

# Controlling the Confrontation

#### **10 Practical Steps** to Safe Terminations





#### Who you are...

- Responsible for the single most important thing.
- Don't get credit for that fact.
- Have very limited resources and support.
- People only think of you when things go wrong.
- Your job may be harder than it's ever been.
- Violence is on the rise & you need better solutions.



Monte Mills Senior Consultant/Protective Strategies

#### Military Police Corps

- 12 Years MP Combat Experience
- 407 Combat Missions
- Most Deadliest Areas of Operations in the World
- Protection of SecDef and Overseas Ambassadors

#### **Corporate Security Leadership**

- 18 Years
- Physical Security
- People Protection
- Business Continuity
- Facility Management



## **Protect your People... and your Brand!**

- ✓ Workplace Violence Prevention Training
- ✓ Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management
- ✓ Executive & Family Protection
- ✓ Uniform Security Professionals



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More Than Logistics





Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts









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### Understanding Violence

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## Three Killer Myths

- X It won't happen to usX It can't be predictedX It can't be prevented
- Bonus Myth X I have no control

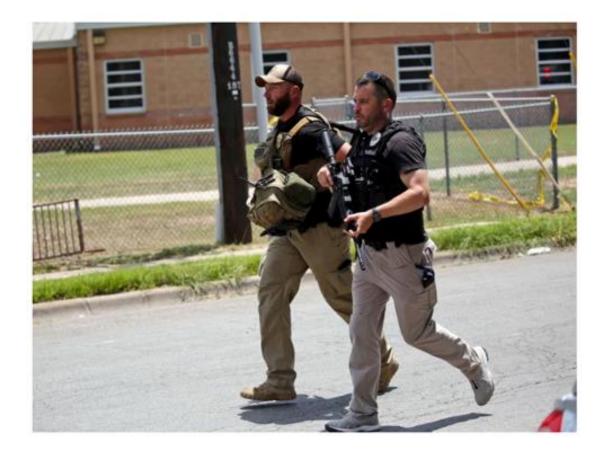


Deadly force incidents at houses of worship

900%



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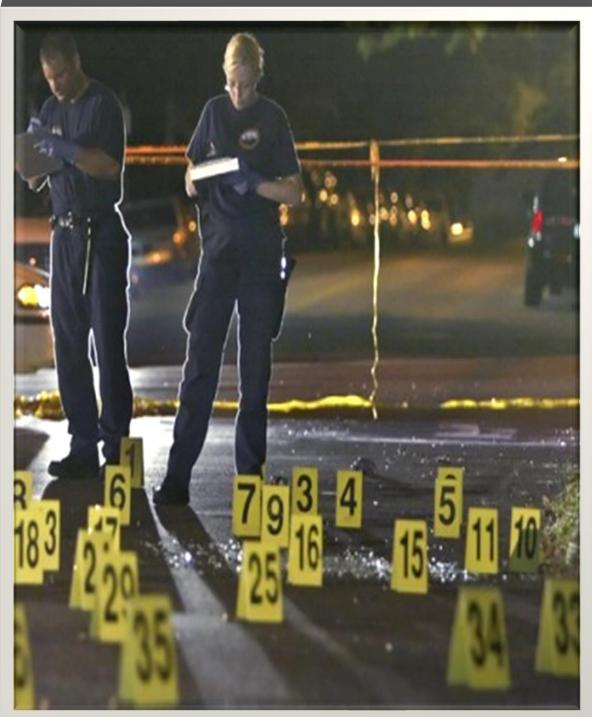
#### Secret Service Study: 81% of School Shooters told someone before the attack



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#### How did we get here?

- Society of stress/violence
- Society of entitlements
- Society of interpersonally unskilled
- Violence desensitization



Department of Labor & FBI Statistics

#### 43% of deaths of females in the workplace were fatal assaults by a relative or domestic partner.



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## ~50% Motive Domestic

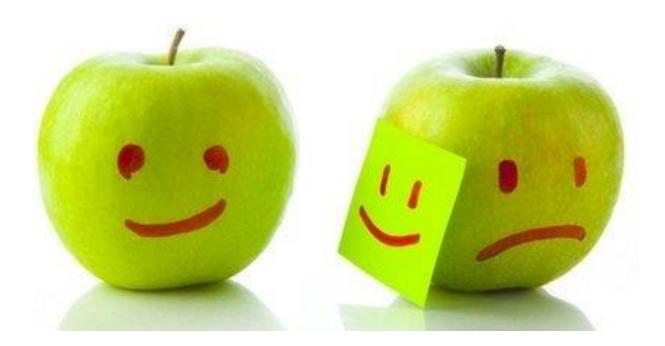
Sidney Curtin

### ✓ Recognize Warning Signs

#### ✓ De-Escalate

## Preventative Actions

## Manage Threat Over Time



## All violence begins with a...

## GRIEVANCE

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## WORST of the WORST

### 1. Trust Your Instincts

## 2. Watch for Warning Signs

#### Real Life Terminations #1

- X Employee written up for disrespecting fellow employee
- X Didn't like the accountability
- X Posted on social media that he was going target practicing with a gun and made negative comments about the discipline
- X Another employee saw post and told management
- X Next day local police stopped the employee on the way to work with loaded weapons



Real Life Terminations #2

- X Employee was seen carrying a gun in a concealed shoulder holster while working
- X Situation was escalated through security to management
- X Employee was terminated
- X Two days later two different employees arrested on site for drug related charges
- X Learned at that time the employee with the gun was distributing drugs in the community



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## Warning Signs

- Blames others
- Not adaptable
- Low self-esteem
- Loner
- Depressed
- History of mild mental health issues

#### Warning Signs

- Multiple major life stressors
- Diminishing inhibitors
- Irrational beliefs and ideas
- Sudden change in belief system
- Little empathy for others
- Severe mood swings
- Recent purchase of a firearm



- Prolonged Anger
- \_\_\_ Hypersensitivity to Criticism
- Preoccupied with Violent Themes
- \_\_\_ Decreased Performance
- \_\_ Increased Risk Taking
- Obsessions
- \_\_\_ Extreme Anxiety
- \_\_ Extreme Sadness or Depression
- \_\_\_ Abnormally Euphoric Highs
- \_\_\_ Suicidal Ideation
  - \_ Significant Behavioral Change

#### **Investigation Considerations**

- > Administrative Leave?
- > Work Performance?
- > Workplace Relationships?
- > Interviews?
- > Policies?



### 3. Prep for the Interview

- Get your story straight.
- Visualize outcomes and contingencies.
- Manage your stress.



**Alternatives** Self-Image Reputation **Close Friends** Family Career Income Food Home



#### 4. Have the Right People in the Room

- The bosses' boss.
- A Human Resources representative.



#### Security Present?

- Detectable or undetectable?
- Inside, outside building?
- Emergency notification or duress signals?
- How soon to involve security?

9

45

40

## 5. Choose the Right Timing

- If dangerous, sooner is better.
- Revoke access during final interview.

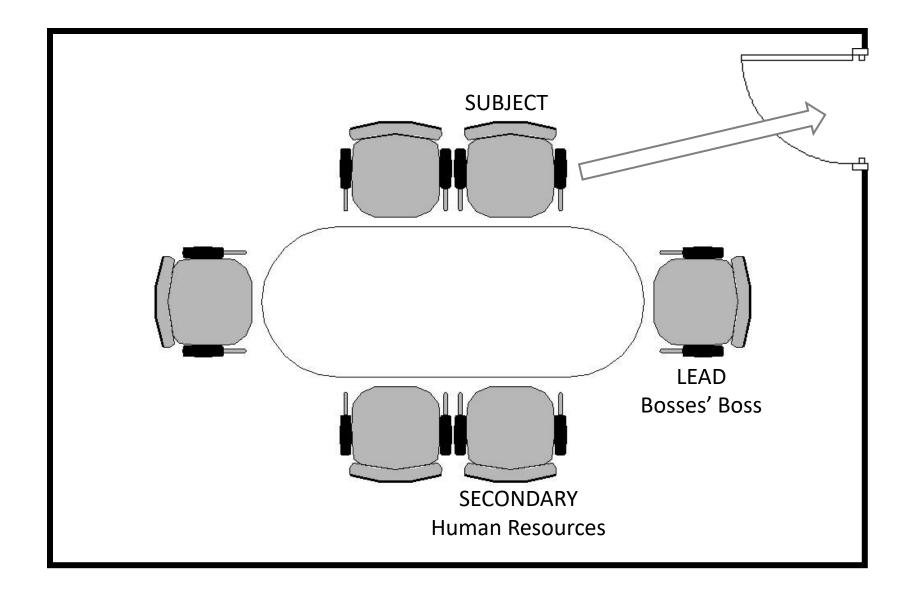
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• Consider end of the day on *his* Friday.

### 6. Choose the Right Location

- Conference room near the exit?
- Belongings packed and ready to go?

#### **Room Setup Suggestion**



#### 7. Respond Properly to Threats - General

- Encourage them to speak.
- Don't interrupt unless escalating.
- Let him finish.
- Don't argue.
- Show concern.

#### 7. Respond Properly to Threats – Emotional Control

- Remember the Goal
- Don't Take Personally
- Control Heart Rate with Tactical Breathing



#### 7. Respond Properly to Threats – Four Ways Wrong

- 1. Ignore the threat.
- 2. Show fear.
- 3. Get angry.
- 4. Downplay and redirect.



## 8. Get Them Safely Off the Property

Seek the balance between liability and dignity.

#### 9. Monitor and Reassess as You Go

- Watch for Warnings Signs.
  - Watch for signs of escalation.
  - Rumors, social media, court orders, arrest records.

## **10.** Do the Right Thing Now

#### BONUS STEP: Path to a better future!

#### **Offer Soft Landing**

**Transition Coaching** 

#### **End of Term**

- Document Observations immediately
- Advise appropriate persons (especially if a threat)
- Continued investigation and monitoring as appropriate
- Enhance site security as appropriate



#### **Case Study- Remember Bob?**

Bob has become increasingly bitter and angry, lashing out verbally at coworkers and Gerald.

Bob has talked about how he believes that Gerald "has it in for him" and has begun to keep records on his coworkers' productivity and performance, apparently to show that he is being unfairly singled out for criticism.

Last week, Bob got into an angry confrontation with Gerald, in which he cursed Gerald out in front of others and refused to do the work assigned to him. HR and management reviewed the situation...

What are your recommendations at this point?

#### **Case Study Bob- Senior Leadership Considerations:**

**DEAP**?

□ Move Bob to a different shift?

□ Termination?

□Retrain on Corporate Workplace Violence Prevention Policies?

□Administrative Leave?

Uhat are your Concerns?

#### How we can help

- ✓ Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management
  - Immediate Access to Experts for Urgent Assessments
  - Case Specific De-Escalation Techniques
  - Case Specific Victim and Workplace Safety Measures
  - Terminations on your behalf
  - Employment Transition Guidance
  - Life Coaching





## Situations Dealing with Right Now?

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