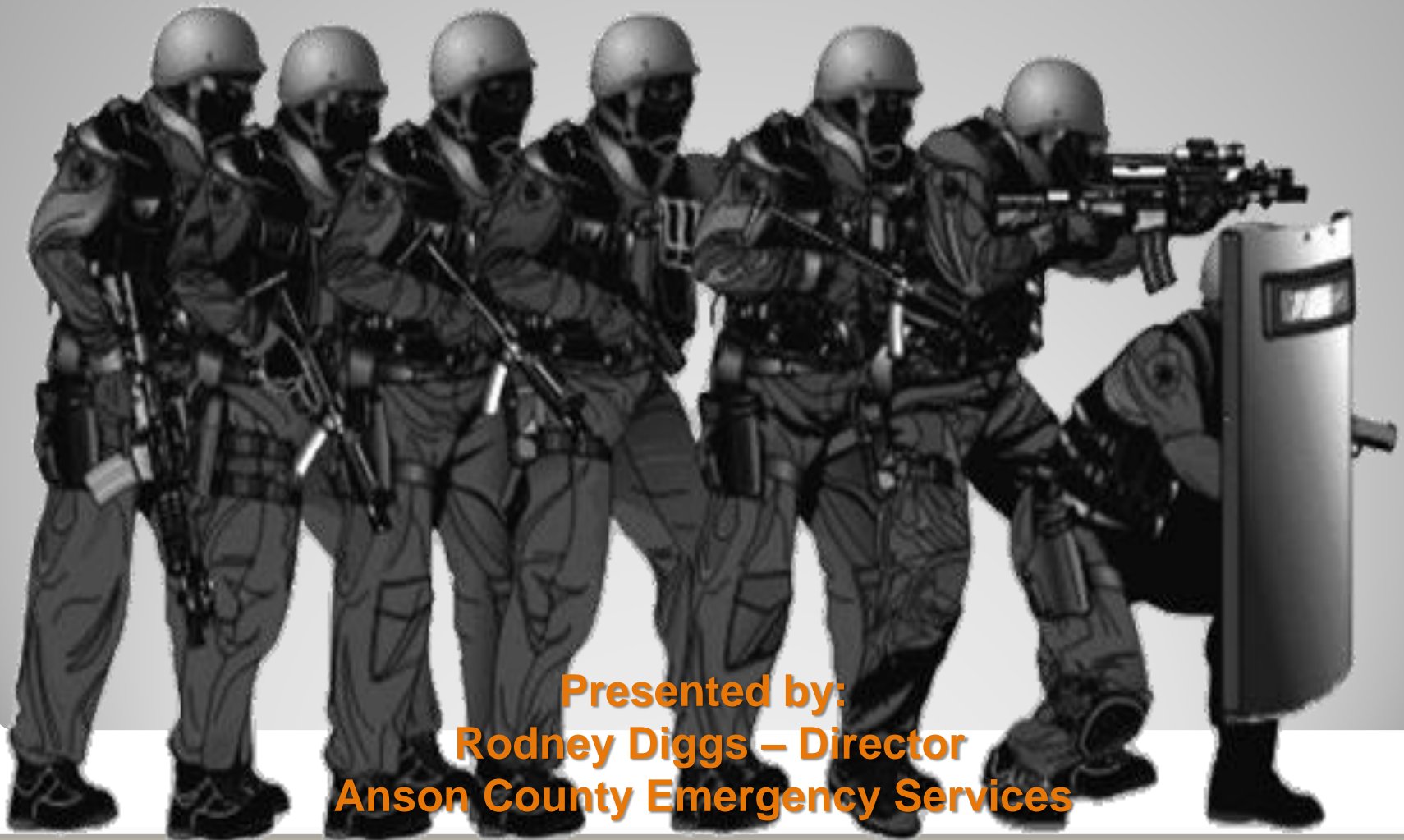




Anson County
NORTH CAROLINA

Active School Shooter Exercise



Presented by:
Rodney Diggs – Director
Anson County Emergency Services



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Participating Agencies



ANSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Anson County Schools





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Planning the Exercise

The planning team consisted of representatives from:

- Anson County Emergency Management
- Anson County Sheriff's Department
- Wadesboro Police Department
- Anson County School Administration
- Anson County 9-1-1
- Anson County EMS

The planning team sought to design an exercise that was plausible, realistic, and encouraged multi-agency collaboration through several avenues to overcome different challenges. The planning process took over one year and we had multiple meetings throughout the year and went to other counties to observe their exercises. We also went to training and presentations on Active Shooter.

The following target capabilities were to be exercised:

- Public Safety and Security Response
- Information Gathering
- Rapid Triage



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Exercise Objectives:

- **Evaluate response plans and school system procedures to ensure that they are current and provide for interoperability.**
- **Exercise the county's mass casualty plans and response including coordination with law enforcement during a high hazard event.**
- **Allow emergency first responders, school system personnel and local government to exercise policy and procedures related to public information sharing and media relations.**
- **Evaluate the ability of emergency responders and school system personnel to utilize and integrate into the Incident Command System.**

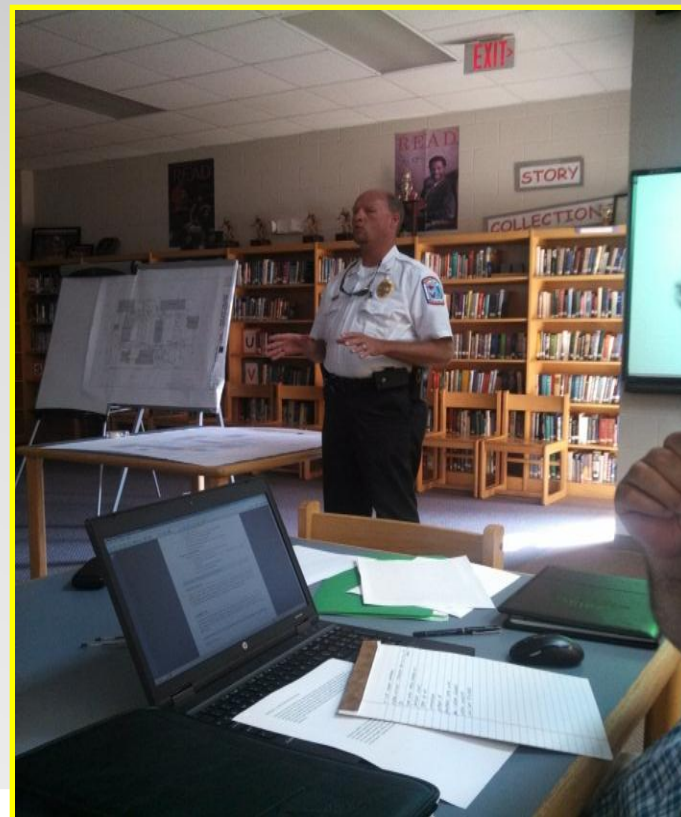


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The Table-Top Exercise

September 11, 2013

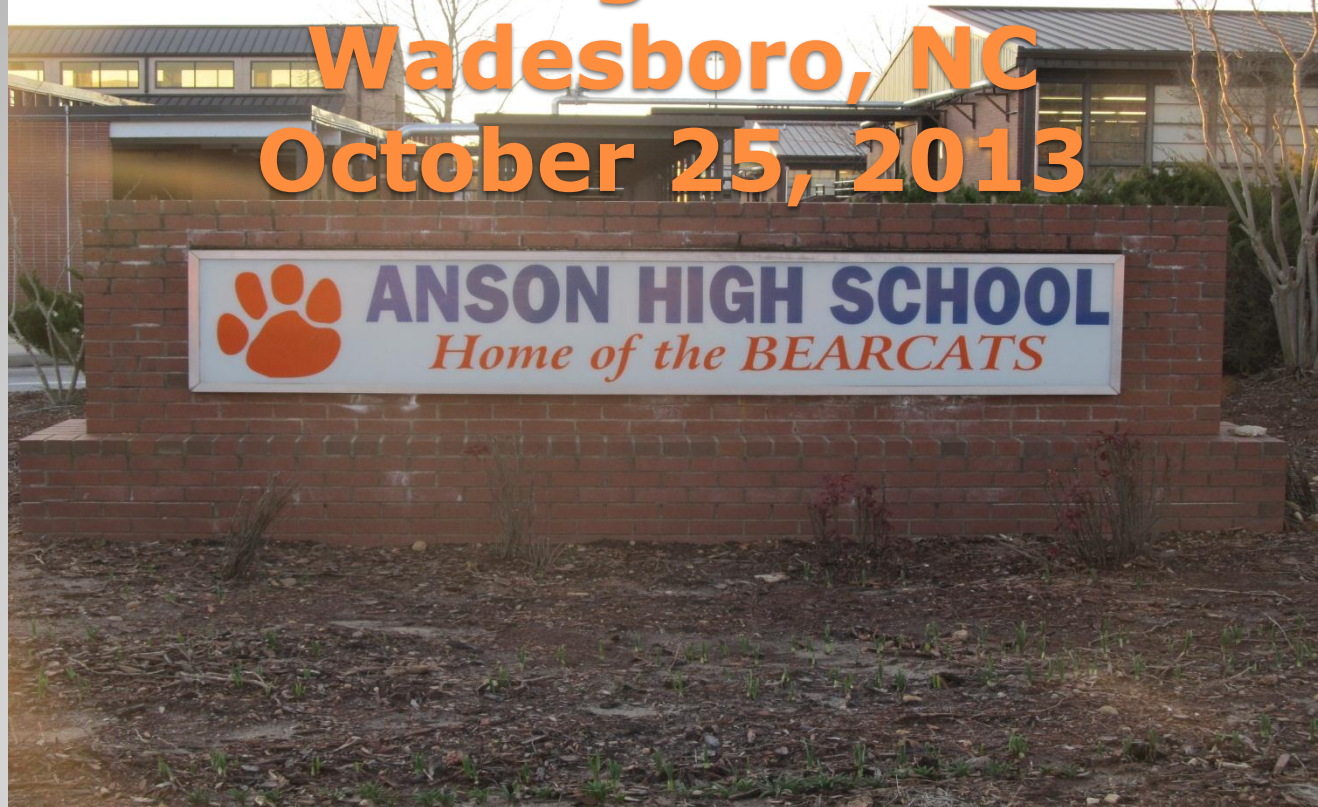
- Explaining the Scenario
- Reviewing what agencies will be involved
- How School Plan would be put into place
- What first responders roles would be while responding to the exercise
- Media Policies; dealing with the media
- School administration response to a child being a possible threat
- Evacuating school to another location after the incident is over





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Anson High School
96 Anson High School Road
Wadesboro, NC
October 25, 2013





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Exercise Scenario

At 08:15 on October 25 a husband enters the school campus to talk with his wife, who is a teacher in B Building, at which time a domestic argument. A student notifies the front office of that there is an argument going on in B-3. The front office notifies the SRO on campus. As the SRO enters B Building from the sidewalk between A & B building the husband is leaving B-3 after beating his wife up. When the SRO confronts the husband he pulls a weapon from his coat and begins firing at the SRO, fatality wounding him. The husband then takes off down the hallway to an exit door. The incident is witnessed by teachers and students and they notify the front office and the school is placed in lock down immediately. The schools front office staff calls 911 to report the shooting.

The now suspect flees B Building and was last seen heading toward C Building. From here all actions will be according to the MSEL.

We ran the same scenario three times making a few changes; this allowed all first responders, law enforcement, school administration and players to be involved.



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The Briefing before the Exercise Begins:



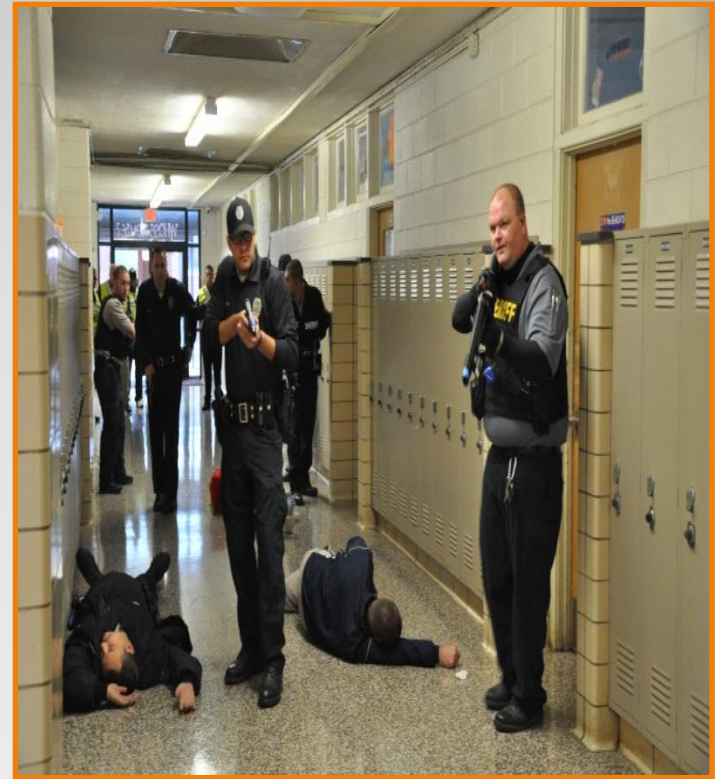
- ❖ Safety is our primary concern for players and participants
- ❖ ***“Real World Emergency!! Stop Exercise”***
- ❖ Evaluators/Observers to stop exercise if anything is unsafe
- ❖ Evaluators/Observers wore safety vests
- ❖ Fire Alarms Activated
- ❖ Shots Fired
- ❖ Students and Staff running and screaming
- ❖ Law Enforcement using force
- ❖ Medical treatment being given to injured
- ❖ Fire Department would block roads going to school



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Law Enforcement

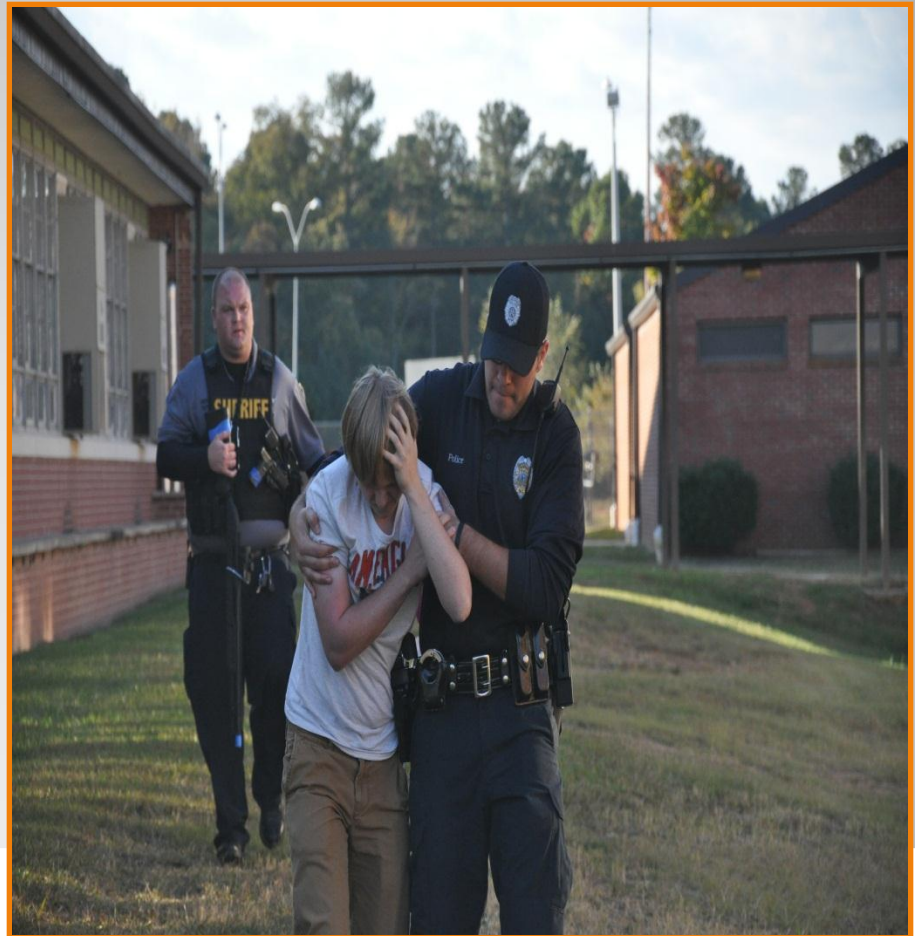
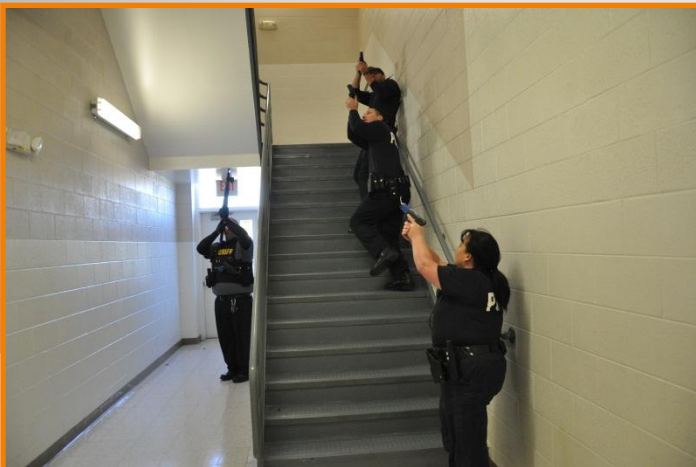
- ✓ **Activate Public Safety and Security Response**
- ✓ **Command and Control Public Safety Response Operations**
- ✓ **Control Traffic, Crowd, and Scene**
- ✓ **Conduct Law Enforcement Operations**
- ✓ **Demobilize Public Safety and Security Response Operations**





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The SRT Team Goes In





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Anson County EMS



- Rapid Triage
- Patient Accountability
- Transport to appropriate destinations
- Responder and Patient Safety





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Anson High School Administration



- School administration putting plan in place
- Discussing procedures & protocols
- Reviewing Maps
- Communicating with Emergency Services Personnel



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Inside the Command Center

- ☐ School staff was well aware of what their roles and responsibilities were.
- ☐ Unified Command was established



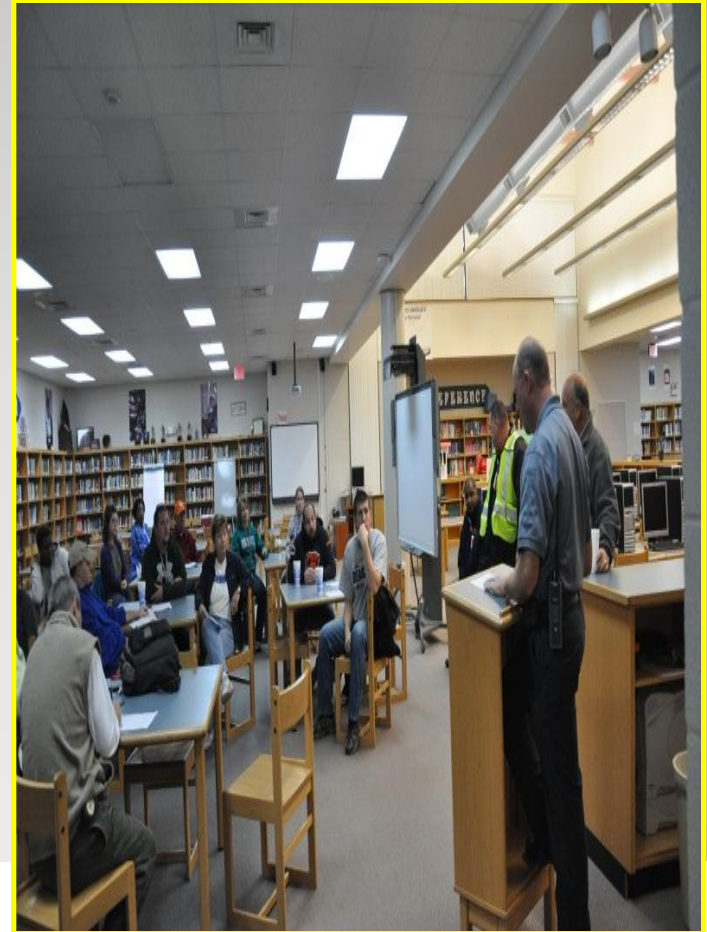


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Discussing Strengths

The major strengths identified during this exercise are as follows:

- ✓ Law enforcement used training and tactics to safely remove the threat and removed students and staff from the hostile environment
- ✓ Emergency Medical Services used the SMART triage system to treat patients.
- ✓ Law enforcement worked well with team members from other agencies.
- ✓ V.I.P.E.R radios were effective communication flow between the different agencies on-scene with multiple talk groups.





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Primary Areas of Improvement

Throughout the exercise, several opportunities for improvement in Anson County's ability to respond to the incident were identified. The primary areas for improvement, including recommendations, are as follows:

- ❖ ***Onsite Incident Management:*** There proved to be some confusion between the roles of the command post, incident commander, as well as the unit leaders. This can be cleared up with refresher ICS courses. The Command Post was not identified which proved to be confusing for players.



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Rapid Deployment Critique

- ❖ When students were sheltered in place inside the Media Center there was a deputy with them inside the room but no one was posted as security at the doors.
- ❖ There was no establishment of command on the radio. Once the command post is established there should be a radio call to all officers that the command post has been established and who is in command.
- ❖ When questioned the incident commander did not know who or how many officers were on scene
- ❖ The EMS director never documented anything. As questions were asked of him he recited everything from memory and, was at times, unsure. You need to document, document, document.
- ❖ The command post can be a very hectic environment. There were several times when officers were calling the command post and got no response.



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Rapid Deployment Critique Cont'd

- ❖ **No clear rally point was given for officers to direct students to.**
- ❖ **Be careful not to give a radio call that the scene is secure too early.**
- ❖ **If a suspect is located and/or shot an officer(s) should stay with them. Never leave a suspect even if he/she appears to be dead.**
- ❖ **There must be someone designated to document what is happening in the command center. There was a very large map of the school property available but no one used it to write on until the last scenario.**
- ❖ **There is a definite need for more than one law enforcement officer, EMS and fire personnel to be in the command post.**
- ❖ **Officers should not all park their vehicles in the same place. Almost every responding patrol vehicle was parked in the front of the school. Vehicles should be parked around the school but not in the parking lots next to civilian cars. If IED's are planted in the parking lots, like they were in Columbine, then responding vehicles and officers are at risk for exposure**



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Rapid Deployment Critique Cont'd

- ❖ **2 Officers and 2 School staff need to be in Command Center.**
- ❖ **Don't always rely on outside resources from other agencies. Just for resource purposes 2 surrounding counties were contacted and could not send any officers. NCSHP could only send 1 trooper.**