

# **ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE TEAM (ASRT)**

**BATESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Drew Sandage, Ed.S & Sheriff Shawn Stephens**

# Identifying A Need

- ▶ **Times have changed** - *Mayberry* is unfortunately gone.
- ▶ **Lack of on site help** - SRO presence is not a constant at each campus.
- ▶ **Response time** - Estimated response from police or emergency medical is 5 minutes or greater.
- ▶ **Red zone help** - In the event of an active shooter most loss of life stems from bleeding after the event without trained staff present.

# Solution Options Considered

- ▶ **Nothing** - Continue to rely on 1 SRO for every 2 buildings.
- ▶ **Security Training** - Send some staff to training to be security guards (@30 hours of training).
- ▶ **Become Independence County Deputies** - Allow some staff to complete Ind. Co. Sheriff training and be sworn officers.

# Why Independence Co. Deputies

- ▶ **Training** - Much more rigorous training initially as well as continuing training yearly to include emergency medical training.
- ▶ **Relationships** - Full time law enforcement know us and know what we will do in an event.
- ▶ **Parent Confidence** - Want to ensure parents that involved staff are fully trained and safe.
- ▶ **Students First** - The staff volunteers wanted to be the best they could be to protect our students in the worst case.

# Implementation

- ▶ **Communication** - Honest with all stakeholders about the team but secretive about its members.
- ▶ **Staff Selection** - Identify and interview potential staff.
- ▶ **Plan** - Lengthy discussions with Sheriff about logistics:
  - Concealed carry vs. open carry
  - How to identify special deputies if an event occurs
  - Parameter of special deputy duties or expectations
  - Availability of emergency supplies

# Training

- ▶ **White River Medical Center** - Stop the bleed and first aid training (8 hours).
- ▶ **Ind. Co. Sheriff** - Deputy training including:
  - Staff psychological exam
  - 126 hours of law enforcement training
  - Firearms proficiency training and qualification
  - Active shooter scenario trainings with full time officers
  - Both monthly and yearly refresher trainings

# Resources Needed

- ▶ **Relationships and Communication** - The key for us was and is strong relationships with those involved both directly and indirectly:
  - Ind. Co. Sheriff and Deputies
  - School SRO staff
  - Batesville Police Department
  - White River Medical Center
  - Non-team school staff members
  - BSD Board of Education
  - Parents

# Status and Impact

- ▶ BSD currently has 3 SRO officers and 16 special deputies. This allows us to have at minimum 3 trained officers on each campus at all times.
- ▶ Parental support was and is overwhelmingly positive.
- ▶ Reported on by KAIT news and with over 400 feedback threads only 2 were negative and vast majority stating a desire for other schools to do similar.
- ▶ Comfort in knowing that we are trying to be prepared for something we pray never happens.



# Preparation

- ▶ “hope for the best, prepare for the worst” - Chris Bradford
- ▶ “Organize, don’t agonize” - Nancy Pelosi
- ▶ “It’s not about being fearful, but being ready to react in the right way” - Kevin Taylor
- ▶ “Prepare and prevent, don’t repair and repent” - Unknown

# Panel Introduction

## Questions????

- ▶ Feel free to contact for any additional discussion:

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