



The Alabama Association  
of  
School Resource Officers

*"United for Alabama's Youth"*

# TAASRO 2020

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual "Safe Schools" Training Conference

*June 1-5, 2020, Orange Beach Event Center, 4671 Wharf Parkway, AL 36561*

### Theme: Seeing 20/20 into School Safety

As societal trends evolve, external cultural influences may seep into the hallways and classrooms of our schools. The safety of the school environment depends on awareness, prevention, and proactive measures. This year, TAASRO brings you the "hot" cultural topics that can have a negative influence on the safe school environment-- if left undetected, unaddressed, and unresolved.

- Chief Tony Pustizzi (Retired)- On February 14, 2018, a former student entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida, killed 17 innocent people and injured another 17 students.

Chief Tony Pustizzi (Ret.), a 30-year veteran with the Coral Springs Police Department, along with members of his agency, arrived at the school within minutes. A complex law enforcement approach, including stopping the shooter and extracting victims from within the school, was initiated. He will discuss many of the issues that ensued in communication and leadership that he observed that day and the unique challenges he experienced from his perspective.

Attendees will gain an understanding of the events that occurred that day as well as in the year following this tragic event from Chief Pustizzi's unique perspective as one of the on-scene commanders.

He will review his department's response to the shooting and provide an analysis of the lessons learned. Attendees will leave with an understanding of the unique circumstances that contributed to the overall response and communication issues.

- Dr. Peter Langman- This training will present a bio-psycho-social analysis of school shooters, including body-related issues and the concept of damaged masculinity, three psychological types of perpetrators (psychopathic, psychotic, and traumatized), and the many social failures and influences that contribute to their motivation for violence. This will be a case-based approach, presenting specific perpetrators to illustrate the concepts.
- Richard Wistocki This will be a 3 hour overview of the 8 hour class for School Administrators, SRO's and Law Enforcement. Schools will learn how to prepare a case when a student discloses Cyber-Bullying and/or Sexting. Law Enforcement will learn the simple 3 step process in investigating internet crime. We all will learn how to empower our students and not dismiss them and what they are reporting. We will then learn what the appropriate consequences should be and institute such consequences in a Restorative Justice/Diversion Program known as [JuvenileJusticeOnline.org](http://JuvenileJusticeOnline.org).
- Carlos Farina- The "Not On My Watch" training is an up close and personal Conference Breakout session for Fire, Police, Dispatchers, Telecommunicators, Probation, Corrections and Military. This training showcases how First Responders Suffer in Silence and are afraid to ask for help from their



The Alabama Association  
of  
School Resource Officers

*"United for Alabama's Youth"*

employers. This training session will guide and direct the first responder on how to ask for help as well as the employees' rights to the Federal Medical Leave Act and how it pertains to public service. This will be an in depth look at what First Responder therapy looks like and how to acquire it to lead a successful life. All over the country First Responders are suffering and committing suicide. This training module will not only show the first responder who may be struggling how to ask for help, but also for their partners and supervisors who recognize there may be an issue with PTSS, Mental Health, Gambling, Alcoholism or Drug Abuse.

- Deborah VanVelzen and Edward Bova- For many students that are victims or witnesses of crime, the school resource officer is often the first contact they will have with the justice system. In order to develop and preserve effective and meaningful relationships with students, it is imperative that SROs and other school stakeholders be able to understand, recognize and address trauma in our youth.

This training will provide an overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma and the impact it has on developing youth. In addition, ACEs and its correlation to the School to Prison Pipeline will be examined. Trauma-informed policing practices will be discussed with an emphasis on emotional grounding techniques, trauma-informed interviewing strategies and community-based programs that provide a defense to the negative outcomes of childhood trauma.

- Sergeant Bart Chandler -In February 2018, I, along with other officers, responded to the report of an active shooter at Dalton High School. A school staff member brought a handgun into school and had barricaded himself into his room. As we responded, we were unaware if students were in the room with the staff member. A single gunshot was heard by school staff from within the room prior to officers' arrival.

Due to the speedy response of the school staff and law enforcement officers, the only injury sustained during this incident was a sprained ankle from a student as she evacuated the building. This presentation will be a walk through tabletop of this incident, which will allow attendees to place themselves in the shoes of the decision makers that day. After this presentation, attendees will be able to draft a tabletop exercise for their staff based on any scenario and walk through pitfalls in a controlled environment.

- Dr. Steve McKinney and Lieutenant Proncey Robinson- 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.

For more information about the conference and speakers visit our website [www.taasro.org](http://www.taasro.org) and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/taasro>.

I welcome you to join TAASRO in sunny Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama, for a week of some of the best training and education in the Southeast.

