

# BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS AND PRE-INCIDENT INDICATORS

# Assess your awareness

**Poll #4** How confident are you in identifying the behaviors and risk factors that someone might be mobilizing to violence?

Very confident

Not sure

Very little confidence

# Assess your awareness

**Poll #5:** Do you know where and how to report behaviors of concern?

Yes

No

# Division of School Psychology at Alfred University

Rank	Who would you tell	%
1	Teacher	80
2	Parent	75
3	Principal	62
4	Guidance Counselor	68
5	School Security Guard or Police Officer	51
6	Some other adult	37
7	Coach	29
8	None of the above	*

## What students said about how to stop school violence:

Teacher should care more about the students.	23
There's nothing that can be done to stop school shootings.	13
Teachers should intervene, take a more active role in their students' lives, in the classroom and out.	12
Educate students about the issue of school violence.	11
Don't know how to stop it.	5
Teachers should treat all students equally.	4
No response.	4

# Agenda

- **Defining Pre-Incident Indicators**
- **Overview of Behavioral Analysis**
- **The Attack Cycle and Pre-Incident Indicators**
- **The Two Tracks – Extremist and School Shooter**
- **Broad Scope Indicators**
- **Specific Pre-Incident Indicators (videos)**
- **Mobilization Pre-Incident Indicators**
- **Case Studies on Pre-Incident Indicators**
- **Key Takeaways Behavioral Analysis**

# What is a Pre-Incident Indicator?

A pre-incident indicator (PII) is a set of preparatory behaviors and actions (criminal or non-criminal) conducted by an individual or members of an extremist group in preparation for a violent attack

# Behavioral Analysis

We will use "Anomalies" and "Indicators" in the same context here

Behavioral Analysis/Heuristics is **NOT** profiling because you are focusing on **BEHAVIORS** and **ACTIONS** in a given environment/situation

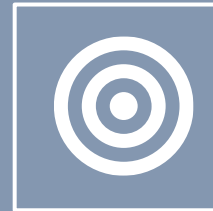
# Behavioral Analysis



Behavioral Analysis will give us the tools to assess **Behaviors** that might be Indicators/Anomalies



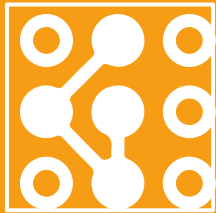
Pre-Incident Indicators will show us specific **Actions** that might be Indicators/Anomalies



This will allow us to effectively spot, assess, intervene and prevent **Targeted Violence** events



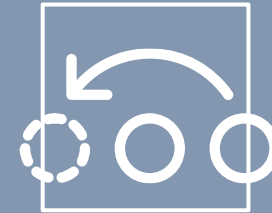
# Behavioral Analysis



Based on  
Universal Patterns  
of Human Behavior



All Human Beings  
Share a Common  
Physical Language



This will allow us to  
effectively spot, assess,  
intervene and prevent  
**Targeted Violence** events

# Behavioral Analysis

Universal Patterns of Human Behavior - Therefore



**Humans create  
Observable  
Patterns**



**No Behavior is  
completely  
Random**

# Behavioral Analysis

**Behavioral Analysis** is the art of mapping an individual's normal environment and establishing baselines and then observing what deviates or is an anomaly from that baseline – which drives your decision making. One seeks just enough information to draw a reasonable conclusion.

Behavioral Analysis is the “lens” through which you see and assess your environment – thus allowing you to create a baseline of what is “normal” and then be able to detect “anomalies” within that baseline that may represent threats

# Behavioral Analysis



Once you establish a Baseline Environment around you or on a specific individual, then detect or observe a deviation or Anomaly – you have to make a decision based on two key questions:

- What is the most likely reason for this?
- What is the most potentially dangerous reason for this?
- **YOUR DECISION IS THEN BASED ON THE ANSWERS TO THOSE TWO QUESTIONS –  
WHAT IS MY COURSE OF ACTION?**

# Key Takeaways – Behavioral Analysis

Behavioral Analysis gives us the tools to assess Behaviors and Actions that might be Indicators/Anomalies of an individual going down a Radicalization pathway to eventually carry out an Extremist action

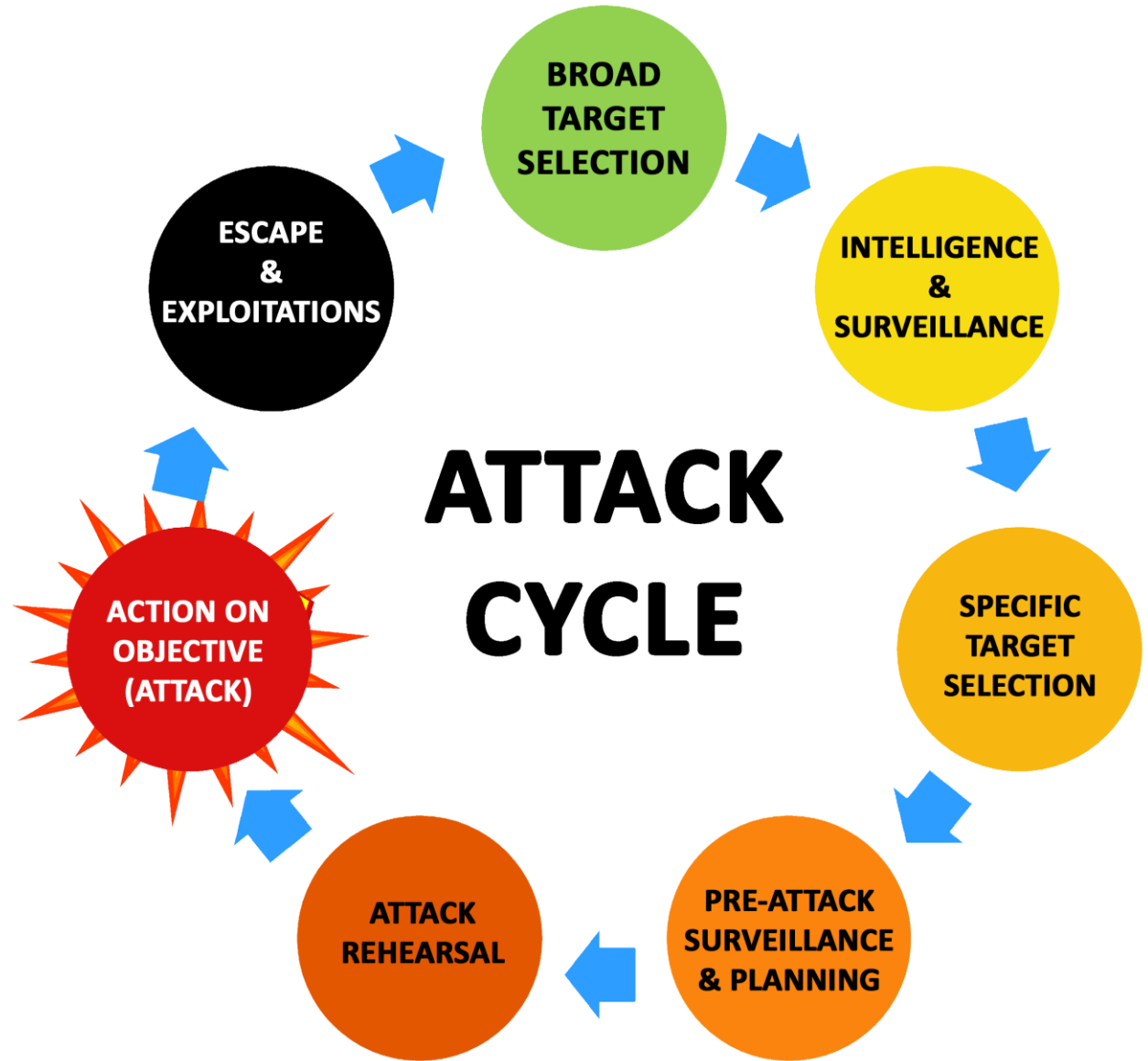
**This will allow us to effectively spot, assess, intervene and prevent Targeted Violence events**

# The Extremist Planning Cycle

**“Nothing Happens  
in a Vacuum”**

# The Extremist Planning Cycle

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# The Extremist Planning Cycle





# Radicalization Pathway vs Attack Cycle

- These are two **SEPARATE** processes that happen
- What does that allow us to do?

# Two Tracks – Extremists and School Shooters

BOTH Extremists and School Shooters will go through the Attack/Planning Cycle – Thus – BOTH will generate PII's that are Observable

Extremists will go down a Radicalization Pathway BEFORE they start the Attack/Planning Cycle – School Shooters generally DO NOT go down a Radicalization Pathway

There are some Differences and Contrasts between Extremists and School Shooters in terms of Broad Scope Indicators and Specific Indicators

# Two Tracks – Extremists and School Shooters

Domestic Violent Extremists

# Broad Scope Indicators - Extremists

## Three Major Studies

United States Secret Service Report on Mass Attacks in Public Spaces

University of Maryland (START) Study on Terrorism (x2)

# Pre-Incident Indicators

- Many of these behaviors/actions/indicators are **first amendment protected rights** – one must be cognizant of this issue
- A person exhibiting one or more of these indicators/behaviors should **not be automatically classified as a suspect**
- We are **looking for “clusters”** of multiple behaviors/actions and indicators – and Most Importantly – Clusters of Indicators that are deviations or anomalies from that person’s normal baseline

# Broad Scope Indicators - Extremists

- NO evidence to support existence of a single meaningful demographic profile of an individual extremist
- All 52 individual extremists were MEN and 90% were BORN in the U.S.

# Broad Scope Indicators - Extremists

-75% of individual extremists had completed an associate degree or at least some college education

-More than half of the individual extremists were NEITHER employed NOR attending school

-About 40% of American extremists were "seeking/exploring" a new Religion

# Broad Scope Indicators - Extremists

- Prior criminal behavior IS a good indicator of extremism
- Half exhibited some evidence of prior drug use
- Lower socioeconomic status was NOT a good indicator for the potential of Radicalization



# Broad Scope Indicators - Extremists

-Leakage"/3<sup>rd</sup> Party Knowledge/The Bystander

**\*\*This is absolutely the BIGGEST and MOST significant Pre-Incident Indicator of Active Shooters/Extremists\*\***

# Broad Scope Indicators - Extremists

- Almost EVERY American individual extremist studied was on their Radicalization pathway/Attack Cycle for at LEAST a YEAR before the violent action
- American Domestic Extremists have a LOWER incidence of Mental Health issues compared to the American Public

# Specific Pre Incident Indicators - Extremists

Domestic Violent Extremists exhibited BEHAVIORS and ACTIONS that were suspicious to Bystanders in almost 80% of every single case

# Specific Pre Incident Indicators - Extremists

- Social media posts with alarming content
- Escalating anger or aggressive behavior
- Changes in behavior or appearance
- Expressions of suicidal ideations
- Writing about violence or weapons
- Cutting off communications
- Inappropriate behavior towards females
- Stalking and harassing behaviors

# Specific Pre Incident Indicators - Extremists

- Increased depression
- Increased drug use
- Erratic behavior
- Purchasing weapons
- Threats of domestic violence
- Acting paranoid
- Talking about retaliating for a perceived grievance
- Social withdrawal/Distancing from family/Trouble maintaining relationships or suddenly changing networks

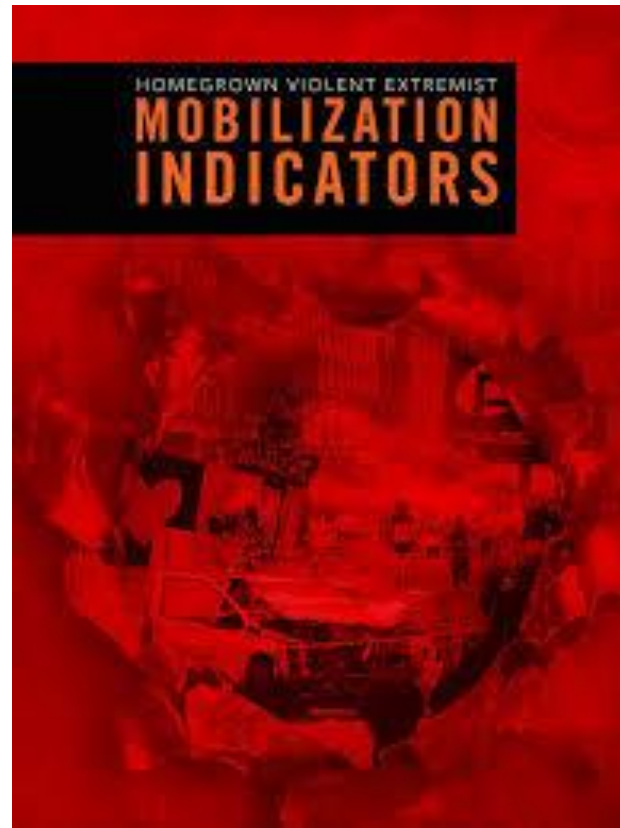
# PII's - Extremist Surveillance

- Personnel observed near targets carrying video cameras or observation equipment with high-magnification lenses
- Persons observed with maps, photos, or diagram sketches with facilities highlighted
- Persons possessing or observed using night-vision devices

# PII's - Trial Runs/Rehearsal - Extremists

- Individuals observed parking, loitering in the same place over multiple days
- A pattern or series of false alarms
- Thefts of ID cards, uniforms, ..etc.
- Suspicious Loitering
- Nonmilitary persons with military-style gear

# Mobilization PII's - Extremists





# Mobilization PII's - Extremists



# Mobilization PII's - Extremists



# Mobilization PII's - Extremists



**BREAKING NEWS**

**FBI: COUPLE RADICALIZED "FOR QUITE SOME TIME"**

Investigation underway to determine "how and by whom..."

**CNN**

4:18 PM PT

ERIN BURNETT

# Case Study – American Extremist – PII's

WKMJ/Earlier  
Orlando

**BREAKING NEWS**

**MASS SHOOTING AT ORLANDO NIGHTCLUB OVERNIGHT**

Soon: Police Briefing On  
Nightclub Shooting

**CNN**  
7:02 AM ET

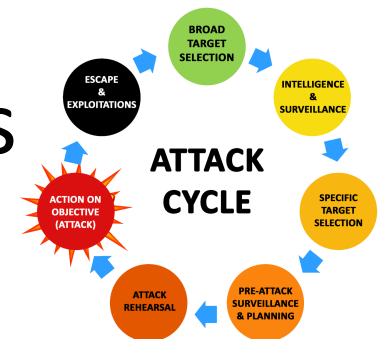
TODAY DENVER ☁️ 85° SACRAMENTO 🟡 88° SALT LAKE CITY ☁️ 78°

**NEW DAY**

# Case Study - American Extremist– PII's

## PULSE NIGHTCLUB – ORLANDO:

- June 2016 – Omar Mateen = 49 Killed and 53 Wounded
- **PII Number One:** Visited Pulse several times prior to the attack (What phase of cycle?)



# Case Study – American Extremist – PII's



# Case Study - American Extremist– PII's

- **PII Number Two:** Co-worker (former PD) complained multiple times that Mateen was Dangerous and Racist – Mateen made specific racist and derogatory statements and threatened violence against specific groups
- **PII Number Three:** Former PD guy had to quit his job as a security guard because Mateen started Harassing him with phone and text messages

# Case Study - American Extremist– PII's

- **PII Number Four:** Mateen was removed from his job at County Courthouse as a security guard after making inflammatory comments about women, Jews, and mass shooting at Fort Hood
- **PII Number Five:** Mateen made extremist Social Media Postings (“Leakage”) on Facebook – “The real Muslims will never accept the filthy ways of the West” .....“You kill innocent women and children by doing airstrikes....now taste the Islamic State vengeance” .....In the next few days you will see attacks from the Islamic State in the USA”



# Case Study - American Extremist– PII's

- **PII Number Six:** In May 2016, Mateen used Facebook to search for information on the San Bernardino extremists. In June 2016, Mateen entered the search words “Baghdadi Speech” on Facebook
- **FINAL PII's:** Mateen pledged loyalty to IS and Baghdadi at least four times the night of the attack in Orlando

# Two Tracks – Extremists and School Shooters

## School Shooters

# Broad Scope Indicators - School Shooter

## \*Caveat for School Shooter Indicators\*

- Shooters had histories of School Discipline and Prior Involvement with Law Enforcement
- 70% of Shooters exhibited behaviors indicating the presence of some type of mental health symptom prior to their planned attack
- 1/3 of Shooters had a history of substance use and/or abuse
- Almost one half of Shooters were Bullied by peers and classmates

# Broad Scope Indicators - School Shooter

- Students displaying an interest in violent/hate-filled topics need immediate assessment/intervention
- Many of the plotters planned to conduct school shootings on certain dates associated with past shootings/terrorist attacks
- Many of the school shooters had access to weapons

# Broad Scope Indicators - School Shooter

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# Broad Scope Indicators - School Shooter

- In the 67 averted/disrupted School Shooter plots examined from 2006 to 2018 – ALL the schools targeted were PUBLIC (except one PRIVATE school).
- SRO's and Reporting Tools

# Specific Pre Incident Indicators – School Shooter

- 95% of the School Shooters were current students of the school or school district
- Almost half of the School Shooters stated their number one reason for planning an attack was a GRIEVANCE
- There was an Average of almost 4 observable PII's (Behaviors and Actions) per school shooter case
- Firearms were used in almost 100% of planned and executed School Shootings

# Specific Pre Incident Indicators – School Shooter

- In terms of TARGETS of School Shooters – Classmates/Peers and School Staff were number one and two
- The Physical Locations at Schools that were most targeted
- “Leakage” – Third Party Knowledge **PLUS**
- Concerning Communications
- Who Reported the Plots and Who Received the Initial Reports

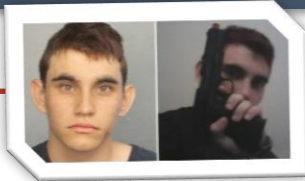


# Specific Pre Incident Indicators – School Shooter

- Almost half the time, PII's (behaviors and actions) of concern were OBSERVED by someone in the community (most likely Classmates/Friends/Peers) but NOT REPORTED
- Timelines (the Attack/Planning Cycle) for all School Shooter cases in the U.S. studied between 2006 and 2018 was between **30 DAYS TO ONE YEAR**
- School SRO's played a role in both the REPORTING on the plots and the ACTIONS taken in response to them 31% of the time

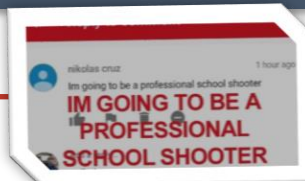
# Case Study – School Shooter – PII

**STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL –  
PARKLAND FLORIDA**



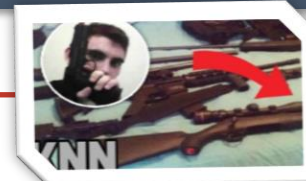
**FEB 6, 2016**

Neighbor's son reports Cruz w/ guns on Instagram, "planned to shoot up the school." PD responds, discovers Cruz owns knives & BB gun. Forwards info to school resource officer Scot Peterson



**SEP 2017**

A blogger in Mississippi warns the FBI that a someone named 'nikolas cruz' wrote on his YouTube page: "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."



**NOV 30, 2017**

A caller from MA tells BSO that Cruz is collecting guns and knives and "could be a school shooter in the making." The caller says Cruz is now living in Lake Worth. A BSO deputy tells the caller to contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.



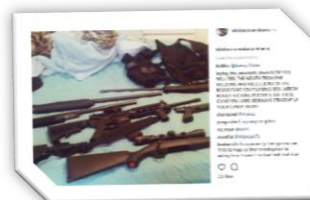
**FEB 2018**

Cruz kills 14 students and 3 educators.  
17 total KILLED

**Sep 28, 2016**  
Another student reports Cruz to SRO for IG posts & cutting himself. DCFS notified – determined that Cruz is "stable enough" not to be hospitalized.



**NOV 29, 2017**  
4 weeks after the death of Cruz's mother, a woman from Palm Beach County family that took him in calls 911. She says her son, 22, has gotten into a fight with Cruz who then fled. Claiming Cruz "has a lot of weapons,"



**JAN 5, 2018**  
A person close to Cruz contacts FBI's tip line to report concerns including death of his mother, his possession of guns, suicidal tendencies, cruelty to animals, IG posts, access to money AND that he may someday be a SCHOOL SHOOTER.



# Behavioral Analysis and Pre-Incident Indicators

## Key Take Aways



Pre Incident Indicators are always **PRESENT** in Targeted Violence planned and carried out by American Extremists and School Shooters



PIIs are the **BEST** way to **DISRUPT** a planned extremist violent attack or school shooting event



When Pre Incident Indicators are **OBSERVED** and **REPORTED** and **ACTION** is taken – there is almost always a **SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME**



Help an individual get off the Radicalization Pathway or to stop the Attack/Planning Cycle



Use and Share Prevention Strategies

# Behavioral Analysis and Pre-Incident Indicators

## Key Take Aways



In almost every Active Shooter case in this country - there has been **LEAKAGE** of the attack Plans and Intentions of to a Third Party



In **EVERY** case- there have been Casing and Surveillance Pre Incident Indicators



Pre-Incident Indicators show us specific Behaviors that might be Indicators of an individual Radicalizing going through the Attack Cycle



This will allow us (the Community) to effectively Spot, Assess, Intervene and **PREVENT TARGETED VIOLENCE**



Use and Share Prevention Strategies

# Share Your Knowledge in Chat

**Poll #6:** Prevention strategies provide the protective factors that address risk factors. We have discussed things you can do now and we will be going over the continuum of prevention strategies in the next module. **List examples of prevention strategies in the Chat feature.**

Questions?

Break!