



POLICE DEPARTMENT
ACTIVE ASSAILANT
RESPONSE

OPERATIONAL
PROCEDURE #481

Responsible Executive:
Chief of Police
Responsible Office:
Vice President for Public Safety
Approved by:
Dr. Branville G. Bard Jr.
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Policy Statement

An unfortunate reality that educational institutions face is the potential for an active assailant on campus. Over the last decade, several institutions of higher education have endured the trauma of such an event. The Johns Hopkins Police Department (JHPD) recognizes that immediate action is required to save as many lives as possible by any means during an incident involving an active assailant or assailants presenting a deliberate, ongoing deadly threat to other persons on Johns Hopkins campuses. To prepare for a potential active assailant, the JHPD must have a comprehensive agency response plan for active shooter and active assailant situations.

During situations where a suspect is reasonably likely to employ ongoing deadly force on an indiscriminate basis or with multiple victims, JHPD officers shall take immediate action to prevent further injuries or loss of life. This Directive applies to all situations where there is an active assailant or assailants posing an ongoing deadly threat to multiple persons and there exists the potential for mass casualties on Johns Hopkins campuses, to include, but not limited to, those from bladed weapons, firearms, vehicles, explosives, or any other means.

Who Is Governed by This Policy

All personnel, including sworn, nonsworn, and contractual or voluntary persons in service with the JHPD, are governed by this Directive.

Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to establish guidelines and procedures for the immediate response by JHPD officers to any threat involving an active assailant, shooter, and/or similar terrorist incident. The JHPD response to all other critical or emergency events, including the establishment of unified command, incident management, and continuity of operations is governed by JHPD Directive #480, Critical Incident Response & Management.

Policy

First responding JHPD officers have the authority and responsibility to immediately engage any active assailant, shooter, and/or person actively engaged in an act of terrorism who poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to others. The goal of the JHPD intervention in an active assailant incident is to take instant action, using all lawful and necessary means to stop the assailant, save lives, and prevent serious injuries. Additional goals of responding JHPD officers include but may not be limited to providing medical assistance and shelter to victims, securing a perimeter, and preserving the crime scene for further investigation.

Core Principles

- I. **Preservation of Life:** An incident involving an active assailant can result in a number of casualties in a short period of time, generally before tactical officers or other emergency responders can even be summoned. However, swift but calculated action by even one or two officers can result in the preservation of life.
- II. **Rapid Intervention:** JHPD officers must take immediate action to locate and stop an active assailant, without hesitation or waiting for additional resources. Despite this logistical disadvantage, it has been recognized that even one or two officers can make a difference in the outcome of shootings and other violent actions by taking immediate action.

Procedures

Members of the JHPD will respond to an active assailant in accordance with the JHPD's active assailant training protocols and procedures. Because the disclosure of the JHPD's active assailant training and procedures could jeopardize the security of Johns Hopkins facilities, facilitate the planning of an active assailant or terrorist attack, and endanger the lives and physical safety of JHPD members and the Johns Hopkins community, they are not publicly available, in accordance with MD Code, General Provisions, § 4-352.

Policy Enforcement

Enforcement	JHPD managers and supervisors are responsible for enforcing this Directive. Violations of this Directive, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action.
Reporting Violations	Suspected violations of this Directive should be reported to the Office of the Chief of Police.

Related Resources

University Policies and Documents
Administrative Procedure #221, Media Communications Administrative Procedure #222, Clery Act Compliance Operational Procedure #402, Use of Force Operational Procedure #480, Critical Incident Response & Management
External Documentation
Police Department Forms and Systems

Contacts

Subject Matter	Office Name	Telephone Number	Email/Web Address
Policy Clarification and Interpretation	Policy Management	(667)306-8618	jhpdpolicyinquiry@jh.edu