School Safety Preparedness

Presented by:

Lieutenant L.T. Peterson



City of Winston-Salem Schools

- 46 Elementary Schools in Forsyth County (31 in Winston-Salem)
- 18 Middle Schools in Forsyth County (12 in Winston-Salem) 8 served by WSPD
- 19 High Schools in Forsyth County (15 in Winston-Salem) 12 served by WSPD
- Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy, Kennedy Middle School, Kingswood School and Main Street Academy each have Middle school and High school students on the same campus.

SRO Staffing

- There are 24 total SRO officers
- There are 20 officers assigned to a school
- There are 3 Corporals that rove to provide coverage when an assigned SRO is absent or to provide additional coverage at a school for special events or when needed.
- There is 1 Corporal that is assigned a drug detection K9 to fulfill the school system's request for drug sniffs at schools.



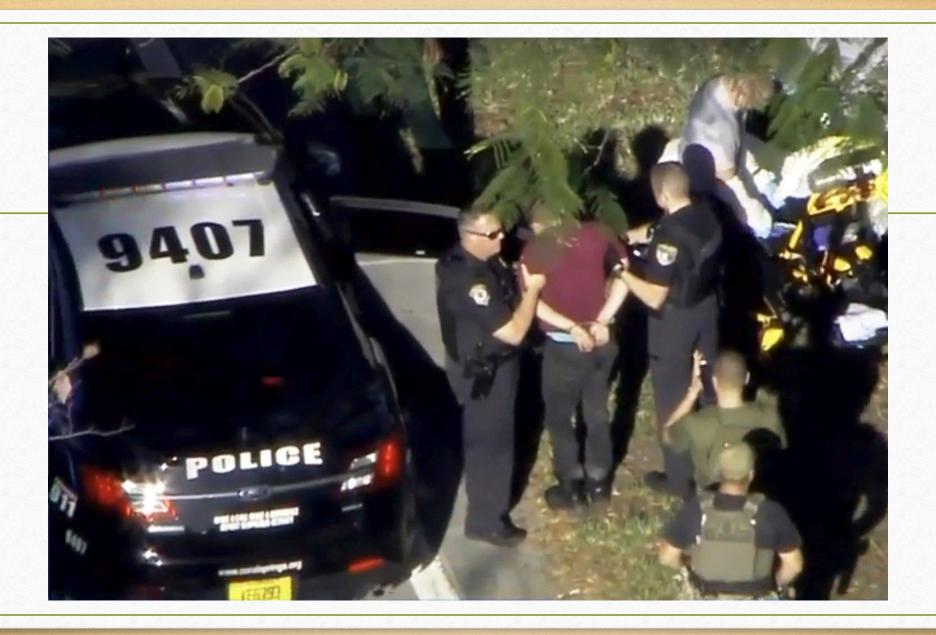
Coordinated Efforts

Lockdown Drills

Intruder Lockdown drills – minimum twice a year

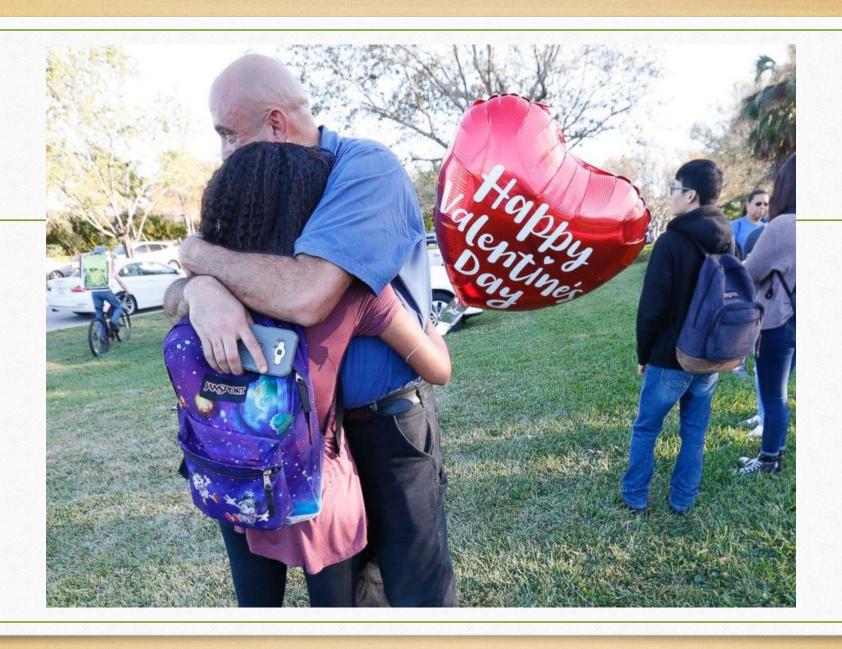
Community Lockdown drills - minimum twice a year

Each SRO officer at their assigned school is familiar with the school's lockdown procedure and participates with school staff and students.



Active Assailant Training

- Standardized State training for all law enforcement
- WSPD officers receive specialized training conducted once a year to include scenario based drills with SRO officers receiving the training twice a year.
- Training is conducted in a school to replicate a real environment



Multi-Agency First Responder Drills

- Winston-Salem/Forsyth County has conducted multi-agency first responder training to include WSFD, Forsyth County EMS, Forsyth County Emergency Management and the Winston-Salem Police Department.
- This multi-agency response prepares for the safe evacuation and prompt medical attention on scene.
- WSPD had 2 personnel selected to the Statewide work group that published and implemented the best practices for training and preparation of active assailant incidents.



Building Trust

- An integral step in detecting and preventing school threats is building rapport and relationships with staff and students.
- Students/Staff who trust their SRO officer will provide information and early warning indicators that help deter criminal activity in their schools.

Summary

- The best method to prevent acts of school violence is through awareness in change of behavior of individuals and the immediate reporting of any rumor perceived to be a threat.
- Preventing a devastating event such as occurred in Parkland Florida relies on active involvement from an entire community and not just a school system or law enforcement response.
- Proper planning and response to a critical incident must be reviewed and rehearsed consistently in order to be adequately prepared.