

CRITICAL INCIDENT REVIEW:

ACTIVE SHOOTER AT ROBB ELEMENTARY

CHIEF MATT GREER

MAY 7, 2024



INTRODUCTION

- The Dept. of Justice released a comprehensive report on the Uvalde incident in January 2024.
- The report overviews the incident, identifies significant failures and recommendations.
- This presentation is a summary of the report, along with Eanes ISD implications.



FACTUAL OVERVIEW

- On the morning of May 24, 2022, the subject entered Robb Elementary School, through an unlocked exterior door, equipped with a high-powered rifle. He immediately started shooting and within a minute entered classrooms connected via an interior door.
- Within three minutes of the subject's entry into the school, 11 law enforcement officers from the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (UCISD) and Uvalde Police Departments (UPD), including supervisors, arrived inside the school.
- After three attempts to approach the classrooms, upon taking fire, the responders shifted from entering the classrooms and stopping the shooting to evacuating other classrooms, attempting to negotiate with the subject, and requesting additional responders and equipment.



FACTUAL OVERVIEW

- Despite the shift from an “active shooter” to a “barricaded subject” approach, 911 was still receiving calls from victims inside the classroom.
- The Chief of the UCISD Police Department (UCISD PD) directed officers at several points to delay making entry in favor of searching for keys and clearing other classrooms.
- 48 minutes after the subject entered the school, he fired four additional shots inside the classrooms. Officers moved forward into formation outside the classroom doors but still did not make entry.
- 27 minutes after hearing those additional gunshots, and 75 minutes after first responders entered Robb Elementary, a border patrol tactical unit opened the door and killed the subject.
- 587 children and many other teachers and staff members were present at Robb Elementary School. In the end, 19 children and two staff were killed, with at least 17 survivors physically injured.

U.S. Department of Justice. 2024. *Critical Incident Review: Active Shooter at Robb Elementary School*. Executive Summary. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.



SIGNIFICANT FAILURES, RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

1. Tactics and Equipment
2. Leadership, Incident Command and Coordination
3. Post Incident Response and Investigation
4. Public Communications During and Following the Crisis
5. Trauma and Support Services
6. School Safety and Security
7. Pre-Incident Planning and Preparation

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TACTICS & EQUIPMENT

- Changes to police tactics occurred following the Columbine school shooting in 1999.
- First responders are now instructed to go toward the violent offender, if necessary, bypassing injured victims and placing themselves in harm's way, versus waiting for tactical teams.
- At Robb Elementary, although a group of officers initially moved towards the gunfire, when they encountered gunfire themselves, they retreated and repositioned to a barricaded subject situation.



TACTICS & EQUIPMENT

- An active shooter with access to victims should never be considered and treated as a barricaded subject.
- All Eanes ISD officers are trained to push towards and eliminate the threat, and enable victim response.
- Eanes ISD officers conduct regular training on standard active shooter best practices and will conduct a full-scale exercise with area agencies this summer.
- Officer Khristof Oborski, a 10-year SWAT team leader, will coordinate all tactical training for officers.



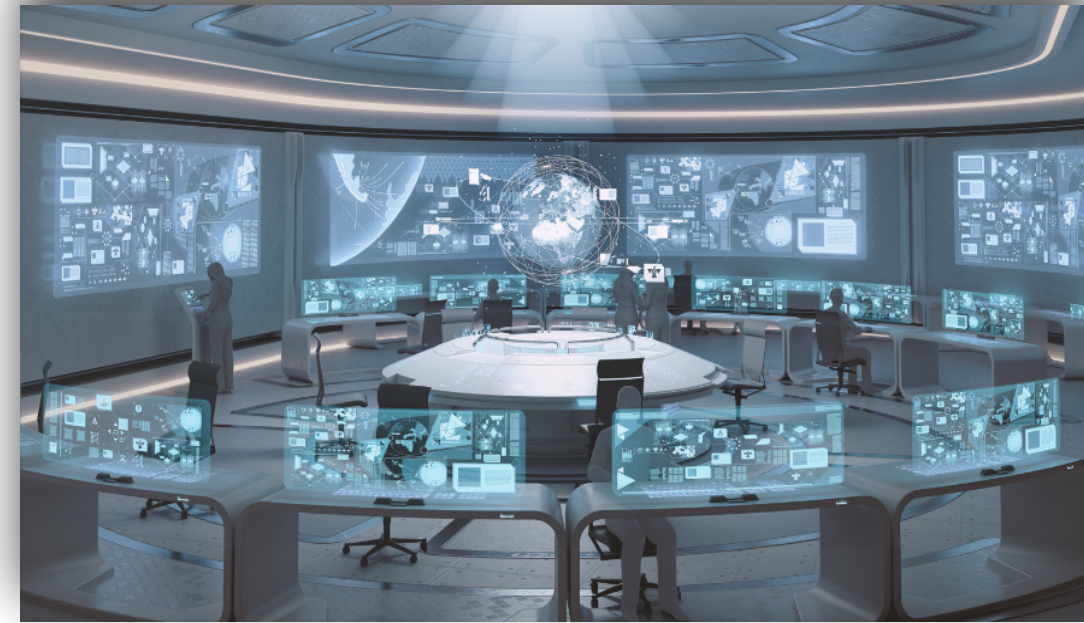
TACTICS & EQUIPMENT

- Eanes ISD officers are provided all necessary equipment to successfully respond to a critical incident.
- Equipment needs are continuously evaluated to ensure the highest level of officer safety and response.



LEADERSHIP, INCIDENT COMMAND & COORDINATION

- Leadership from responding agencies failed to establish a command and control structure or set up a command post, which led to limited multi-agency coordination.
- There was no formally recognized incident commander throughout the incident.
- The UCISD PD Chief did not provide appropriate leadership, command or control and no other leader questioned decisions.



LEADERSHIP, INCIDENT COMMAND & COORDINATION

- Eanes ISD has adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and all Eanes ISD PD officers are trained on the Incident Command System (ICS).
- ICS should be practiced and principles should be incorporated into response to varying levels of emergencies and planned events (i.e. football games, any incident at a campus requiring emergency response).
- Our active threat drill this summer will involve many agencies, including EMS, fire and other law enforcement agencies.



SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

- Chapter 7 of the DOJ report addresses safety and security issues on the campus, such as policies, drills and exercises, emergency alerts, and doors, locks, maintenance and magnets.
- Although UCISD had a policy of locking interior and exterior doors at all times, interior doors were commonly left unlocked during class hours and exterior doors were frequently held open, sometimes with rocks.
- On the date of the incident, all exterior doors and at least eight interior doors of the west building were unlocked.



SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

- Eanes ISD has trained both employees and students on the necessity to keep all exterior doors closed and locked at all times.
- Eanes ISD has a policy to keep all exterior doors closed and locked during regular school hours and to keep classroom doors closed in the locked position.
- Vestibules have been added at all campuses to create secure entry points.





QUESTIONS?

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