

THE SHEPPARD METHOD™ CAN STOP SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

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Problem Statement

When it comes to the spectrum of all human misbehavior, there are passive measures that merely stop the 'Lightweights' who have a limited commitment to a particular act. In these cases stiff consequences can be effective deterrents but requires that a person still have a shred of rationality to work from. Preventive measures include early detection identifying those high risk traits is resource intensive but beneficial in the long run. Then there are the 'Hard Core' offenders who past caring about consequences. In my 10 years in Afghanistan, this was always a modality we worked within. We said "How do you reason with someone determined to kill themselves, in order to kill you?" When this kind person has become determined or making up their own rationality, all preventive steps can eventually be circumvented. No matter how the early the detection, it may not come swift enough and consequences are left hollow. What is the most important to this person is their NEED for success, by committing a deed that they have already accepted as justifies their own death. Murder, Drugs, Alcohol have all been banned by the federal government with or without weapons involved. You cannot ban the knowledge of firearms any rational solutions have to work in spite of known quintiles that cannot be changed.

The current debate rages over if arming teachers is the best way that we can place someone in the path of the Active Violent offender as soon as possible? Despite the wishful thinking to try to plug a solution in to fit a problem, I believe the answer is generally no. All Police, Fireman and Military understand that these are not just a job but a lifestyle. Even expert First Responders spend years overcoming the primordial human urges against FIGHT, FLIGHT or FREEZ in a real situation. If a teachers had wanted the lifestyle of being an expert Armed First Responders, they probably would have already made it part of their lives. We are doing ourselves a disservice believing that by some 'Maternal Instinct' for the children will kick-in and it will equal years of intense training. Miraculously transforming these lifelong 'Gentle Souls' into a competent gunfighters under fire, it's unrealistic. It is the stuff of movie conditioning that most people assume that firearms function flawlessly, only hit exactly where you with them too and bad guys die quickly and easily with the first shot.

There are some very common clichés used to justify arming everyone like; 'When *seconds* count, the police are only *minutes* away" and "That the only thing that stops a BAD GUY with a gun, is a GOOD GUY with a gun". Those are absolutely true statements to live by, but I believe that these mistakenly assume what 'KIND' of gun. The mistake believes that maximum countermeasure possible like a SWAT Team is the solution. But we have long had the technology to make the minimum countermeasure possible that works more effectively. It is fully understood that if a teacher or staff member were for example a; former Marine, Policeman or Firearms expert willing to train and maintain proficiency that they should be allowed to be armed if they wanted to. And that school Recourse Officers and Specialized Security exist for protecting schools. But the arming of teachers in general with firearms is a nightmare in logistics, training and maintaining standards cannot be mass produced. It is argued it takes more time to become a Beautician or Massage Therapist than use a gun.

The term 'Active' means someone who is on the move, unrestrained to a fixed location or whereabouts are unknown within a vulnerable area. Their damage-path is always what they can see in front of them, where ever they are free to go next. Having maximum advantage of limited response & where ever their available options take them next. The most IMMEDIATE priorities should be to A. Diminish their time and movement options, B. Physically inhibit their abilities to hurt those exposed C. Is to do this from the very first 'Point that their presence is known' in minimizing the victims ASAP!

The Solution

As in combating terrorism, the most effective means of stopping any Spree Killer is beforehand, by taking away the greatest desires that they are seeking. '*Proactively*' removing their desired outcome is easier than '*Reactively*' stopping the event once it has begun. Usually they are a person who is very angry, un-loved or do not love themselves enough, That they are most all consistently seeking to achieve the following **THREE GOALS**;

1. They want their name to live in infamy by committing a heinous act that their deed will stand out in history.
2. They want an easy high body count that ensures that the media coverage will be intense and long lasting.
3. They usually want to die without facing any consequences such as public & media embarrassment. Or if they are unsuccessful, not incurring pain while being arrested or the thought of spending the rest of their lives in a prison cell.

The solution is simply to provide an effective 'Sheppard Defense Device and Tactics', that any school staff member can be instructed to use, be accessed and used effectively within seconds. Thereby stripping away any Active Shooter or even Terrorist motives. Their motives are universally the same in seeking 'Soft Targets' that provide them with the 'THREE GOALS'. Any School or Venue that displays a sign 'GUN FREE ZONE' is always the sure choice. Below that sign is a 'Common sense sign' that says 'Target Containment Zone'. But the problem is that common sense signs are invisible. Certainly the opposite is true of Airports, Court Houses or Police Stations in having armed responses. Yet there have SILL been people violent enough to attack them anyway. Because it did not prevent these THREE GOALS! Be it a Terrorist or Spree Active Shooters, they have only one life to give. So they will always bypass a target with fewer guarantees for complete success, for one that does provide them surer success. The term 'Blue Zones' was coined as it has been found that certain regions of the world claim for dietary reasons people live much longer than average. For example; Okinawa; Sardinia Italy; Nicoya Costa Rica; Icaria Greece. What we want for our children in violence are these difficult areas to become 'BLUEZONES' for survivability. But a simple twist on that logic would be a sign marking a 'SHEPPARD ZONE' is specifically an area that becomes where people could survive longer! And thus the consequences to be more effective.

All Tactical problems are a matter of time and distance. Today's Riot Police are issued paintball guns but using Cayenne Powder Pepper balls during civil unrest. In Afghanistan we used a flashlight size, eye safe green lasers called a 'Dazzler' or 'GLARE' devices. These were strobe of laser lights that a shooter absolutely cannot look at with directed intense pulsating green light is effective to 300 yards. I propose using these proven non-lethal Law Enforcement options together, by mounting the Dazzler light onto these pinball guns. And like that of fire extinguishers, will be located throughout the schools but behind fingerprint lock enabled cabinets coded to only certified staff members. This completely dispels any of the opposition disputing the issues of "introducing more lethal firearms into a school environment just puts everyone at further risk of stray shots". Or the most common excuse that; "Armed teachers would turn schools into battle-zones". That excuse could not be used anymore. A missed Pepper Ball or flash of light would not be lethal for accidental hits to others.

See examples; Of the latest Lasers Devices and Non-Lethal paint gun;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4zsjUZoOfg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPSC3UPC2-k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4KTg6NVp5E>

With a 'Sheppard Protective Device' the risks would be closer to that of a kid's weekend pinball field. These 'teacher paint guns' will never over-penetrate walls or kill someone with a direct hit. But even the near misses off of hard surfaces could shower the Active Shooter in exploding cloud of pepper powder within a several foot radius. Unlike firearms, shoot as any balls as you can carry to stop the threat immediately. A paint gun easily carries 200 balls that the custodian can simply mop it all up later, rather than bullet ridden walls even if a firearm could carry 200 bullets. The Sheppard paintball guns would be made in a bright blue color as to quickly and safely identify faculty staff members as 'Friendlies' to indicate to responding resource officers & Law Enforcement. And Police pepper spray criminals all the time, they know how to arrest people without contaminating themselves. And schools would not be closed for several days in mourning death but proud in the knowledge of their own empowerment. Maybe these devices could even be WIFI connected to police dispatch.

Just like a fire extinguisher, at the first instance that 'gun'-fire is detected, or alarmed any certified faculty member runs to the nearest 'Sheppard Device' and begins being effective to blind and distract an Active Shooter when seconds count. While at the same time, allowing other responding faculty members or officers to close the distance within Police pistol 25 yard range. No innocent bystanders will be harmed in the backdrop of the shooter with stray bullets or flashes of light. No accidental lethal ricochets or over penetration of bullets through walls. If a bullet misses the perpetrator, which would be a double negative with a lethal firearm, but with bursting radius of pepper balls, it's a positive factor as even near misses can count, and not fatal to anyone. The psychology of taking a life is the most difficult training, this avoids that.

But most importantly it directly addresses all of the 'THREE KEY GOALS' of violence. Both Active Shooters and Terrorist seeing the 'SHEPPARD ZONE' sign would know with certainty, that their chances of moving unopposed for approx. 10 minutes until Police arrive will no longer be true. That achieving an easy media high body count will be diminished effectively. In fact the ease of being able to find any human targets unimpeded and undistracted immediately, impairing the ability to hit anyone will now be more unlikely. With an increased chance of being dowsed in excruciating pain their

final moments until arrest, becomes more probable. With no media notoriety being achieved but would be paraded in front of the media as a fool. With an increased chance of the person being brought to justice alive and spending their young remaining life in prison is assured. They are not Special Forces taking calculated risk these are cowards, and as so they will simply move on to find another target without a sign designating the facility as a certified 'SHEPPARD ZONE' area.

Costs and Benefits

This initial endeavor would be set up as a charitable entity to K-12 schools. Although charitable the positive PR, marketing in Security is branding in itself of tangible value. Your mind will keep screaming that this all sounds expensive but remember that this phase is all tax a nonprofit. Because all cost incurred for high quality training and equipment would be tax deferred from Corporate Security profits. But then, colleges are for-profit businesses that have a greater duty to insure student's protection on gun free campuses. Once the initial standard is established, there will be a spillover effect for colleges as well as any public venues of; Fairs/Festivals, Shopping Areas or Events will be paying customers or be forever be judged on their level of preparedness. We have to plan backwards in order for this standard to become established, the first mover advantage toward proper stewardship of our assets is difficult in confusion.

All US Security corporations and companies have a large footprint in as many markets as possible. Not only would this reflect favorably as 99% of congressmen have kids, but bring added public safety to their districts. If they are for it, who can be against it? There are further Cost Benefits. Police doctrine has been rewritten to handle these Mass Shootings. Police are forced to bypass all wounded victims placing the priority on stopping the source rather than being afforded the time in getting bogged down stopping for every wounded person. And EMS must be held back until the complete facility is cleared of all possible Active Shooters. Although it is a pragmatic approach to life and death and it's an imperfect solution to an impossible task, but universally considered insensitive to most. Having teachers become more effective not only helps end the killing, secure the situation and treat victim's many times faster. This would be a program to meet with popular approval because of it's effective. There would eventually come a point that any school/venue is either using the 'SHEPPARD ZONE STANDARD' or it's not. Which public event would you safely go to?

Training effectively

With firearms, teachers would have been liable for any shot that they don't deliver perfect aim under stress. That is still of the gravest concerns to even the most trained armed professional. The 'Sheppard Defense Device' paint ball guns should also be equipped with standard laser aiming sights attached; those are inexpensive and can compensate for bad aim due to inexperience, low confidence or situational panic. These trained teachers are more confident. Limited entry points are required at all secure properties but all facilities have back gates and sprawling spaces with only chain linked fences, which will need to be screened, patrolled and defended. The reality is that any school's security is always going to be stretched thin. Every step of arming teachers with firearms would involve be many more times harder and even equipping, certifying and maintains a couple of teachers, would be cost more than the 'SHEPPARD ZONE PROGRAM'.

Why are we so uncreative that we feel the need to challenge human nature? All of the same steps that would have had to be done anyway in attempting to arm teachers to an effective level with firearms on top of normal teacher work requirements is just silly. It should be understood, shooting is not a schools primary mission. Inevitably new staff arrives in needing new firearms training and existing teachers will lose proficiency with time. By using simple sport PAINT ball guns to familiarize them firing the 'Sheppard Device', a Sunday in the gymnasium then simply have the janitor wipe it down and mop up the paint in the practice area afterward. This training can realistically be done quarterly, quickly and easily to maintain proficiency and confidence. Unlike fire extinguishers that sit long times and lose potency, quarterly training also ensures that pepper balls get rotated often enough to stay fresh and potent. Teachers are typically 'gentle souls' who choose the educational field with the borne desire to teach, not the expectation of becoming gunslingers.

So why over burden them with the dire consequences of firearms or who will pay for ammunition and firearms budgets? With real firearms there is a liability nightmare novices will be paralyzed with fear of it. Paint guns, are still a kids sport. This method, there would be a 'one-stop' shop provided to customers. There will be no need for the schools to be burdened contracting expensive instructors or set aside range time at special facilities to re-qualify teachers annually, semi-annually or quarterly. Any gymnasium provides a perfect on-site solution to setup the targets, learn to shoot from barricaded positions at correct distance. Simply take the teachers, faculty and staff member into the gym on a weekend. Set up 50 yard targets and instruct teachers the simple tactics of how to move safely from hall from cover of doorway to doorway. Utilizing their paint gun and laser to take advantage of the long axis that school hallways provide, to clear and hold areas every hallway is an Active Shooter trap, not a victim trap. Staff can recognize each other better than cops can. <https://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2019/10/21/floridas-armed-teachers-get-liability-coverage-in-policy-reversal/>

Deterrence Tactics

Effectively containing, converging in on and isolating an Active Shooter to a confined spot. Wait simultaneously allowing the innocent bystanders to move out in the opposite direction of the noise. Shots being fired indoors can be deceptive; maybe a fire alarm has been pulled and masking sound of the shooters direction. Or in the case of the San Bernardino shooting not heard in other parts of the building at all. But having the possibly another teacher with their 'Sheppard Device' sees a laser flash down the hallway as an additional indicator that another faculty member is already visually reacting in the direction of the shooter. Therefore if the shooter turns the corner into their hallway, it will already be denied as being already under control of a 'Sheppard Member'. The shooter will become boxed in for police response.

As we ask ourselves the aspects of the THREE KEY GOALS psychology and motivation behind events like Active Violence? They are clearly escalating as part of a 'Copy Cat' syndrome. With the criminal enterprise known as 'The Media' is certainly not going to curb its coverage and lessen the ratings or political agenda. Media coverage of these events is always prolonged on average two weeks longer than needed in order to get the maximum mileage out of the story as possible and having ZERO consideration for the common good. From Terrorism to Active Violence incidents, it is the express purpose of these events to exploit the media for free terror marketing. Equivalent to a multimillion dollar Madison Avenue ad campaign, that would cost any politician or corporation millions. The purpose of the 'SHEPPARD PROGRAM' uses the media to discourage the unbalances person's expectations of success through Active Violence.

In either case the 'Sheppard Method', is an ideal decentralized approach, with all the advantages and none of the disadvantages. From the instant that the shooter presents becomes known, that a particular school or facility employs this method and equipment, it will change the perpetrators entire motivation! What the gunman can now expect is immediately upon the onset of the event is that; several faculty members will be responding and enclosing on the shooter, encircling him, essentially painting himself into a corner with every shot. In current Active Shooter drills students are taught to barricade themselves if they are not able to evacuate themselves. A 'Sheppard Defensively Armed Teacher', can clear a way for more students and wounded to safely get to an exits and save more lives or give medical aid. Effective enough to generate doubts in the mind of the Bad Guy who's has already committed to suicide. Who would want to choose this example, as that for making a statement worthy to die for their cause? Not anymore.

Where to start

The first couple of schools to adapt this method will be the most compelling. I suggest that of the eight states who have towns or counties who have already volunteered to be 'Second Amendment Sanctuaries', in opposition to 'GUN FREE ZONES' would be most receptive. It would not be hard to convince a town where many of parents would already be support arming teachers, to institute a 'SHEPPARD PROGRAM' in their K-12 schools for FREE under a nonprofit. Especially as teachers are their own breed, and individually may not want to be responsible for a firearm, but happy to qualify to use a paintball gun? Who could reject a safer workplace with nonlethal measures considering the alternatives?

First assemble a team of nationally ranked shooting instructors who will use a vacant school to standardize this method. They will run full scale scenarios with shooters against untrained paid volunteers. Proving and refining the current tactics that are most effective and come up with a standard procedure of training. Your mind is screaming again that this all sounds too expensive but remember again that this phase is still all tax deductible, at whatever premium Security Training company value may place on it. Because having a highly recognized program certified by experts is an incentive to; the parents, the school boards, the insurance providers and to the every political figure involved. The program will then be used to train every willing teacher within participating school districts. Then interface it with local Police Depts.

Liability

So am not I suggesting that teachers aim their paint ball gun in the general direction of the shooter and just let it rip? Not ideally. Teachers do need basic situational training and orientation to know if they are not within range of the pepper ball gun to approach the shooter, they must move using cover and concealment, like utilizing recesses of class door frames. They need a competent level of training to understand that some people with day glow colored guns could be the good guys too. But the strength of this method is in the 'more resistance that a shooter can encounter the better', even if teachers can never be the most precise first responder possible. However this defense method can be forgiving in every manner that firearms cannot be. Insurance underwriting rates based on utilizing trained experts creates its own 'Buzz' within the arms industry. Like the 1990s, a drastic revision of Active Shooter policy's. The more those expert concepts become accepted, the more it creates its own legal standards. Everybody's interest wins except the criminals.

Why 'Sheppard Tactics'? Because not everyone is a security or shooting professional or that may not even know that these technologies exist, but the manufactures of these products should be fielding samples to educate the debate. Like ISO-9000 compliance was created to become an industry wide standard, shouldn't faculties that we conduct learning to be secured be use as a national standard or become an OCHA standard in itself? Large corporations face liability in just getting up in the morning. But I would cover these defensive methods under the Good Samaritan laws so opportunistic trolls will not hit the incident responders or equipment makers with frivolous law suits. The firearms industry already has laws that protect them for liability; this should not even approach that level. Protecting children should have immense public approval. Of course waivers will be signed by every certified teacher and school district as their responsibility to use training and maintaining equipment. Paintball guns are not powered to maximum pressures preventing welts and Goggles protect eyes from paint balls, for Active Shooters there will be less tears shed for the risk potential. The risk would inherently be lessened as the laser device has the shooter looking away or covering their eyes anyway.

This unprecedented concept cannot be compared to any historical examples. But risk adverse corporations like to stay below the radar, instinctively 99% of all considerations lead to "NO" without legal safeguards. This program would completely affect event liability coverage like never before. Which let's face it; the insurance incentives are why most of the security industry exist, not because security is just the right thing to do. It should not take a 'focus group' to figure out why we can't keep children safe. Simply taking away an Active Shooters expectation of succeeding makes them want to find a simpler target. This is the only plan ever proposed that anyone can realistically yield those results nationally.

In closing, we can see the proper way to protect our flock is for the Sheppard to carry the right stick. Secret Service statistics show that 85% of Active Shooter events are over in 5 minutes. The average police response time in urban areas is 8 minutes in-between we need Sheppard's. There must be a plan that simply works. What about shooters becoming bulletproof because availability of Body Armor? That will not affect a pepper ball, blinding light or the shooter becoming outnumbered and impeded within a minute. What if it is an insider threat or the shooter gets a Sheppard Device? The plan and tactics have to work no matter the case. Criminals only follow the 'Law of the Jungle', they will proceed and perpetrate only as far as they are permitted to go until something overmatching and proven shuts them down. This is the only method that provides all the advantages and none of the disadvantages to stopping Active Violence mindsets.