Preparing for and Responding to Active Shooters and Domestic Terrorists

William Cooley, Undersheriff, Erie County, NY
New York State Association of Counties
Fall seminar
Preparing:

• “Prepare for the worst, hope for the best”
• First responders and the entire community are all stakeholders in prevention and preparation.
• Prevention is the ultimate goal
• Focus is on detecting threat cases BEFORE they occur
• Whole community must be involved and have the knowledge of what to look for and what to be prepared for
• Also focus on preparing first responders and stakeholders if an incident does occur (preparing, equipping and exercising plans)
• Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, TX – 31 killed and 20 injured

• In response to this heinous act, the Governor signed Executive Order No. 18 (EO 18) entitled “Preventing and Responding to Domestic Terrorism. Under EO No. 18, all NYS counties and New York City must complete a comprehensive review of current strategies, policies, and procedures to address domestic terrorism and provide the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services’ (DHSES) Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT) a domestic terrorism prevention plan by December 31, 2022.”
ECBTAT’S MISSION:

The Erie County Behavioral Threat Assessment Team is a consortium of community stakeholders with diverse expertise and access to resources dedicated to identifying & closing threat management gaps in Buffalo & Erie County by providing guidance on the mitigation of those threats.
Pathway to Intended Violence

Grievance → Ideation → Preparation → Breach → Attack

Redirect → Research/Planning → Descending → Ascending

Enhancers and Mitigator
• WHAT MAKES ECBTAT DIFFERENT?

- Comprised of participating members agencies (PMAs)
- Acts as the central clearinghouse of information flow specific to situations, known as Threat Cases (TC)
- MOU – guides information sharing
- Advisory Group (AG) meets bi-weekly
- Executive Management from PMA’s meet quarterly to assess and strategize
INVITED PARTICIPANTS

- U.S. Attorney’s Office
- Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- Erie County District Attorney’s Office
- Erie County Office of Mental Health
- Erie County Crime Analysis Center
- Erie County Central Police Services
- Erie County Chiefs Of Police Association
- School Districts & educational Institutions
- Erie – BOCES
- PTA Groups
- Drug & Veteran Courts
- Community centric Non-Government Organizations
- Colleges & Universities
- Block Clubs
- Community based Organizations
- All Religious Communities
- Health & Wellness Originations
- Area Hospitals
- Utility Companies
- Business Groups and Corporations
ECBTAT holds no authority to mandate that a presenting agency implement or take action on suggested intervention and strategies.

ECBTAT holds no authority to dictate policy or procedural change within PMA’s or agencies presenting.

ECBTAT requires all PMA’s and presenting agencies follow their companies policies and procedures and abide by all laws and statues.
Tactical Response:

• Preparing our community and first responders

• RHF, Avoid, Deny, Defend, stop the bleed training for schools, religious institutions and other community assets

• Preparing LE, Fire, EMS to respond to an active threat incident. Planning, Organizing, Training, Exercising, Evaluate and improve

• MOU’s with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies. Hospitals etc.

• Tactical, Operational, Crime Scene Investigation, and Recovery/Reunification
System Successes versus System Failures

- Cascading system of successes
- Cascading system of failures
Thank you

Questions?