



ENSURING SAFETY IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!

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A LITTLE ABOUT ME

39+ Years of Continuous Safety and Security Experience: Duration: 1980 - Present

- Security Detail SNCO
- Protected military leaders, including:
- Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
- Commandant and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps
- Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command
- Commander, United States Central Command
- Protected senior embassy leaders and distinguished foreign dignitaries

Combat Veteran with Extensive overseas deployments:

- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- Horn of Africa
- Other undisclosed locations



A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT ME

Distinguished Shooter

- Member of the Marine Corps Shooting Team (8 years)

Marine Corps Drill Instructor

- Tenure: 4 years
- Guided over 10,000 recruits, focusing on:
- Civilian to military lifestyle transformation
- Team building proficiency
- Discipline and rule enforcement
- Basic combat survival training

Versatile Expertise

- Focus: Combat skills, security tactics, counter-surveillance, situational awareness
- Security Provider for Dignitaries
- Protected senior officers to distinguished foreign visitors



THE LAST LITTLE BIT OF ME

Professional Development Instructor

- Topics: Security awareness, offensive and defensive skills
- Skills Covered: Situational awareness, grappling, detaining, protective fighting techniques

Diverse Contributions

- Showcasing unwavering dedication to duty and excellence while contributing significantly to the United States of America and upholding Christian morals, principles, and values.



BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO CHURCH SAFETY

1. Protecting God's Flock:

- In John 10:11, Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. As His followers, we are called to emulate His love and care. Implementing church security measures expresses our responsibility to protect and care for God's flock, ensuring their physical safety and peace of mind.

2. Maintaining Worship Focus:

- In 1 Corinthians 14:33, the Bible teaches us that God is a God of order, not confusion. Church security helps maintain a peaceful environment where congregants can focus on worship without worrying about their safety or disruptions. A secure sanctuary allows worshippers to engage with God during services more fully.

3. Responding to Emergencies:

- Galatians 6:2 reminds us to "carry each other's burdens," including responding to emergencies. Church security teams can assist during medical emergencies, natural disasters, or unexpected situations, demonstrating Christ-like compassion and care for one another.

4. Being Good Stewards:

- In 1 Corinthians 4:2, we are called to be trustworthy stewards of what God has entrusted us. Implementing security measures is responsible for stewarding the resources and facilities God has provided our church community.



BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO CHURCH GUARDIANS AND SAFETY



In 1 Chronicles 9:19, we find reference to the Levites appointed as gatekeepers for the house of the Lord, responsible for safeguarding the temple.



Nehemiah 4:9 speaks of those who stood guard while the temple was being rebuilt, highlighting the importance of security even during construction and rebuilding.



These biblical examples demonstrate God's desire for order, protection, and reverence in His sanctuary, which provides a foundation for understanding the significance of church security.



DISCUSSION TOPICS – 10 THINGS TO CONSIDER

Possible and Worst-
Case Scenarios

Church Preparedness
Identities

Existing Facility
(environment)

Coordinative with
Local Law
Enforcement – Fire –
EMS

Plans – Policies –
Procedures/Best
Practices

Essential
Communication Skills

Training – Drills –
Practice

Evacuation Planning

Recovery/Continuity
Planning

Available Resources

POSSIBLE AND WORST-CASE SCENARIOS



Domestic Disturbances	Child Abuse/Abductions
Terrorism/Active Shooter	Fires
HVAC system failures	Hurricanes
Floods	Structure collapses
Robbery/Petty Thefts	Destruction of Private Property

- Vehicle Parking Accidents
- Civil disturbances
- HAZMAT incidents
- Power failures
- Telecommunications failures
- Medical emergencies



CHURCH PREPAREDNESS IDENTITIES



Church leaders

Pastoral staff
Support staff (FT or PT)

Who can contribute knowledge, experience, skill, and time?



Congregation members

Anyone with training, background, or experience who can contribute?



Local Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS



Chain of Command

Who is in charge at any given time?



Neighbors

Local businesses
Other Community Stakeholders

EXISTING FACILITY (ENVIRONMENT)



Age

- Structure (when built / last renovation)
- Systems (plumbing, electric, sprinkler, alarms, etc.)

Construction type

- Impact on response, evacuation plans
- Location
- How many stories?
- Unique features
- Floor plan
- Proximity to and availability of emergency services

COORDINATING WITH POLICE – FIRE – EMS



**Do you know
them, and do
they know you?**

Police Chief
Fire Marshall
Head of EMS or County Emergency Services
American Red Cross (local chapter)

**Do they know
your building?**

Floor plans
Entrances and Exits
Unique features

**Do they know
your routines?**

Schedule of regular services
Special events
Daytime staffing levels (if applicable)
Regular meetings or site visits

**Do they have a
seat at your
planning table?**



PLANS – POLICIES – PROCEDURES



Vulnerability
survey / Risk
Assessment

Resources



Plans need to
be:

Published
Communicated
Regularly
updated



Evacuation
procedures
(see: Drills)

Clear
Concise
Visible
Updated as
conditions
change in your
facility



Drills

Annual
Partner with
local Law
Enforcement,
Fire, EMS



COMMUNICATION

The best plan is KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER ONLY IF SHARED:

Congregation

Staff

Guests

Visitors

Emergency
Responders



Protocols need to be established for
communicating FACTS during in-
progress incidents

Single point of contact

Helps reduce anxiety and
eliminate panic

Media relations



TRAINING – DRILLS – PRACTICE



Training and drills are a significant portion of preparedness efforts

Familiarity

“Muscle memory”



Why do we train?

Calm v. Panic

Improve our systems, processes, plans and procedures



How often?



Who is included?



Who should lead?



Tabletop exercises



EVACUATION PLANNING





RECOVERY / CONTINUITY PLANNING



What does your church need to stay operational and serve the public?



Who is in charge of final determination and authority? (primary, secondary...)



Authorized bank signatories (i.e., financial planners or board approvers)



Church financial records

Offsite backup location or contingency



Documentation
Inventory of all assets

Descriptions, serial numbers, and value
Recent itemized Photos



Alternative worship space/location map

AVAILABLE RESOURCES



**Hillsborough County
Sheriff's Department**

www.hcso.tampa.fl.us

2008 E 8th Ave

Tampa, FL

(813) 247-8000

**Hillsborough County Fire
Rescue**

www.hillsboroughcounty.org

2709 E Hanna Ave

Tampa, FL

(813) 272-6600

**Department of Homeland
Security**

www.dhs.gov

FBI tip Web Site

www.ifccfbi.gov

**Federal Emergency
Management Agency**

www.fema.gov



**CONCLUSION/
QUESTIONS**

**GOD BLESS
YOU!**

**Personal Contact
Information:**

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- Government Mobile: (703)762-6361
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- angelace1960@yahoo.com