

TAASRO 2020

Presenters:

nSide - The School Safety Platform

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Presentation Title:

“Alabama’s School Safety Initiatives: Law, Communication, and Response”

Presentation Abstract:

The State of Alabama has led the nation in many facets of school safety for over a decade, but we have not always told the story well. This presentation examines the significant milestones in Alabama's school safety journey and gives audience members an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses that we currently possess through an in-depth review and demonstration of the tools and processes that are now in use. From there we will discuss the implementation of three major statewide initiatives and walk listeners through the evolution of a scenario in which years of process and planning will lead to informed and cooperative prevention, management, response, and recovery that involves educators, SROs, dispatchers and first responders at all levels.

Presentation Outline:

- I. History
- II. Current Implementation
- III. Tips
- IV. Threat Assessment
- V. Information and Communication
- VI. Response Through Command and Control

Keywords:

school safety, state laws, technology, dispatch, mass communication, threat assessment

Bios:

McKinney:

Dr. McKinney is the Founder and CEO of nSide, Inc. He has spent the last 24 years teaching, training, and working in engineering, programming, GIS, emergency management, public safety, homeland security, and most importantly, school safety. During this time he has developed and implemented many complex systems in law enforcement, public safety, school safety, health and human services, stormwater management, environmental planning and modeling systems, and various other engineering and information technology projects.



Dr. McKinney is certified as a facilitator of REMS Emergency Operations Planning, REMS School-Based Threat Assessments, and trainer of the Colorado Threat Assessment Model. He received a Bachelor's in 1997 and a Master's in 1999 from Samford University. He completed his Doctorate in engineering at the University of Alabama, Birmingham in 2009. Also, McKinney has had extensive professional training in computer languages and technical programs.

In addition to Dr. McKinney's many pursuits, in 2005 he was listed as one of Birmingham's "Top 40 Under 40" business people. He was awarded by ESRI "Vision in GIS" award in 2008 and the "Special Achievement in GIS" award in 2009 and 2010.

Specialties include: School Safety and Emergency Operations Planning, Threat Assessment, Emergency Management Planning, Public Speaking, Entrepreneurship, Engineering, Technology Consulting

Robertson:

Lt. Proncey D. Robertson served 4 years in the US Air Force and is a veteran of Desert Storm/Shield. He began his career in law enforcement while in Arkansas in 1992 and was hired at Decatur Police Department in 1994. He has remained in Law Enforcement for over 25 years. He is a graduate of the Arkansas & Alabama State Police Academies. In 2007, Lt. Robertson was deputized as a Special Deputy-US Marshal and served on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in Huntsville for 6 yrs from 2007-2013.



Lt. Robertson has a long record of documented law enforcement training and experience in a number of subjects. He is a certified instructor in a number of subjects including multiple instructor certifications for "Active Shooter" response for local law enforcement, which includes; A.L.E.R.R.T, S.O.L.O., A.L.I.C.E. & Run, Hide, Fight. He spent over 20 years on Decatur's S.W.A.T. team serving in multiple team positions as well as team commander for 10 years. He is a certified instructor for the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS), and the Homeland Security Course Surveillance Detection. Lt. Robertson has also served as a member of the Alabama All-Hazards Incident Management Team. (AHIMT) and currently serves on the Alabama State Board of Education's "Safe Schools Task Force"

Over the years, Lt. Robertson has served and supervised multiple specialized units at Decatur PD to include The Street Crimes Units called Street Hawks, Anti-Crime, Organized Crime, Special Response Unit, (SWAT) Robbery-Homicide, Crime Scene, and Community Policing Unit & Sex Crimes. Lt. Robertson has served as the Public Information Officer for the Decatur Police Department and currently supervises the School Resource Officer Unit (SRO's) as well as the Safety Education Unit at Decatur PD.

Lt. Robertson joins the nSide team as a subject matter expert on a variety of school safety topics, including emergency response, and has developed curriculum, offered consultation, and instructed various programs, such as the Warning, Information, Choices, Communication/Command (WICC) training; Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT); Single Officer / Loan Officer Responds to Active Shooter (SOLO); Run, Hide, Fight (RHF); Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE); and Colorado Threat Assessment.