***ALERRT INFORMATION BRIEF***

The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Program started in late 2001 as a collaborative effort between the San Marcos, Texas Police Department and the Hays County, Texas Sheriff's Office.  Members of a joint SWAT team initiated the training program after the Columbine High School tragedy.  The initial course was designed to teach first officers arriving on scene how to quickly find, confront and stop the active attacker.

The second year of the program, Texas State University adopted it and helped secure federal grants to offset the cost of the training being delivered throughout the country.  Grants from Bureau of Justice Assistance, VALOR, Department of Homeland Security and the State of Texas are how we fund our program.  This means the training and equipment that we provide to agencies all across the nation is free to the end-user.  All grants received and the program as a whole is managed through Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.  We fall under the Criminal Justice Department.  Being associated with TXST means we have a robust research component to everything we do.

With each passing year we watched incident after incident, studied them all and designed courses based off lessons learned and observed gaps in the response.  All these years later, we've developed over a dozen classes that help deal with basic response, TECC/TCCC medical interventions for law enforcement, breaching, solo response, open air/exterior response, civilian response and now integration of fire, EMS and law enforcement together to maximize efforts in getting critically injured stabilized and transported to definitive care as quickly as possible.  We have trained over 130,000 police, fire, EMS as well as thousands of military personnel from all branches as well as coast guard.  Over 12,000 of those are instructors whom we've certified to be able to deliver this training to their own people after we leave.

When we began working the TCCC/TECC medicine into our curriculum, we were fortunate enough to team up with Dr. Bob Mabry, who acted as our first medical director.

The early grants we received restricted us to only training state and local law enforcement only.  In Texas, in addition to the governors office grants, we worked several years off grants through the Army National Guard, training soldiers in various areas both pre and post deployment.  We actually trained quite a few military and civilian contract police at Ft. Hood.  Sergeants Munley and Todd were both students of ours and were the two involved in taking down Maj. Hassan. Our instructor cadre are experienced tactical law enforcement officers from across the nation, but most of them also have prior military service as well.  Many I know are still serving in both capacities and bring a wealth of knowledge back with them after each deployment overseas.

We have trained quite a few military units, bases and posts across the country.  In 2012 immediately after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, the FBI was tasked to find a program and team up with it to increase training capabilities across the country.  They looked at several and named us the national standard in law enforcement rapid response training.  We've had a great relationship since.  I've traveled to several countries with them to start new active shooter programs.  There are around a dozen now:  Australia, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, The Phillipines, Borneo, Germany, Tunisia, Belgium that I can name off the top of my head.

Approximately 8 years or so ago, we conducted our first conference.  It started off very law enforcement centric due to the target audience of our grants.  As time went by and our ability to expand the tent slowly began to avail itself to us, we were able to create courses and provide course offerings at our conference to a wider variety of professions.  Last year we hosted approximately 1,000 attendees and around 65 vendors.  We have numerous military personnel who attend each year as well.

This year will be the largest and best one yet.  With the inclusion of physicians and emergency management, we'll have even more stakeholders with skin the game present to create a better, more holistic approach to community preparedness and resilience.

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