



## BRIEF OF THE DAY:

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

PREVENTION GOALS	COLLABORATION	INFORMATION SHARING	THREAT RECOGNITION	RISK MANAGEMENT	INTERVENTION
DETER			X	X	X
DETECT	X	X	X	X	X
PREVENT	X	X	X	X	X
ELIMINATE THREATS					

#### CONTEXT:

School Resource Officers (SRO's) play a very important role in the safety of our schools. Collaboration between schools and law enforcement is a major step to increasing school security and preventing acts of terrorism or violence within schools.

Some prevention and safety roles the SRO can play are:

- Direct and assist with school safety assessments.
- Participate in planning meetings to discuss safety issues and to contribute thoughts on the security of the school.
- The SRO should be aware of prevention programs and help choose programs that will suit the needs of the school and community.
- SRO's should be a positive role model to students and should be approachable by students who may need to communicate safety concerns to someone or who may be dealing with other issues.

SRO's keep school administrators up to date on issues related to violence and gang activity in the community. SRO's may serve as a deterrent to those wishing to inflict violence on the school, while the SRO also offers a sense of security to school staff, students and parents.

#### Sources

##### School Resource Officers a Good Idea

<http://www.selmatimesjournal.com/news/2008/jul/28/school-resource-officers-good-idea/>

## **Resource Officer Makes Positive Impact Within Public Schools**

<http://www.theweeklychallenger.com/News/article/article.asp?NewsID=90117&sID=14>

### **Precipitating Terrorist Event**

The attack on Columbine High School which occurred on April 20, 1999 is the deadliest high school shooting in U.S. history. The attack was carried out by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. Harris and Klebold killed 12 students and a teacher, as well as injuring 23 others before committing suicide. Harris and Klebold were thought to suffer from insecurity and the strong desire for attention.

### **Prevention Relevance**

School Resource Officers place a police presence in schools and possibly deter acts of terrorism or violence in the school.

### **Prevention Techniques**

*Risk Management:* By being a positive role model, the SRO may serve as a deterrent to students who might want to commit an act of violence against the school, school personnel, or fellow students.

### **Prevention Thought**

*Collaboration:* How do School Resource Officers in your community collaborate with your agency to keep schools safe and secure?

## **IPS CONTACT INFORMATION:**

The Institute for Preventive Strategies is a national service of the Center for Rural Development, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Somerset Kentucky.

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