



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Charlotte Field Office
6302 Fairview Road, Suite 400
Charlotte, NC 28210
704.442.8370

May 24, 2019

NC Superintendents
The NC Department of Public Instruction
Center for Safer Schools
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Sir or Madam,

On June 25, 2019, you and members of your staff are invited to attend a workshop on the prevention of school violence hosted by the US Secret Service (USSS) Charlotte Field Office at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Training Academy, 1770 Shopton Road in Charlotte. The half-day workshop will feature experts from the USSS' National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) which recently completed a study of prior school attacks in the United States to help prevent future ones from occurring. Based on the NTAC report and findings, the USSS used its threat assessment expertise to develop a threat assessment process for schools to enable the identification, assessment, and management of students who may pose a risk of violence. The free workshop is the part of the USSS national roll-out of the study titled "*Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model – An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*" and is one of the first of its kind in the United States. Members of the law enforcement community, school officials, mental health professionals, elected officials, and other interested stakeholders are invited to attend. Space at the venue is very limited. Please RSVP by June 10, 2019 to USSSCLTEvents@uss.s.dhs.gov.

Background on the Research

The National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) conducts research, training, and consultation on threat assessment and the prevention of targeted violence in a variety of contexts, including attacks directed at K-12 schools and colleges. NTAC consists of a unique blend of academic researchers and operational law enforcement professionals focused on a common goal of developing accurate and useful information about prior school attacks that can help prevent future ones from occurring. NTAC's findings indicate that incidents of targeted violence in schools were rarely impulsive; that the students who perpetrated these attacks usually planned out the attack in advance – with planning behavior that was oftentimes observable; and that, prior to most attacks, other students knew that the attack was to occur. Taken together, these findings suggest that preventing future school attacks is possible.

The USSS has taken these findings one step further by setting forth a process that provides actionable steps for schools to develop threat assessment teams for the purpose of identifying, assessing, and managing students who may pose a risk of violence. This process – known as threat assessment – was first pioneered by the USSS as a mechanism for investigating threats against the president of the United States and other protected officials. We have modified this threat assessment process for use by school personnel, law enforcement officials, and others with protective responsibilities in our nation's schools.

Workshop Specifics

The workshop will take place in the Administrative Building Auditorium of the Charlotte- Mecklenburg Police Academy at 1770 Shopton Road, Charlotte, NC from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive by 8:45 a.m. and be seated by 9 a.m. to allow time for check in and a prompt start of the workshop.

Topics covered will include:

- Principles of Threat Assessment;
- The Systems Approach to Threat Management;
- Key Investigative Themes;
- Identification of individuals who may pose a risk of violence;
- Assessing risk and the potential for harm;
- Management strategies to reduce the risk of violence and other unwanted outcomes; and
- Interactive Case Studies

Although we will try to accommodate everyone, space is limited by the size of the venue. If you or members of your staff are interested in attending, kindly RSVP to USSSCLTEvents@uss.s.dhs.gov by **June 10, 2019** with the **full names and titles of those who would like to attend**.

If you have any questions regarding these events, please call Special Agent Eric Traceski at 704-442-8370 for additional information.

Sincerely,



Reginald A. DeMatteis II
Special Agent in Charge
U.S. Secret Service
Charlotte Field Office