

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The ALERRT Center at Texas State University has completed its 14th year in partnership with the City of San Marcos, Hays County, and the Department of Labor (Gary Job Corps Center).



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



ALERRT MISSION

To provide the best
research-based
active shooter
response training
in the nation.

ALERRT VISION

Training and research
that saves lives
and communities.

Our current, combined grant awards total more than \$17 million. We will deliver over 1,200 direct and indirect classes with this funding.

Since 2002, we have received more than \$50 million in grant funds and trained more than 100,000 law enforcement officers at no cost to the officer or agency. We have also trained more than 86,000 civilians in active shooter response training.

Our federal relationship with the Department of Justice (Bureau of Justice Assistance and FBI) has grown stronger, with year-round funding that overlaps grants, eliminating the down time between grant cycles, that was, for many years, our greatest challenge.

Texas State University is requesting permanent funding for ALERRT through the legislature, which will allow for continued training for Texas law enforcement officers and the communities they protect.

2016: THE NUMBERS

FINANCIAL

During the last three years, we have received more than \$19 Million in grant funded training dollars, which brings our program total to \$50,622,732, since 2002. We are **currently working with \$17 million** in active grant funding. We are on track to complete all of our proposed deliverables (more than **1,200 delivered courses**) within the allotted time of the current funding cycles.

TRAINING

In FY16, we have trained 25,083 law enforcement officers and 67,237 civilians in active shooter response. 10,888 students have also been trained through indirect ALERRT deliveries. (**103,208 total trained in FY16**). Since 2002, we have trained 105,581 officers and 86,565 civilians (192,146 total trained since 2002).

RESEARCH

The ALERRT research team is working on **4 research projects**, each intended to provide relevant, potentially lifesaving, best practice information for law enforcement and civilians. The Research Team has delivered panel and individual sessions at **3 national academic conferences**, submitted **3 articles** for publication, and **2 research-based grant proposals**.

COMMUNICATIONS

ALERRT has been the focus of more than **60 major media stories**, including *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, *CNN*, *the Boston Globe*, *NPR*, and more. In the last twelve months, ALERRT Center received more positive major media recognition than any other program at Texas State. The Ad Value Equivalency (AVE) for editorial placement in media, based on comparable cost of advertising for FY16 is estimated at **\$7,354,319**. (Source: Meltwater Media).

LOGISTICS

66 designated training kits are in constant rotation to support various ALERRT courses around the nation. We have 15 kits staged in different regions, from Anchorage, Alaska to Dover, Delaware, as well as Guam/Saipan, for longterm, ongoing training. Beyond ALERRT training, our facility has been used by 40 regional, state and federal agencies, for training with 444 usage days in 2016. (*This number includes days when multiple agencies reserve different parts of the range for training*).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The new ALERRT website has had more than **86,000 unique visitors** from across the nation and around the globe. We have automated and streamlined hosting requests, class scheduling, instructor assignment, student registration, and certification.

STAFF

27 employees, including 3 doctoral research assistants and 1 sub-award contractor (Hays County Sheriff's Office). **179 ALERRT Adjunct Instructors** and **314 FBI ALERRT Instructors**.

TRAINING - John Curnutt

Since ALERRT's inception, we have gone from conducting our first class in Hondo, Texas – to training in all 50 states. ALERRT has also travelled to Canada and Australia to establish new training programs. The FBI has named us as the national standard in active threat response training. Officers and military personnel from Brazil, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia have come to the United States to attend special Level 1 Train-the-Trainer classes and took the program back to their respective countries.

In New York City, the ALERRT program is full-speed ahead with our Level 1 and Level 2 classes. They are now pushing our Breaching class out to specialized units and next year we will be doing an Exterior Response to Active Shooter Events (ERASE) instructor class for the NYPD, to address the types of problem Dallas Police Department experienced in July.

The week after the Dallas officers attack, DPD asked us to roll out the ERASE class for their agency. They had adopted the Level I and Level II ALERRT classes, but did not have anything for the exterior. We will also be delivering ERASE instructor classes in Detroit and New Orleans in the aftermath of the Dallas attack. National demand for the ERASE class has exploded. Several state police agencies across the country have mandated all their personnel attend the ERASE course. Many more cities and regions are doing the same. In Texas, there is a push underway to mandate all Texas Peace Officers attend ALERRT Level 1 and ERASE. In May of 2017, we will conduct an ERASE Instructor class in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania inside the national park there.

Our Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) class is also increasing in demand. In addition to providing a life-saving game plan, this course also allows us to educate and connect with our communities in order close the gaps in between us. Renewing the partnership between law enforcement and the community is vital and is really achieved through education and outreach from law enforcement.



RESEARCH - Hunter Martaindale, Ph.D.

Our robust research division, under the direction of Dr. Hunter Martaindale, studies multiple facets of active shooter response and law enforcement best practices. Our team of doctoral students works year-round on law enforcement training based studies to determine the best safety practices for officers in high stress situations. These data can be utilized to help law enforcement administrators make policy decisions regarding their department's active shooter response protocols. An ongoing project of the ALERRT Research Team is to maintain and update active shooter data through a website: ActiveShooterData.com.

Current Research Projects:

- 21ft Rule: Assessing the long held belief that officers need 21ft of separation from a civilian to be able to safely respond if charged by the civilian.
- Blue-On-Blue: Evaluating techniques to reduce officer on officer shootings when responding to a hostile event utilize vision tracking technology.
- Weapon Identification Through Vision Training: Testing training techniques to improve law enforcement officers' ability to correctly identify the presence of a weapon in a hostile use of force situation.

- Door Locks: Testing the impact of door lock styles on civilian’s ability to secure a door in a stressful situation such as an active shooter.

Publications/Conferences:

- ALERRT’s research department attended two national conferences this year (American Society of Criminology and Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences) and hosted panels to present our current research agenda.
- Two “Tactical Research” presentations at the ALERRT conference in San Marcos, TX.
- Dr. Martaindale attended the APA Conference in Denver, CO to participate in an invited panel regarding the impact of media contagion and active shooter events.
- Submitted three articles for publication.
- Submitted two grant applications (NIJ and ASIS).

FINANCIALS - Kelly Nichols

We have received more than \$50 million in grant funds as well as additional funding from state and local law enforcement agencies (e.g. New York Police Department, Commonwealth of Virginia) for targeted training. In the first ten years, we received a total of \$31 Million in training dollars. During the last three years, we have received more than \$19 Million in training dollars.

We are currently working with \$17 million open budget in active grant funding. One of our challenges in earlier years was the “gap” time between grant awards, when we did not have funding to use for training. Today, we have overlapping grant funds, allowing for seamless delivery of training year round. We are on track to complete all of our proposed deliverables within each of the current funding cycles.

Additionally, the Protecting Our Lives through Initiating COPS Expansion (POLICE) Act was signed into law in August, 2016, enabling local law enforcement and first responders to use COPS funding for ALERRT’s integrated response training for police, fire and EMS, as well as other active shooter training.

MEDIA - Diana Hendricks

In FY16, ALERRT has been the focus of hundreds of news stories and more than 60 major media stories, including *Newsweek*, *The Atlantic*, *Wired*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, CNN, NPR, Associated Press, and more. In the last twelve months, ALERRT Center received more positive major media recognition than any other program at Texas State University, reaching more than 795 million people around the world. (Source: Meltwater Media)

In addition to news coverage, we distribute a monthly newsletter to more than 40,000 subscribers, and maintain two additional websites, DontNameThem.org and AvoidDenyDefend.org, and social media pages. Our subject matter experts have represented ALERRT at Texas State as speakers or presenters at more than 16 international, national, state, and regional conferences.

LOGISTICS - Randall Watkins

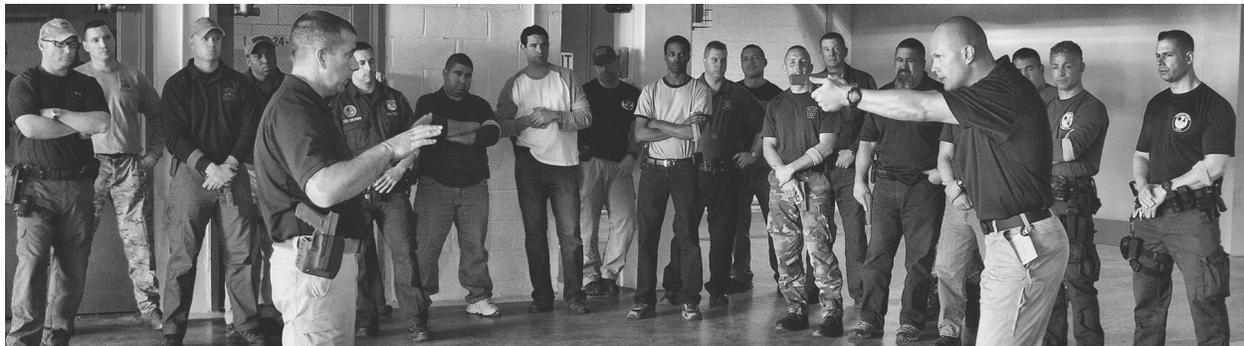
We have 66 complete training kits to support the various courses in our catalog, and are in the process of constructing 15 additional kits. We have 15 kits staged in different regions for ongoing training. These regions range from Anchorage, Alaska to Dover, Delaware, as well as Guam/Saipan.

Today, the ALERRT Range Facility (1285 William Pettus Road) includes the following:

- 25 Yard Covered Pistol Range
- Multipurpose Breaching Range (Mechanical/ Ballistic/ Explosive Breach Capable) *Refurbished September 2016*
- 450 Yard Rifle Range
- 25 Yard Shotgun Range
- 360-degree Action Target Live Fire Shoot House (w/ catwalk)
- 540-degree Action Target Live Fire Shoot House (2-story)
- Tactical Training Simulation Building (w/ rappel tower)
- Bunk House (Sleeps 30)
- ALERRT Range Office (w/ overflow classroom)
- ALERRT Warehouse (50x70 structure that houses all ALERRT Kits) *Completed March 2016*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - Dwayne Sander

This year, the IT department of ALERRT has been busy. At the heart of some of the biggest changes is the rollout of our new website, which was recreated from scratch in CakePHP with the help of CakeDC. We have made huge progress in verifying and processing older files into our database to be sure we have the most complete and accurate data possible with Stephanie Brown leading the project. Our database now houses data on 95,145 users and 110,419 trainings.



Future Training Initiatives

On Friday, September 30, 2016, it was announced that we have been awarded \$6.4 million from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (Department of Justice) for future training.

We continue to push for improvements in and expansion of medical training for police officers, establishment of incident command by first officers on the scene earlier and in a more clearly defined fashion, and to integrate other response services (Fire and EMS) into the equation earlier than ever before to provide more life-saving capabilities for our communities during intense, time-critical incidents. The ability to train next to and work more with our Fire and EMS partners is vital in improving response capabilities in the future.

Also going forward we are maneuvering ourselves to be involved in the national discussion of officer resiliency: how do we prepare our officers to handle the stress and strain over the long-haul. It isn't enough to simply be good once. We need them to show up after each event, ready to go again. Exhaustive mental, physical, tactical and legal/educational preparation are required. These are the four legs of the chair. Without any one of these legs the chair will not support the weight as it is intended. We believe a more focused, intense and balanced approach to preparing officers will lead to healthier officers. Healthier officers will make better decisions under pressure and, most importantly, experience pressure less often when they feel more in control of themselves and the situations they find themselves in.

Upcoming Research Projects

Peek versus Room Entry: Some officers are being trained to lean into a room and engage a hostile suspect from the threshold instead of making a full room entry. We are beginning to empirically show this technique is not effective or safe for law enforcement officers.

Ballistic: We will be testing various objects' ability to provide adequate cover in the event of a shooting (e.g., desk, bookshelves, doors, walls).

Active Shooter Event Book: We are beginning to rework our past active shooter book by providing and improved search definition and presenting updated data regarding active shooter events.

Tactics Book: We are writing a new book on responding to active shooter events. The new book will include information on the initial response, medical response, and post response recovery.

The growth and success of the program over the past 15 years has been unprecedented. With the intensely dedicated people in this program, the research scientifically proving the effectiveness of what we do, and the state and federal partners in our corner, ALERRT is poised to do even more amazing things for this nation's response community over the next 15 years.

Needed Facilities Improvements

- Drainage Plan for entire range
- Chip Seal or Pave Entrance Road
- Add Pass through road from warehouse to prevent freight delivery road blocks
- Possibly looking at expanding or adding an additional warehouse
- Baffling Rifle Range