



Security Review Working Group

Community Engagement And Education

Session I

11:30 a.m.

Session II

5:30 p.m.



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Introduction

Welcome, everyone!

My name is Phillip D. Morse, and I bring 28 years of a career in Federal Law Enforcement. Appointed Chief of Police – U.S. Capitol Police from 2006 to 2012, where I provided leadership and oversight for 2,400 sworn and civilian personnel.

I have an extensive background in threat assessment (people and facilities), Emergency Preparedness, Critical Incident Response, and Emergency Management.

For the past 12 years, I have been working proudly with the American University Police Department, furthering my commitment to safety and security.



Introduction

My name is Matthew Verderosa, and I have 34 years of experience in Federal Law Enforcement. I was appointed Chief of Police of the U.S. Capitol Police from 2016 to 2019, where I was responsible for securing the U.S. Capitol Complex, its members, staff, and the public.

I have considerable experience in Patrol, Investigations, Threat Assessment, Emergency Preparedness, Critical Incident Response, and Emergency Planning and Administration.

For the past five years, I have been working in Risk Management, providing global safety risk mitigation, emergency preparedness planning, and security briefings to our campus community.

Main Topics of Discussion

1

AUPD Current State:
Jurisdiction and Authority

2

10-year strategic approach to violence prevention (Detect, Deter, Prevent, Respond, and Mitigate)

3

AU Crime Statistics

4

Emergency Management and Preparedness

AUPD Jurisdiction and Authority

AUPD is a licensed private police department through the District of Columbia's Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP).

Officers are Campus Special Police Officers (CSPO), commissioned by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

CSPOs have arrest jurisdiction and authority on property owned, operated, and leased by the university.

This authority is derived from D.C. LAW 11-63 "College and University Campus Security Amendment Act of 1995".

University Police Department

- Currently, there are 40 sworn officers and supervisors. All sworn personnel must meet the hiring standards required by DC Municipal Regulations Title (6) Chapter (11).
- 12-Week Academy – The Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area Campus Public Safety Institute (CPSI) was established to train and certify university campus special police officers to perform law enforcement services at universities within the District of Columbia.
- 12-Week Field Training Program at AU – Standardized training program that helps newly assigned officers learn the skills and responsibilities needed to work in a university environment, with an emphasis on a "guardian" verses "warrior" approach.
- Crisis Intervention Certified – The American University Department has adopted the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program intended to provide officers with the skills necessary to deal effectively with persons of diminished mental capacity and to provide professional assistance and resources to these individuals.
- Sworn officers must successfully complete a full background check every two years in order to maintain their commissions.



AUPD Current State

AUPD officers currently are trained in and carry less-than-lethal chemical and impact weapons.

The chemical weapon is Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray which is an inflammatory agent (a compound that irritates the eyes to cause a burning sensation, pain, and temporary blindness).

The impact weapon is the Armament Systems and Procedure (ASP) baton. The ASP expandable baton is an effective and widely deployed intermediate and less-than-lethal law enforcement weapon that has been used for decades. The ASP expandable baton is used for self-defense and gaining compliance.

AUPD officers are trained in de-escalation techniques and follow the MPD Use of Force Policy where applicable.



Strategic Plan Content

Beginning in 2012, AU invested heavily in increasing physical security and emergency response and management protocols across the university. These actions were taken as an overall risk and threat assessment process that identified opportunities to increase the safety and security of the AU community.

The overarching security strategy was based on prevention and a security posture of threats and risks that could impact the university adversely. The AUPD and Office of Risk Management created a Strategic Plan in 2013 to address the evolving security and risk management needs on campus. The plan was in place from 2013 – 2017 and revised and updated in 2017 – 2020. These plans created a framework to make strategic decisions on the scope and methodologies of safety, security, and risk management initiatives across all operational elements of the university in support of its core mission. Ten years later we continue to assess and enhance safety and security programs adjusting to the threat environment as needed.

Ten-Year Strategic Plan Content

During the development of the strategic plan, an “all hazards approach” guided prioritization of enhancements and other initiatives. It is important to note that a guiding factor in many of the preventive and response protocols that were implemented was the result of AUPD Officers not being able to respond to or otherwise mitigate situations involving individuals armed with lethal weapons. Also, we recognize that armed police officers on university property do not prevent gun violence or other types of violent crimes from occurring.

Most recent high-profile events like Virginia Tech, UVA, and Michigan State remind us that armed police departments at universities/colleges did not stop the shooting from occurring, although response time is a significant consideration. The most effective approach is to deter and prevent violence in advance.



TRIGGER WARNING

Since 2013, the Following Strategic Approach to Detect, Deter, and Prevent Has Been Implemented (1 of 2)

Residence Hall Security: All residence halls are locked 24/7. Duress alarms are located at the main entrance for staff to alert AUPD in case of an emergency. Main entrances are controlled by Computer Coordinated Universal Retrieval Entry (CCURE), an authorized card access control technology, and each entrance is monitored by cameras. We added technology at the front desks to validate each user by picture identification and verify their authorization level.

Remote Campus Lockdown and Classroom Lockdown: We invested in technology and hardware to enhance the ability to lock down all building access points and internal access doors remotely. If a threat is determined on campus, the AUPD Communications Center can lock buildings quickly to prevent the threat from entering and / or spreading.

Law Enforcement Partners: AUPD is connected to local and national intelligence through the DC Fusion Center. AUPD, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), conducted a critical infrastructure assessment and an infrastructure visualization platform (IVP) of all AU campus buildings. We will update our critical infrastructure assessment this fall.

Since 2013, the Following Strategic Approach to Detect, Deter, and Prevent Has Been Implemented (2 of 2)

Physical Security Standards: University Safety and Security Services (USSS) established security and emergency notification standards for all university buildings.

Radio Systems: AUPD invested in an encrypted radio system to enable communications when commercial systems fail during a crisis. The system allows officers to communicate at 95% coverage in all sixty buildings and on the grounds.

Mass Emergency Notification: American University implemented mass emergency communication through Rave. Rave is the leading mass notification system enabling governments, organizations, institutions, and schools to send messages quickly and reliably, including desktop notifications.

Camera Coverage: USSS expanded camera coverage of building entrances and vehicular and pedestrian access points to the campus buildings and grounds. Cameras are primarily in support of emergency management, investigations, and daily situational awareness.

University Police Partnerships and Resources

- **National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium (NTIC)** – The NTIC works in partnership with fusion centers in Maryland and Virginia, as well as with the federal government, to conduct regional analysis and share information on terrorism, crime, and natural hazards.
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Computer-Based Assessment Tool (CIVA)** – Provides immersive imagery, geospatial, and hypermedia data of critical facilities, surrounding areas, transportation routes, and integrates building threat assessments.
- **Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)** – FBI created the Campus Liaison Initiative in 2008. Partnership with University law enforcement offices and administrators to better communication and collaboration to enhance safety and security on college campuses.
- **Metropolitan Police Department (DC MPD)** – provides an active shooter & armed threat response to campus. Provides other law enforcement services upon request as outlined in MPD General Order HCS –804.1.
- **DC Fire and EMS** – Provides critical incident response and medical and fire services to campus.

Crime Statistics: Prior Weapon Incidents on AU Campus 2013 – 2023

The following incidents involved individuals brandishing, displaying, or otherwise possessing firearms or other deadly weapons that resulted in a campus-wide lockdown being initiated.

- March 2013 – An individual entered the Eagles Nest and displayed a handgun to a contract employee during a domestic argument. The individual fled campus and there were no reported injuries.
- December 2013 – AUPD received a report of an individual on campus armed with a handgun. The investigation determined the individual was an off-duty Police Officer.
- July 2018 – MPD notified AUPD that a man with a gun was observed walking towards the AU campus from New Mexico Avenue, NW. The subject was never located.
- April 3, 2023 – An individual entered campus and, while stealing a scooter, threatened to stab the student who confronted him before fleeing the scene. Arrests were made at a later date when the subject returned.

Recent Incident Involving Weapons/Threats that Resulted in a Timely Warning to the Community

April 27, 2024: It was reported that while on an AU shuttle bus at Nebraska Avenue and Ward Circle, an individual brandished a weapon in their direction. AUPD confirmed the report and initially observed a subject off campus matching the description given by the reporting students. When the subject began walking back towards campus, AUPD initiated a lockdown and instructed the AU community to shelter in place. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) was contacted while AUPD continued to track the subject. After MPD apprehended the individual, he was arrested and taken into custody. At that point, AUPD notified the community with an all-clear and lifted the lockdown.

Threat Assessment on People of Concern

2020 – 2023: 58 threat assessments were completed regarding people of concern. A threat assessment is a process that evaluates a person's behavior to determine if they pose a threat of violence or other dangerous behavior. Threat assessments are based on facts and are designed to identify, gather, assess, and manage potential threats. The goal is to improve safety and intervene, if necessary.

Source: AUPD AUTOMATED REPORTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ARMS)

Additional Incidents of AUPD and/or MPD Responses to AU Campus for Weapon Violations 2013 – 2023

- A total of 35 weapons violations involving AU affiliates, non-affiliates, or contractors. Weapons were used and/or confiscated – five resulted in arrest.
- 27 of the 35 incidents occurred on-campus, and eight off-campus incidents have occurred contiguous to AU property.
- The types of weapons used and or confiscated include firearms, prop rifles, prop handguns, tasers, scissors, knives, machetes, brass knuckles, and ammunition.
- Types of crimes associated with the documented weapons violations include robberies, attempted suicides, drug distribution or possession, assaults, and assault with a deadly weapon (hate crime). Also, confiscation of prohibited weapons occurred as a result of Housing's health and safety inspections of residence hall rooms.

University Safety Programs

Threat Assessment and Management Violence Prevention Program

Team committed to the safety and well-being of the university community through education, communication, planning, assessment, and management towards achieving the goal of mitigating behavioral threats (internal and external).

Members include:

- Dean of Students (CareNetwork)
- AU Counseling Services
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Provost Office
- Police Department

The goals of the team are:

- Assess, Refer, Support, and Monitor
- Law Enforcement Intervention (Judicial System support through US Attorney's Office)



Criminal Offenses on Campus

Comparison of Washington, DC Institutions

2008 – 2022

Market Comparison Institution	Men	Women	Institution Size (2022)	Murder/ Non-negligent manslaughter*	Aggravated assault	Sex offenses – Forcible	Robbery	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Arson
American University	5,105	8,780	13,885		2	5	2	33	3	
George Washington University	9,774	16,165	25,939		2	12	2	53	1	
Georgetown University	9,469	11,515	20,984		1	8		68	5	1
Howard University	3,794	9,092	12,886		24	6	14	92	19	
Catholic University	2,267	2,701	4,968		1	2	5	3	10	1
Gallaudet University	546	776	1,322	1	1	5		15	3	

*In addition to the above offenses, Clery reports include Negligent manslaughter, Rape, Fondling, Sex offenses - Non-forcible, Incest, and Statutory rape. Only categories showing a count of one or greater are shown.

Five-Year Metro Police Status Around Campus

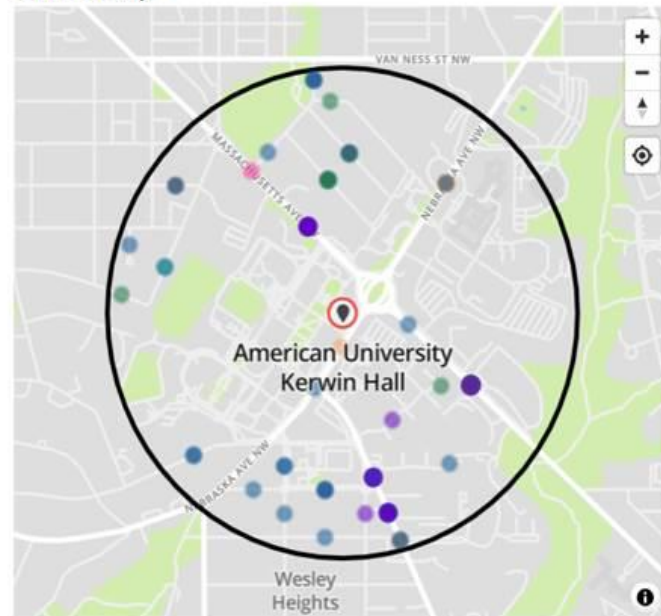
I want to explore all crimes over the past 5 years near a location: American University Kerwin Hall within 2000 feet

Please Note: Crime data will only include data up to midnight from the previous day

Totals

	Previous Period	Search Dates	
Total Crime	225	122	↓
All Violent Crime	10	12	↑
Homicide	0	0	↔
Sex Abuse	6	2	↓
Assault w/Dangerous Weapon	1	1	↔
Robbery	3	9	↑
All Property Crime	215	110	↓
Burglary	29	8	↓
Theft f/Auto	67	36	↓
Theft/Other	103	54	↓
Motor Vehicle Theft	16	12	↓
Arson	0	0	↔

Crime Map



- Burglary
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Theft f/Auto
- Theft/Other
- Assault w/Dangerous Weapon
- Robbery
- Sex Abuse

In Summary

All crimes went down ↓ by 103 near American University Kerwin Hall during the past 5 years when compared to the previous 5 years

Your search

📅 9/3/2019 - 9/3/2024 12:00 am

● all

📍 near American University Kerwin Hall

Compared to

📅 9/3/2014 - 9/3/2019 12:00 am

● all

📍 near American University Kerwin Hall

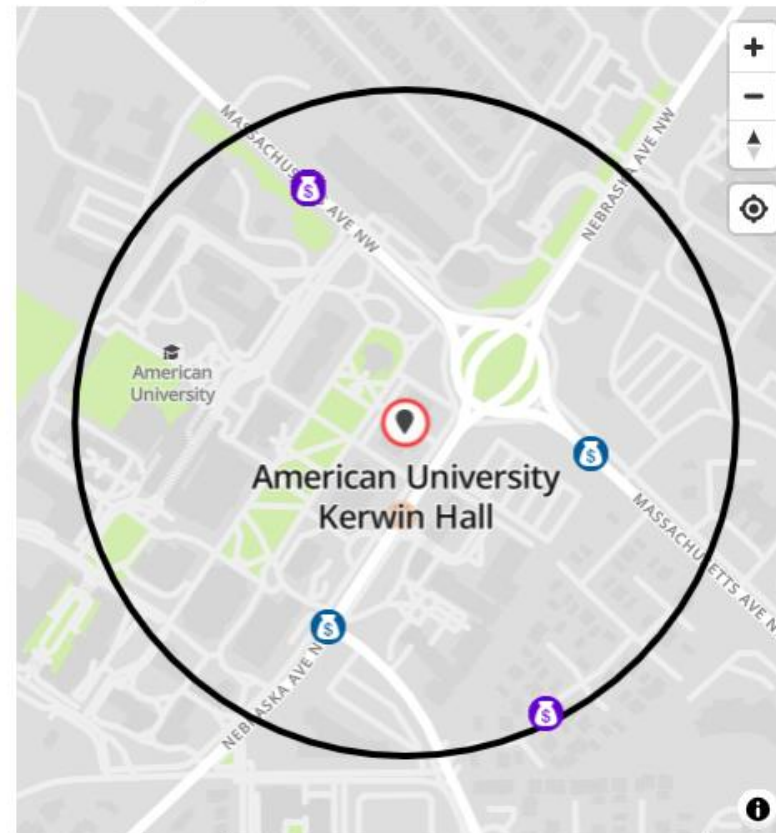
Five-Year Metro Police Data

Within 1,000 feet of Kerwin Hall

Totals

Total Crime	18
All Violent Crime	2
Homicide	0
Sex Abuse	1
Assault w/Dangerous Weapon	0
Robbery	1
All Property Crime	16
Burglary	1
Theft f/Auto	3
Theft/Other	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Arson	0

Crime Map



Theft f/Auto Theft/Other

In Summary

All crimes went down ↓ by **34** near American University Kerwin Hall during the past 5 years when compared to the previous 5 years

Your search	Compared to
9/16/2019 - 9/16/2024 12:00 am	9/16/2014 - 9/16/2019 12:00 am
<input checked="" type="radio"/> all	<input checked="" type="radio"/> all
near American University Kerwin Hall	near American University Kerwin Hall

Since 2013, the Following Strategic Approach to *Detect, Deter, and Prevent* has been Implemented:

Emergency Preparedness: It is the mission of American University to respond to an emergency in a safe, effective, and timely manner. To accomplish this, we rely on the support of community members to follow appropriate safety procedures during emergency situations. We have provided each academic, office space, and collaborative work area on campus with emergency quick reference guides to assist community members on how to respond to an emergency. Also, we have posted all procedures and training on the American University website, to include a semesterly USSS resources memorandum to the community.

We provide access to "Run, Hide, Fight" training, including [videos](#) that present the basics of the program created by the Department of Homeland Security. The training provides community members with the steps to follow in an active shooter situation. We follow up with safety and security procedures with the community, participating in more than 100 engagements per year.

Since 2013, the Following Strategic Approach to *Detect, Deter, and Prevent* has been Implemented:

AUPD Active Shooter Armed Intruder Policy: Members of the Metropolitan Police Department are trained and equipped to respond to an emergency of this nature. The police will evaluate the situation to determine the best course of action for the safety of the American University community. MPD will be responsible for all tactical operations and AUPD officers will provide assistance. The immediate response of the first armed officers on the scene is to take tactical measures to find and stop the threat to the community.

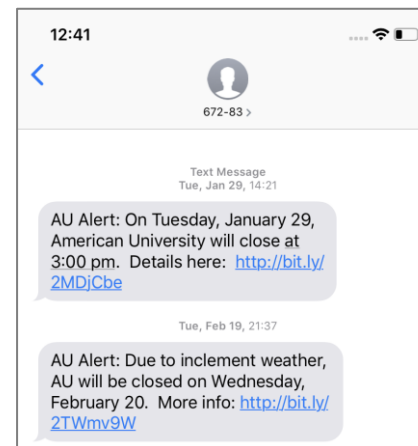
It is AUPD policy to assist armed police and emergency medical service personnel in the protection of life according to established legal protocol. The primary role of AUPD Officers responding to an active shooter /multiple casualty incident is to facilitate the rapid response of emergency response personnel to stop the threat and save lives.

It is AUPD policy that once communications personnel are notified of an active shooter/shots fired/person with a gun on campus, the communications staff will immediately initiate the following counter measures:

1. Activate the emergency lockdown button.
2. Alert the community through Rave emergency messaging.
3. Call MPD 2D for on-duty response using the MPD radio and by calling 911.

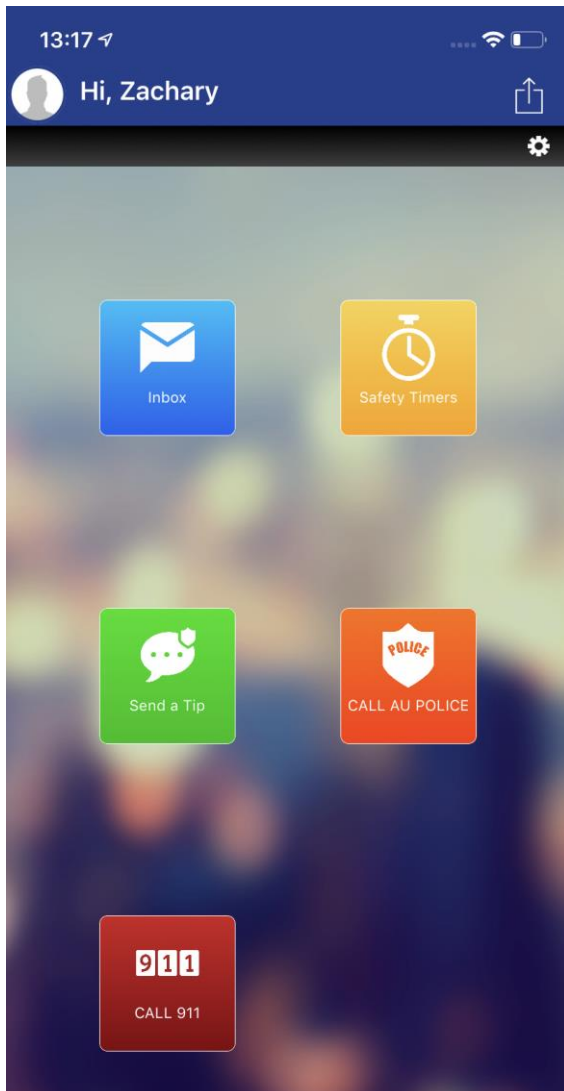
Emergency Communications Enhancements to the Ten-Year Plan

- Communicate warnings and instructions via text message, email, social media, indoor Alertus beacons, Alertus computer software, and outdoor speakers
- Notifications sent for critical incidents such as natural disasters, fires, gas leaks, and active shooter situations. Community members may also opt-in for non-emergency alerts
- AU students, faculty, and staff are automatically subscribed to AU Alerts
- Visitors and parents can text AUALERTS to 226787 to receive text notifications



Emergency Communications Enhancements to the Ten-Year Plan

Rave Guardian Personal Safety App



- Transforms cell phone into a personal safety device
- Panic Button: direct, immediate connection to the University Police dispatchers with GPS location and personal profile information.
- Personal Guardians: students can identify friends, roommates, and family as “Guardians” along with University Police. If students set timer and do not disable it before the end-time, Guardians will be alerted.
- Available on the Android and Apple App Store, search “Rave Guardian” or visit: american.edu/police/Crime-Prevention-Programs



Global Safety

As part of AU's commitment to expanding our protective role, we realize that international travel is an integral part of the AU educational experience and mission. Due to the unique nature of international travel and the destinations that AU faculty, staff, and students visit, the Office of Global Safety (OGS) developed a process to assess risk so that informed decisions can be made when planning and approving international travel.

The OGS staff assess and review requested destinations and provide risk mitigation planning by leveraging available intelligence, providing and discussing risk assessments, providing and supporting organization pre-travel briefings, and advising on personal security issues. Additionally, OGS coordinates the AU response during critical incidents abroad; provides ongoing intelligence monitoring; and provides liaison with private and government entities, including the U.S. Department of State, intelligence providers, regional partners, and partners in higher education. We can communicate with travelers and groups abroad and conduct periodic check-ins when travelers are in high-risk destinations.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C