

The Pathway to Targeted Violence

Virginia State Police
Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management Team

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Objectives

- *The path individuals take when moving toward committing an act of targeted violence*
- *How Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management (BTAM) teams use this knowledge*

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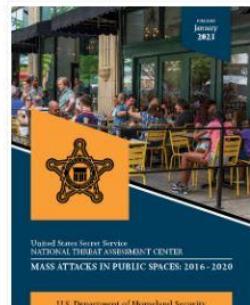
Targeted Violence



Violence that is predatory, premeditated, planned, predictive and directed at a specific individual, group, location, or institution.

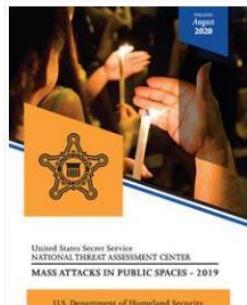
Targeted violence is not impulsive or reactive.

Mass Attacks



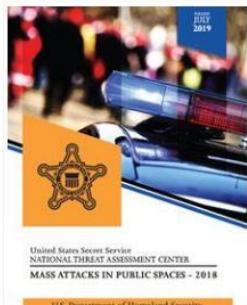
JAN 2023

Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016-2020



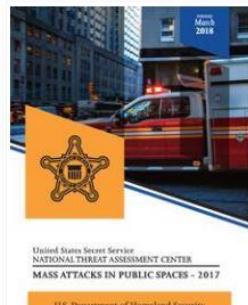
AUG 2020

Mass Attacks in Public Spaces - 2019



JUL 2019

Mass Attacks in Public Spaces - 2018

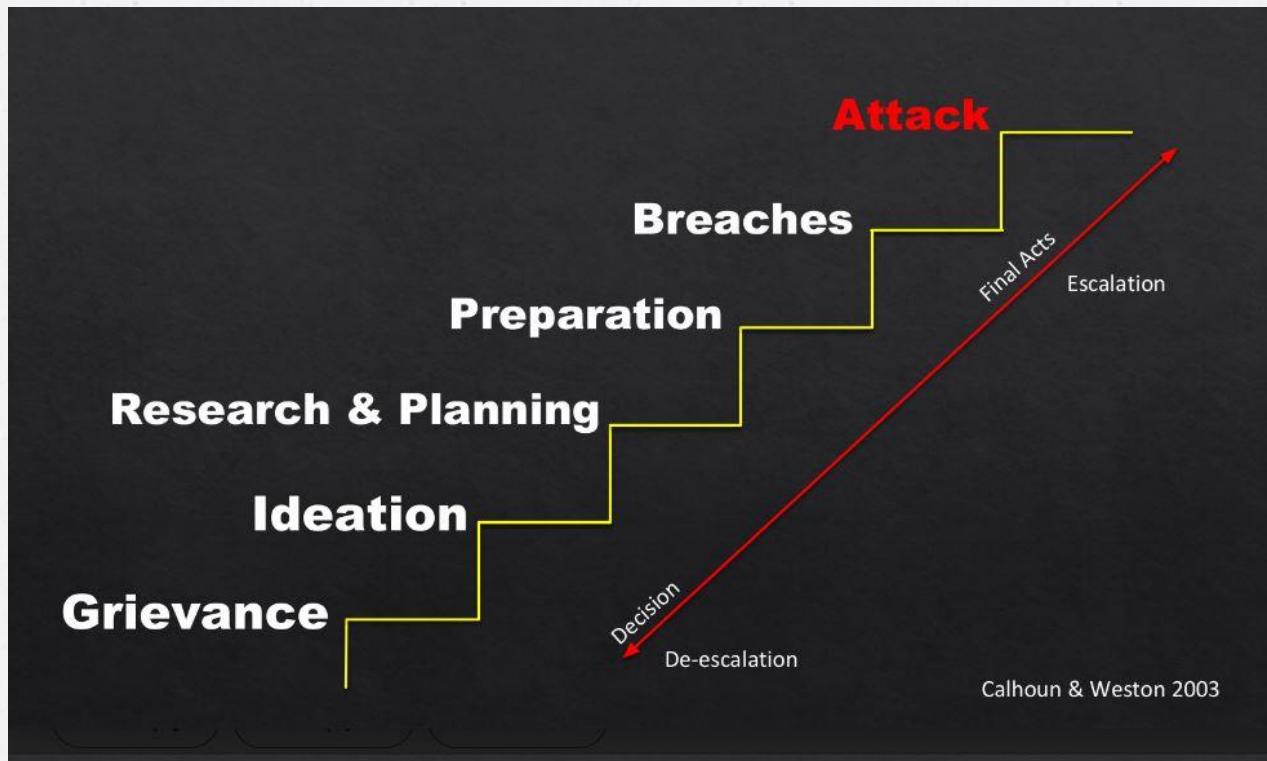


MAR 2018

Mass Attacks in Public Spaces - 2017

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The Pathway to Targeted Violence



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The Beginning

Grievance / Injustice



Real or Perceived

- o Personal
- o Political
- o Religious
- o Racial / Ethnic
- o Environmental

* Usually a combination of several

- Grievance Shopping
- Adopted Grievance

Ideation / “Cause”



Obsessive Thoughts

- o Violence is acceptable
- o Radicalization
- o All Consuming
- o The desire has formed

Steadily Escalating...

Research / Planning



Intent has formed

- o Who?
- o What?
- o Where?
- o When?
- o How?

***Past attacks**

Preparation



Psychologically Ready

- o End of Life
- o Gathering items & developing skills
- o Manifesto
- o Change in habits
- o Happy
- o Rehearse

Almost...

Breach / Probing



- o ***Can I get in?***
- o ***Approach behaviors***

Attack



Missed our chance

Case Study



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Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

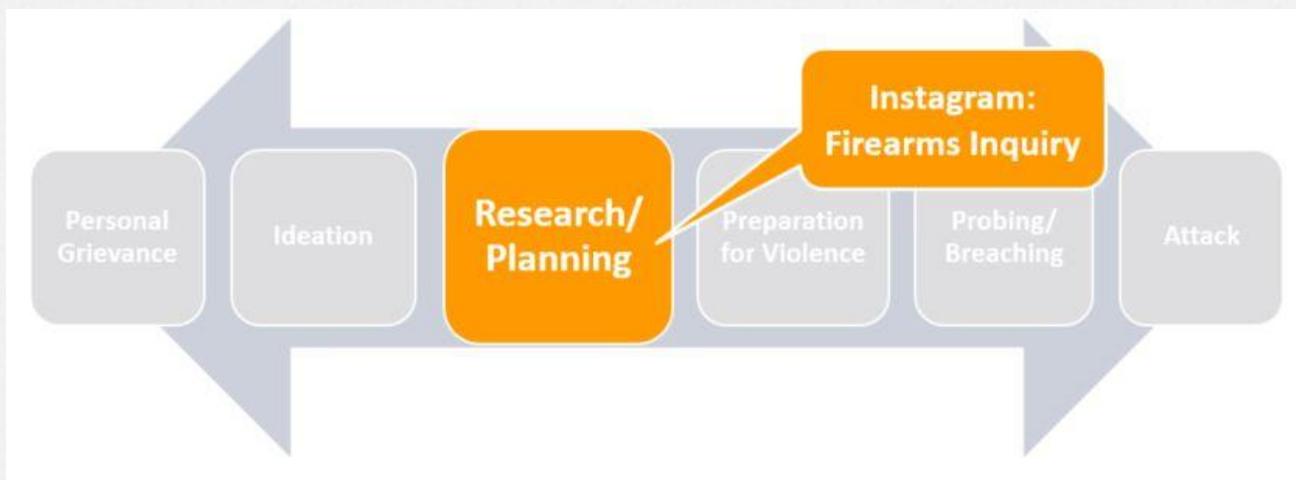


Nikolas Cruz

02/14/2018

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Cruz's Path



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Cruz Getting Close



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Cruz Getting Closer



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Cruz's Attack



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History Lesson



1998

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Virginia is #1

2008



The Commonwealth legislates the creation of threat assessment teams in all higher education institutions receiving state funds.

2013



Virginia expands this mandate to all K-12 public schools.

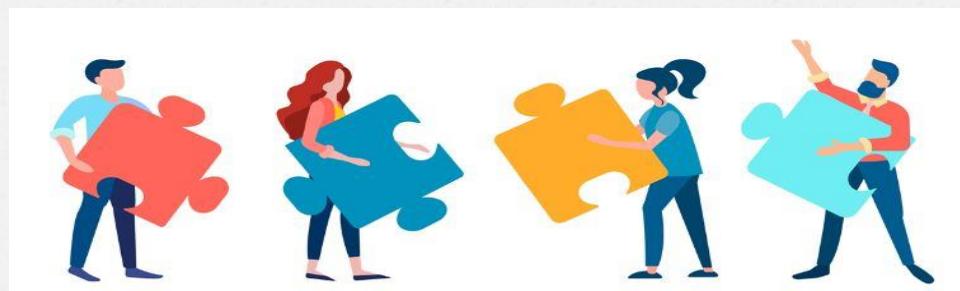
2023



Required in schools in 18 states

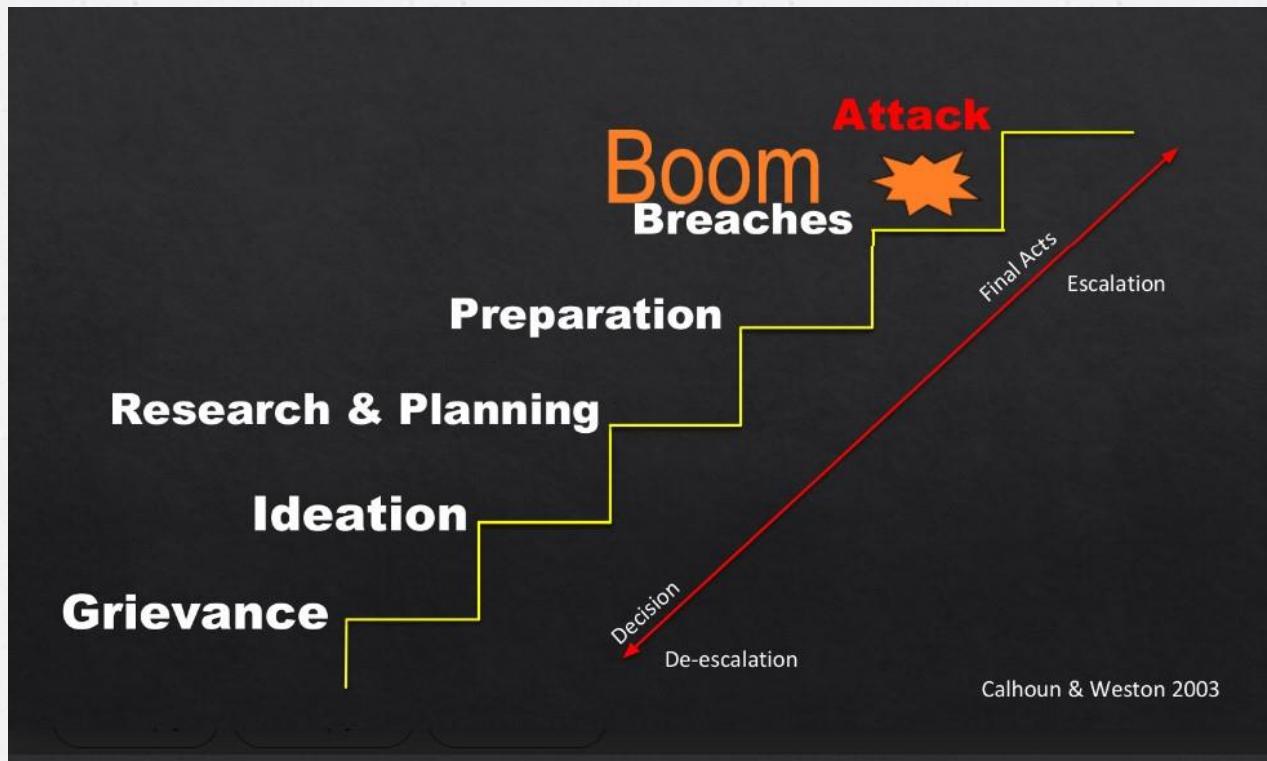
Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management (BTAM)

- Systematic
- Proactive
- Fact-based
- Multidisciplinary Team
- Identify – Investigate – Assess - Manage
- Focuses on BEHAVIOR



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Where do we fit in?



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Summary

- The pathway to targeted violence has different and distinct stages.
- BTAM strives to PREVENT acts of targeted violence.
- It is possible to intervene prior to an attack.