




*Comprehensive Security Involves
the Whole Community*

EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

SECURITY PREPAREDNESS



September 11, 2001, clearly demonstrates that regardless of the political climate, the United States has been, and will continue to be, a target for terrorist attacks. The 9-11 attacks were conceived and implemented during a Democratic watch and executed during a Republican watch. With this said, Americans have learned, and now realize that the most perplexing counter-terrorism problem is not if, but when and where we will next be attacked.

As security professionals, we must not focus on blame, but rather move forward with preparation for the next attack. This preparation includes identifying how to most efficiently respond so that we rapidly restore functionality to our citizens and carry on with our lives. As retired Texas State Troopers and security professionals, we have defined four basic elements that must be implemented into the law enforcement and security response in order to properly defend and care for our citizens. These four elements include defining our communities, effective communication, managing community commitment, and properly defining roles and responsibilities. Mastering these four basic elements ensures we are best able to properly and efficiently defend our nation. Communities. Most agencies and security companies broadly define a community as a nation, state, county, or city. Our experience and training demonstrate that communities should be further defined into their most basic level; for example, business sector, neighborhood, street, and if necessary, one block radius. In any given situation, once the community is defined at its most basic level, we can then effectively meet the needs of the individual community members, as well as the community as a whole.

Communication. The findings of the January 2007 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Tactical Interoperable Communications Scorecards Summary Report recognize that communication is one of the most critical elements in effective crisis and consequence response. The Report reveals that some of the largest cities in the nation, with the greatest access to Federal Grants and Emerging Technology, still have not completely achieved interoperability communication between everyone involved in crisis and consequence management. Faced with constant public demand for accountability, community leaders as a whole have not provided seamless solutions that are completely regionally available. Proper communication is crucial in gaining community commitment and delivering an effective timely response to a terrorist act.

Commitment. Regardless of the nature of a disaster; e.g., a terrorist attack or historic weather anomaly that cripples an entire state, commitment from each community is essential. Ensuring effective community commitment means available resources, and roles and responsibilities of responders must be effectively communicated and implemented in a disciplined manner. This allows each community to know their strengths and limitations when responding to incidents, as well as what to expect from those responding around them.

Roles and Responsibilities. It is imperative that each community have assigned roles and responsibilities, and that each member of the community understand the significance of their individual roles and responsibilities. Understanding how to effectively communicate between similarly assigned roles and responsibilities in neighboring communities is also essential. Each community, regardless of its size, will react with what they perceive is the best possible response. Communities that respond independently of other communities will either duplicate efforts or be counter productive to the overall desired end result.

As Security Professionals, we all strive to achieve the common goal of “Detect, Deter, Defend and Defeat” when responding to threats against lives and property. Even though security measures are performed on various levels, from protecting the tenants of an individual building, to the nation’s military protecting our country, we all must understand how we can most effectively uphold our responsibilities. By performing table top exercises, mock scenarios and after action reviews, each member of the community, regardless of their responsibilities, will perform at a higher level, thus ensuring the most effective protection of lives and the property of others.

About the author:



Chris Mashburn is a co-founder of International RAM Associates and President and CEO. He has been instrumental in leading the company’s growth. To support the company’s expansion, Chris has overseen the development of corporate systems, instituted leadership and management training, and built strong relationships with business partners and clients.

Chris served in the Texas Department of Public Safety for 20 years, retiring in 2004 with the rank of Highway Patrol Captain. A recognized expert in criminal and drug interdiction, Chris helped train law enforcement personnel throughout North and South America. Chris’ accomplishments at DPS include: obtaining an Advanced Peace Officers Certificate, helping put in place the Criminal Interdiction Training Program for the Texas DPS, he served as a team leader on the security detail assigned to protect George W. Bush during the 2000 presidential campaign and; was assigned as a Disaster District Chairman for the Texas Emergency Operations Center of Texas.

Chris is active in a number of professional organizations. He is a member of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), is the past chairman of the Texas Highway Patrol Association (THPA), and has served on the board of the State and Local Intelligence Council (SLIC). At the invitation of the US Department of Justice/Civil Rights Litigations [division], Chris presented research and provided expert guidance regarding police involvement in the field of criminal interdiction and its effects.