What is a Security and Vulnerability Assessment (SVA)?

The process of defining, identifying, classifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities that are specific to a physical location and recommending areas of improvement.

The goal of conducting one of these assessments is to identify gaps and mitigate soft targets for the requesting agency and to provide a comprehensive review of trends for physical safety and security.

Some baseline security categories typically assessed include:

- Mass Notification
- Intrusion Detection
- Visitor Procedures
- Key Control Procedures
- Access Control
- Video Surveillance
- Lighting around property

To identify vulnerabilities, schools both K-12 and Higher Education will work with their local law enforcement, military personnel or security professionals experienced in conducting SVAs to complete a vulnerability assessment developed by the Ohio Homeland Security. More details on the tool will be included with the grant solicitation.

These assessments will direct schools in a step-by-step process to determine their vulnerabilities. The person conducting the assessment will review any areas of improvement as well as some options for consideration with the applicant.

These options may include updates to procedures and practices (no cost) or even suggested physical security upgrades (for purchase) and are tailored based on the individual facility's vulnerabilities. These reports can then be used to justify budget requests and apply for state and federal grant opportunities.

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