



## **BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

### **BJA's Active Shooter Response Training Initiative**

#### **What is this?**

*“This course was probably more life changing, by preparing me for several situations and mass casualties. This also brought several agencies together working as one.” – ALERRT Training Participant*

This initiative is delivering critical and dynamic active shooter response training through a partnership between the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) whose mission is to deliver active shooter training through the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center.

In light of the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut in December 2012, and the increased demand for active shooter response training, BJA and the FBI have partnered to expedite and increase the delivery of this training to state and local law enforcement throughout the nation.

#### **Why is this Important?**

According to a report done by Texas State University and ALERRT, there have been 84 active shooter events that have occurred between 2000 and 2010 and it appears that the frequency of these attacks is increasing.<sup>1</sup>

Our nation's first responders will be the first on the scene of an active shooter event. Lessons learned from past events have taught us that those first on the scene must immediately run to the danger to neutralize the threat and reduce the chance of innocent casualties. No longer do first responders set up a perimeter and wait for their specialized units to respond.

This active shooter response training is critical to teaching the skills and techniques that will help law enforcement to more effectively and safely respond to an active shooter event. BJA and the FBI, through the ALERRT Center's training, hope to better prepare these professionals should the unthinkable happen in your community. We hope that never occurs but believe that preparation (physically, technically, and mentally) is the best tool to keeping you and your communities safer.

Our team is dedicated to providing this vital training to as many law enforcement professionals as we can so that law enforcement can perform their duties safer with the skills that they learn during the two days of active shooter response training being delivered through this partnership.

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<sup>1</sup> Blair, J. Pete and Martaindale, M. Hunter (2012). [United States Active Shooter Events from 2000 to 2010: Training and Equipment Implications](#).

## **The Team**

Through BJA's VALOR program, and its partnership with the ALERRT Center, ALERRT instructors trained 100 FBI Tactical Instructors on the active shooter Level I curricula/training to allow them to teach this active shooter course jointly with ALERRT.

## **The Training**

The Active Shooter Level I training is designed to prepare the first responder to isolate, distract, and neutralize an "active shooter". The course covers shooting and moving, threshold evaluation, concepts and principles of team movement, setting up for and room entry techniques, approaching and breaching the crisis site, rescue team tactics, improvised explosive devices, and post-engagement priorities of work. The course ends with dynamic "force-on-force" scenarios.

## **Who is BJA?**

BJA is a Bureau of the United States Department of Justice that provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. One of BJA's principal missions is to provide high quality state of the art training to state, local, and tribal law enforcement in emerging criminal justice areas. BJA supports programs and initiatives in the areas of law enforcement, justice information sharing, countering terrorism, managing offenders, reentry, combating drug crime and abuse, adjudication, advancing tribal justice, crime prevention, protecting vulnerable populations, and community capacity building.

BJA has partnered with ALERRT since 2002 to provide active shooter response training to law enforcement professionals throughout the nation. This current BJA Active Shooter Response Training Initiative is being supported through BJA's VALOR program.

To learn more about BJA, visit [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov).

## **Who is the FBI?**

The FBI is an intelligence-driven and a threat-focused national security organization within the Department of Justice with both intelligence and law enforcement responsibilities. The mission of the FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners.

To learn more about the FBI, visit [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov).

## **What is ALERRT?**

The ALERRT Center at Texas State University was created in 2002 to address the need for active shooter response training for first responders. With the support of BJA, ALERRT has trained more than 40,000 police officers nationwide in dynamic, force-on-force scenario-based training. The ALERRT curriculum has been adopted by numerous states and agencies as their standard active shooter training and the FBI has adopted it as their national training standard for active shooter response.

To learn more about ALERRT, visit [www.alerrt.org](http://www.alerrt.org).

## **What is VALOR?**

BJA's VALOR program is a U.S. Attorney General initiative that responds to the increase in assaults and violence against law enforcement. The training courses, delivered nationally, are designed to help prevent violence against law enforcement and ensure officer resilience and survivability following violent encounters and are based on research and lessons learned from past events and incidents.

VALOR's partners include: the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), the FBI, Texas State University – San Marco's ALERRT Center, and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF).

VALOR training courses and materials include:

- 2-day Regional Training sessions,
- 1 or half-day Specialized Training sessions,
- 1-day Executive Briefing,
- 2-day Train-the-Trainer workshops,
- Online training modules,
- Informative monthly bulletins, and
- ALERRT active shooter response training

To learn more about VALOR or request VALOR training, visit [www.valorforblue.org](http://www.valorforblue.org).