



1

What if...

- You are out alone (no family or friends) running errands at the local hardware store.
- You are dressed like you've been doing yard work, painting, etc. (because you have been)
- A shooter enters the store and begins an active shooter attack.
- Law Enforcement professionals are only moments away (anywhere from seconds to minutes; we never know for sure)
- Do you take action? (draw your sidearm, ID yourself, engage the shooter)
- What happens when LE arrives while you're in the midst of that?

2

Introduction to topic and concerns

- How many of you have made a plan with your family should an emergency situation (involving a shooting) happen while you're out in public?
 - Does that plan involve you moving toward threat while family gets away?
 - Does that plan involve leading your family away / covering them as you all move to safety?
 - Does that plan, either way, involve a member of your family calling 9-1-1 to give them information and descriptions of you if you're taking action?

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According to ALERRT Data Sets

- 434 active shooter events occurred between 2000-2021
- 64 of the shooters were shot or subdued by someone not in a uniform
- That's roughly 1 in 7 or about 15%.
- Will that number be going up or down given recent circumstance?

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Introduction to topic and concerns

- Bruen decision
- NYSRPA v Bruen (6/23/22): In a 6–3 decision, the majority ruled that New York's law was unconstitutional, and ruled that the ability to carry a pistol in public was a constitutional right under the Second Amendment. The majority ruled that states are allowed to enforce "shall-issue" permitting, where applicants for concealed carry permits must satisfy certain objective criteria, such as passing a background check, but that "may-issue" systems that use "arbitrary" evaluations of need made by local authorities are unconstitutional.

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Introduction to topic and concerns

- California, New York, Maryland - examples of states that had "good cause" clauses as part of their permitting process. Bruen ruled such as unconstitutional, effectively making every state in the country a shall issue state. Bruen reconfirmed that "the ability to carry a pistol in public [is] a constitutional right under the Second Amendment."
- This is going to (already has) resulted in an increase of citizens who are concealed carriers of handguns
- May 2023 marks the 46th month in a row where over 1M background checks were done for gun purchases.

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Introduction to topic and concerns

- **Totality of circumstances, in the heat of the moment, will determine...**
 - What you do if you're the off-duty officer or legally armed citizens in the scene of an active shooter, and
 - What you do if you're the officer responding to the active shooter event
- **Natural instinct is different for career law enforcement vs. armed citizens.**
 - We tend to run toward the threat. Citizens tend to hide or run from threat.
 - When confronted do we obey verbal commands?
- **Frequency / wave – returning to how it used to be?**

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Past LE Outlook and concerns

- We have spent 23+ years now developing and evolving response tactics to active shooter events.
 - Despite that, we still don't always get it right (Parkland, FLA & Uvalde, TX as the examples)
 - Focus for decades now has been, "Get in as fast as possible, seek and neutralize shooter(s)" (one officer's comment: *"if I go into an active shooter event and someone has a gun, not in uniform, I'm lighting them up."*)
 - Does the speed and narrow focus create a concern of judgment?
- *Officers at Covenant Presbyterian acted with deliberation, not speed. They were effective, and not criticized for moving too slow.

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There Are Other Guns Out There

- Some thoughts from citizens on Quora (this was entertaining and informative)

Former Air Traffic Controller, Retired at Federal Aviation Administration · Author has 2.3K answers and 475.9K answer views · 10mo

Related **How would you prevent the police from killing you if you already incapacitated a mass shooter with your own personal side arm?**

I would call the police and inform that I'm armed and that the shooter is incapacitated. When police arrive, I would put my gun down or otherwise follow the instructions of police. Police don't generally arrive and just start shooting anyone they see with a gun...unless that person with a gun is also acting in a hostile way.

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There Are Other Guns Out There

- Remember that we, on-duty, are not the only legally armed citizens in any given area.
 - On average, in the U.S. every 1 out of 7 people has a carry permit or isn't required to have one.
- Is there a possibility that someone is ILLEGALLY armed but still acting in defense of themselves or others? (I'd rather not shoot them)
- The differences in training, competency, appearance, legal knowledge, etc. is even wider in citizens than it is in law enforcement – and we know how vast the difference is in LE.

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There Are Other Guns Out There

- Some thoughts from citizens on Quora (this was entertaining and informative)

Updated by Ben Dover II, lives in The United States of America (1914-present) Author has 11.4K answers and 93.7M answer views · 7y

Related: **Has any mass murderer ever been stopped by an armed bystander?**

Originally Answered: Have any active shooter ever been stopped by an armed bystander?

Yes. The biggest and clearest example is the Clackamas Town Center shooting ☹️ where a lawful concealed carrier pointed his firearm at the shooter. While he did not fire (as his backstop wasn't clear) the shooter killed no one after that, and committed suicide.

In the 2007 Colorado YWAM and New Life shootings ☹️ a civilian security guard shot and killed the shooter. (Note that she was a former police officer, but carried under the authority of her CCW permit. As such, I consider her to be a civilian).

The Parker Middle School dance shooting ☹️ ended with only one death when the shooter was confronted by the shotgun wielding owner of the venue.

There are other examples as well. Note that these all end without them being on the formal list of mass shootings... because they were stopped before they became that.

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There Are Other Guns Out There

- Some thoughts from citizens on Quora (this was entertaining and informative)

Updated by John Fogli, Professional Firearms Instructor and Dive Light, Retired Drug Interdiction Task Force Director Author has 4.7K answers and 82.3M answer views · 5y

Related: **In an active shooter situation, if an armed citizen proceeds to defend himself and others by shooting back, how will police distinguish between the two?**

Originally Answered: From what distance requires if an armed citizen proceeds to defend himself/others by shooting back, how will police distinguish between the two?

We can't, but we probably won't have to anyway.

An active shooter situation starts.

Someone gets to a safe enough place to stop and call 911.

That person explains the situation and location to a dispatcher.

The dispatcher explains the situation and location to the cops.

Cops drive there in a big hurry.

If this situation is still an "active shooter" by the time we get there, then it's because there isn't anyone shooting back at him.

Maybe a selfless citizen tried to shoot back, but got killed or disabled. Maybe this selfless citizen ran out of ammo.

The chances of armed citizens being in an ongoing gun battle with this shooter for all of the minutes required for a police response are just really low. Either they stop the shooter before the cops get there (and then prepare to meet the cops without a gun in hand) or else they get themselves taken out of the fight or run out of ammo, and that will happen even faster in states which limit magazine capacities. The active shooter, of course, planned for this and carried 25-magazines that day, or just carried the big, illegal ones.

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There Are Other Guns Out There

- Some thoughts from citizens on Quora (this was entertaining and informative)

On the extremely slim possibility that the police show up while the good citizen is actually shooting back at our murderer, then there is a high risk that he gets shot by cops. Actually getting to that point is a very low risk though. In any case, it's certainly lower than the risk posed to everyone this active shooter will murder if someone doesn't stop him as soon as possible.

Understand that in the extremely unlikely event that you find yourself in an active shooter situation, the best case scenario is that it takes the police minutes to arrive. Those minutes will be an eternity.

Also understand that almost all of our mass shooting situations in the US take place in areas where it is illegal to carry guns, so that "armed citizen" probably won't exist there anyway.

There is just very, very little likelihood of an armed citizen still being in a shootout with an "active shooter" when the police arrive.

35.7K views · View upvotes · View 2 shares 1 of 27 answers

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There Are Other Guns Out There

- Some thoughts from citizens on Quora (this was entertaining and informative)

Answers and 2.2M answer views · 1y

Related **Has an armed private citizen ever stopped a mass shooter?**

Just a few days ago (today being the second of June, 2022) some guy started shooting into a gathering, some random c/w woman in the crowd killed him. That's how it's supposed to happen. Good person with gun ends bad person with gun doing harm.

It happens all the time, it just never gets reported because guns bad, no matter how much good they do.

2.7K 7 335

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There Are Other Guns Out There

- Some thoughts from citizens on Quora (this was entertaining and informative)

MD from University of Mississippi Medical Center (Graduated 1978) · Author has 14.7K answers and 19.5M answer views · 3y

Related **If there is a mass shooting in America and multiple people are carrying guns to defend themselves before it starts. How does the police know who is safe and who is trying to kill people?**

This is a tough problem. The shooter, though, may be likely to be the guy who's shooting. Others are likely to have their pistols holstered while trying to get away.

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There Are Other Guns Out There

• Some thoughts from citizens on Quora (this was entertaining and informative)

Author has 184 answers and 446.6K answer views · 5y

Related **Imagine that you and your gun are now in the center of a mass shooting that's currently happening. But the police think that you are the shooter, and they are aiming their guns at you. What do you do?**

Very simple:

- If the officer tells me to drop the gun, I'll drop the gun.
- If the officer tells me to put my hands up, I'll put my hands up.
- If the officer tells me to get down on the floor, I'll get down on the floor.
- If the officer tells me to do the hokey pokey, I'll turn myself around, because that's what it's all about.

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What if...

• You saw this man shooting at the scene where you were dispatched for a shooting attack in progress.



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What if...

• You saw this man shooting at the scene where you were dispatched for a shooting attack in progress.



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What if...

- Sunday, March 13, 2016
- Officer Jacai Colson
- Call was for ambush attack near/in front of police station
- Officers arriving on scene engaged shooter.
- Ambush and chaos had been planned by three brothers, one of whom was expected to die during the incident - which they recorded. The three Ford brothers were later arrested.



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Bad Guy vs Good Guy Behaviors

- Method of dress:
 - Sometimes "tactical" wear – black, gray or dark color.
 - Hoodies can be common
 - Hats – not in uniform position (angled, canted, backward)
- Holsters?
- Backpacks?
- Chest "tactical" rigs?
- Equipment vests?

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Bad Guy vs Good Guy Behaviors

- How many weapons?
 - One rifle (or long gun) and one handgun are common for LE on-duty
 - One handgun is common for off-duty LE or legally armed citizen
 - Do you know an officer who carries two weapons off-duty?
 - Do you know an officer who keeps a rifle or long gun in their personal vehicle for potential emergency response?
- What does an off-duty lieutenant getting out of their POV, grabbing a rifle out of their trunk look like?

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Bad Guy vs Good Guy Behaviors

- **Body positioning and presentation**
 - Stance, grip and sight alignment are three parts of basic marksmanship all officers are taught.
 - What does an active shooter criminal look like as they present a weapon?
 - Is there trigger discipline?
 - Is there muzzle control?
 - Is the weapon up in line of vision and seeking targets? Or is it suppressed while the head is on a swivel?
 - Is the person seeking cover? Or in a hunting posture?
 - Is the person in a protective position of others?

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Bad Guy vs Good Guy Behaviors



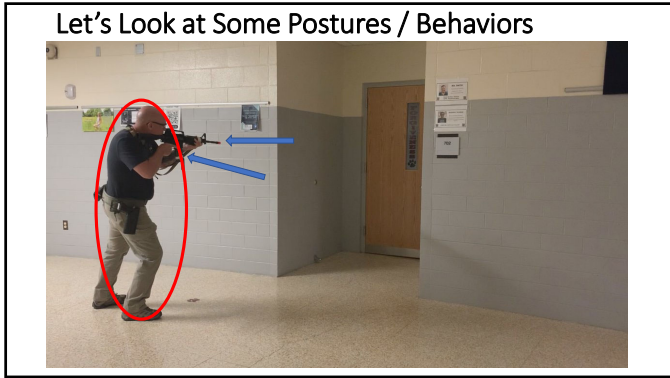
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Behavior Observation and Evaluation

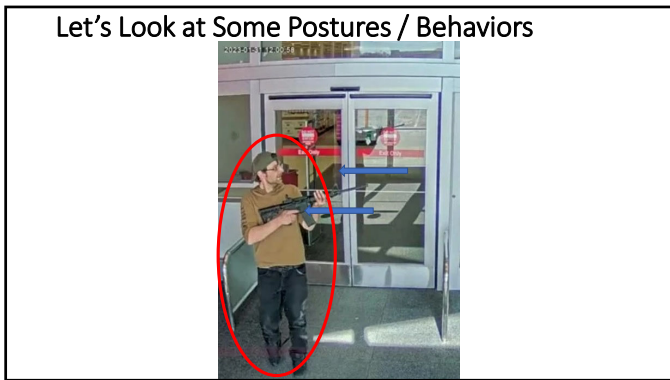
- We have to slow down **JUST ENOUGH** to ensure that we're not engaging "good guys."
- Some law enforcement taught to yell, "BLUE!" repeatedly if encountered with force off-duty.
- Some law enforcement taught to cross wrists above head if told to, "Put your hands up!"
- If a person is holstering their handgun, can it be misinterpreted as a motion to engage?



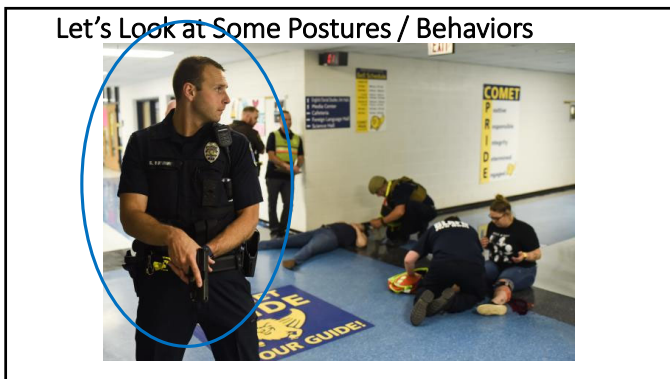
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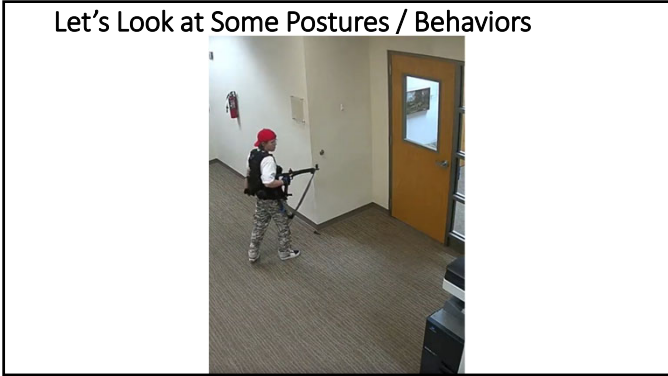
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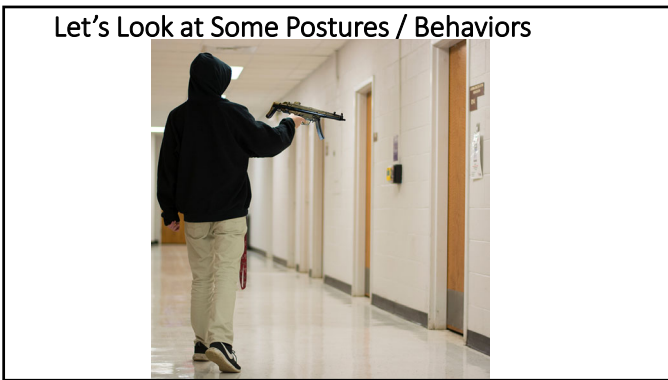
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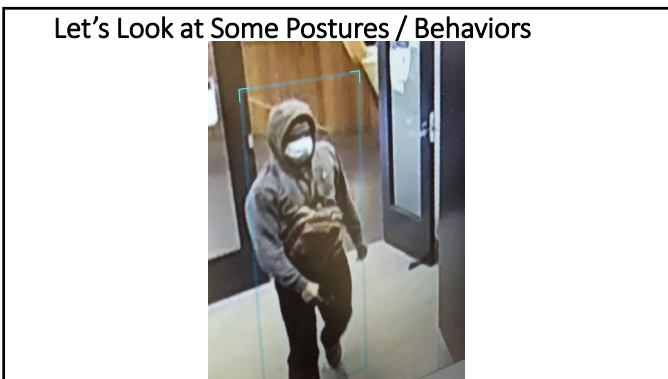
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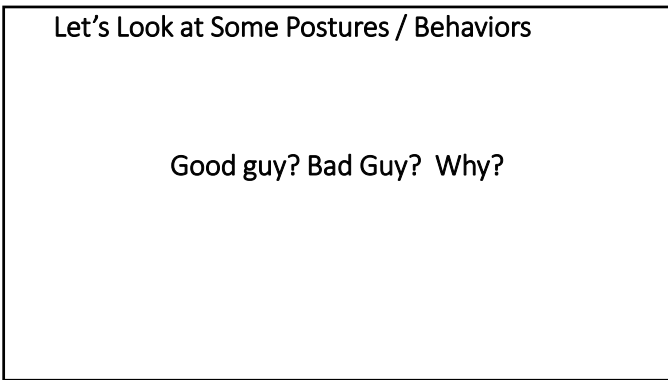
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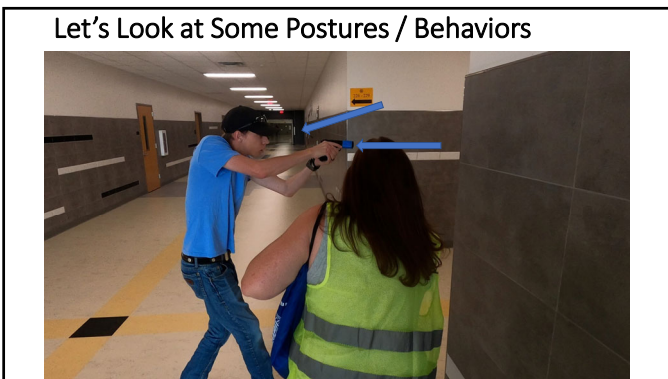
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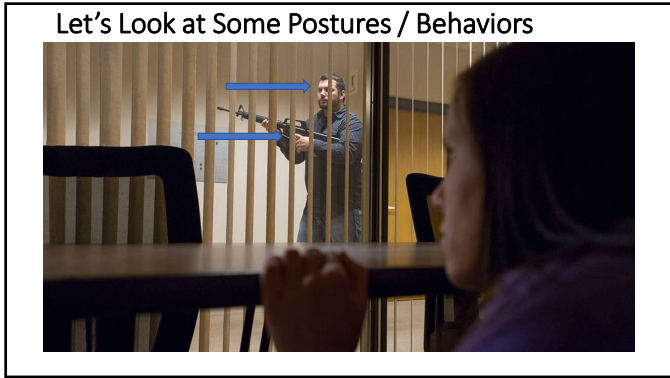
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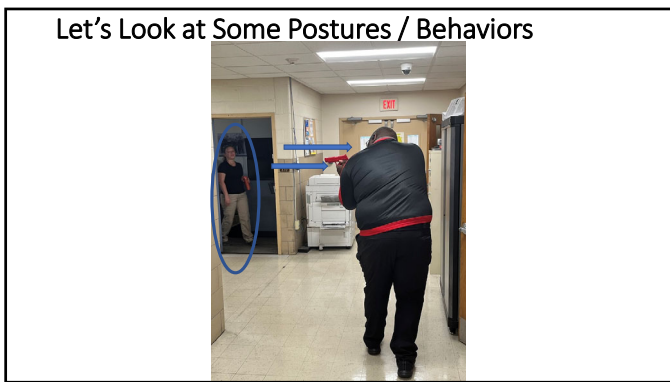
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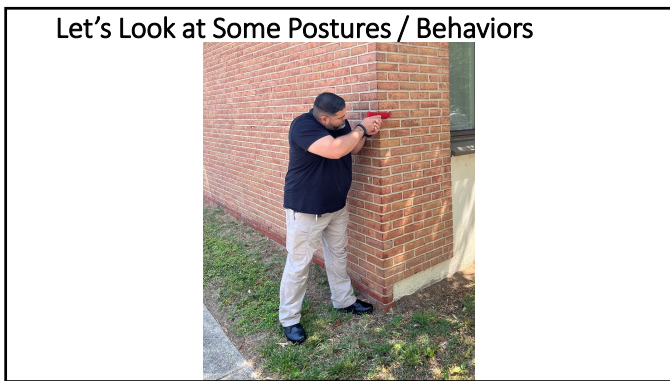
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Let's Look at Some Postures / Behaviors



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Let's Look at Some Postures / Behaviors



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Immediate Event Area

- If you are plainclothes / off-duty in the immediate area of the attack, taking action to attempt neutralization, what will responding uniformed officers see? What is your perception and response to commands?
- If you are the uniformed officer(s) responding to an active shooter event, in the immediate area of shots fired, and observe an armed non-uniformed individual, what is your action?

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“Inner Perimeter”

- If you are moving toward an event area and encounter armed non-uniformed people leaving the area, what’s your response?
- If you are off-duty / out of uniform and extracting yourself or others from a danger area, you encounter uniformed officers, what is your action?

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“Outer Perimeter”

- Outside the threat area, you encounter someone who is legally armed, weapon is holstered, what’s your action to them?
- You respond to an event location, not in uniform but armed, weapon holstered. On approach you...

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Application to Off-Duty and Concerns

- Overlap of views, perceptions, applications is obvious.
- Off-duty officers, not in uniform, in any public venue where an attack occurs, have to be aware of perceptions of responding officers.
 - Call 9-1-1 (if possible.)
 - Give self description.
 - Stay on the line (if possible.)
 - Identify self (BLUE! POLICE!) or have weapon holstered upon uniforms arrival.
- Engage shooter(s) as necessary.

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Wrap Up and Final Comments

- We have to be aware of the possibility of legally armed non-threats in and near active shooter events.
- We have to be aware of potential actions of uniformed officers responding if we are off-duty / not uniformed and in/near active shooter event.
- Responsible professional and training organizations for concealed carriers are advising them how to act if they find themselves in such circumstance. Drop or holster weapon. Obey ALL commands without pause.

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Wrap Up and Final Comments

**Thank you for your
time and attention.**

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