun and knife recoveries have decreased since the program's inception

Weapon	07-08	10-11	11-12	% Change
Handguns	25	8	7	-72%
Knives	163	121	105	-36%

- The decrease in knife recoveries provides partial evidence to suggest tactical displacement is not occurring

ASSESSMENT

THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE (SVI)

Violent CFS decreased by 44% from the 2007-2008 school year to the 2011-2012 school year

*07-08	*08-09	*09-10	*10-11	*11-12	%Change
268	205	228	196	151	-44%

*Violent calls include: robbery, robbery attempts, person with a gun, knife and other deadly weapon, assault and battery, assault and battery with a gun and other deadly weapon, fights, sexual assault, kidnap, child molestation, and illegal shootings



ASSESSMENT

QUALITATIVE EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

- **SNCTC received information from a concerned parent regarding a shooting at a high school football game**
- **Analysis revealed a pattern of disturbances and fights caused by students attending a Core school. This school ended classes before most other schools ended their day. During one of the planning meetings we convinced school officials to change the release time of this school**
- **Recent incident of another student threatening to bring a gun to school. Student admitted to hospital for psychiatric evaluation but was released and attended school that day. This caused an emergency meeting of the SVI agencies**

SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

EXPANSION TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- **SNCTC analysts geographically mapped Clark County private schools with CCSD public schools**
- **Terrorism Liaison Officers (TLOs) made contact with each private school and identified key stake holders to receive information**
- **Private schools added to the protocol**

SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE FUTURE DIRECTION

- **Work with our UNLV partnership to explore methods to increase promotion of SVI**
- **Incorporating an AlertID application**
- **Increase Social Media Analysis (SMA)**

SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

UNANTICIPATED BENEFITS

- **The SVI has identified many instances of bullying**
- **The SVI has identified suspicious activity related to terrorism**
- **The SVI has been received national recognition and has been identified as a best practice by the Department of Homeland Security**