



SWATTING BOMB THREATS ACTIVE SHOOTER

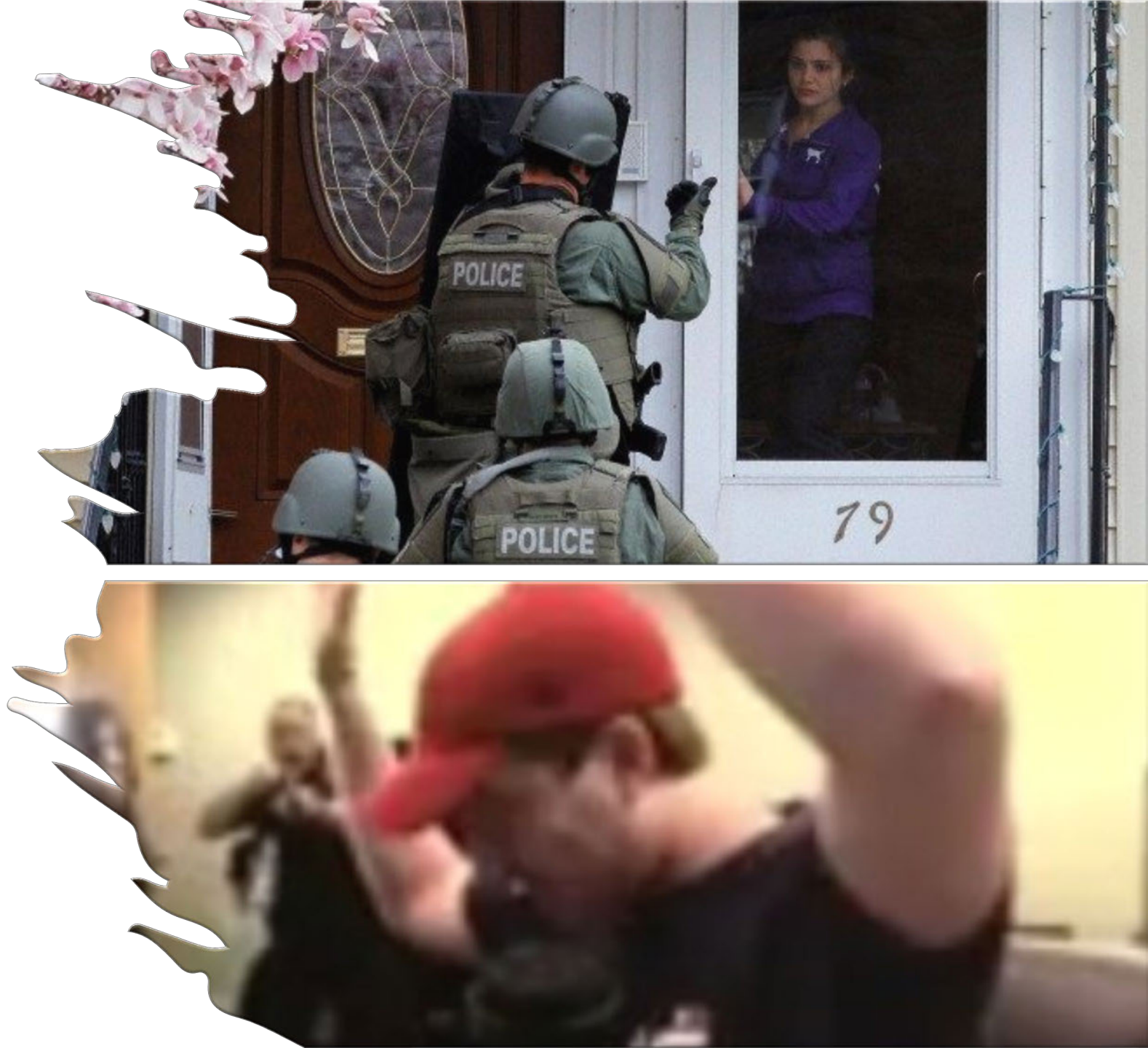
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***MAJOR CRIMES DIVISION
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT***

What is Swatting?

- *Targeted, false report, to illicit a tactical police response to a specific location for an ongoing crisis.*
- *Usually in form of a report of an active shooter, hostage situation, bomb threat, barricaded suspect or similar.*

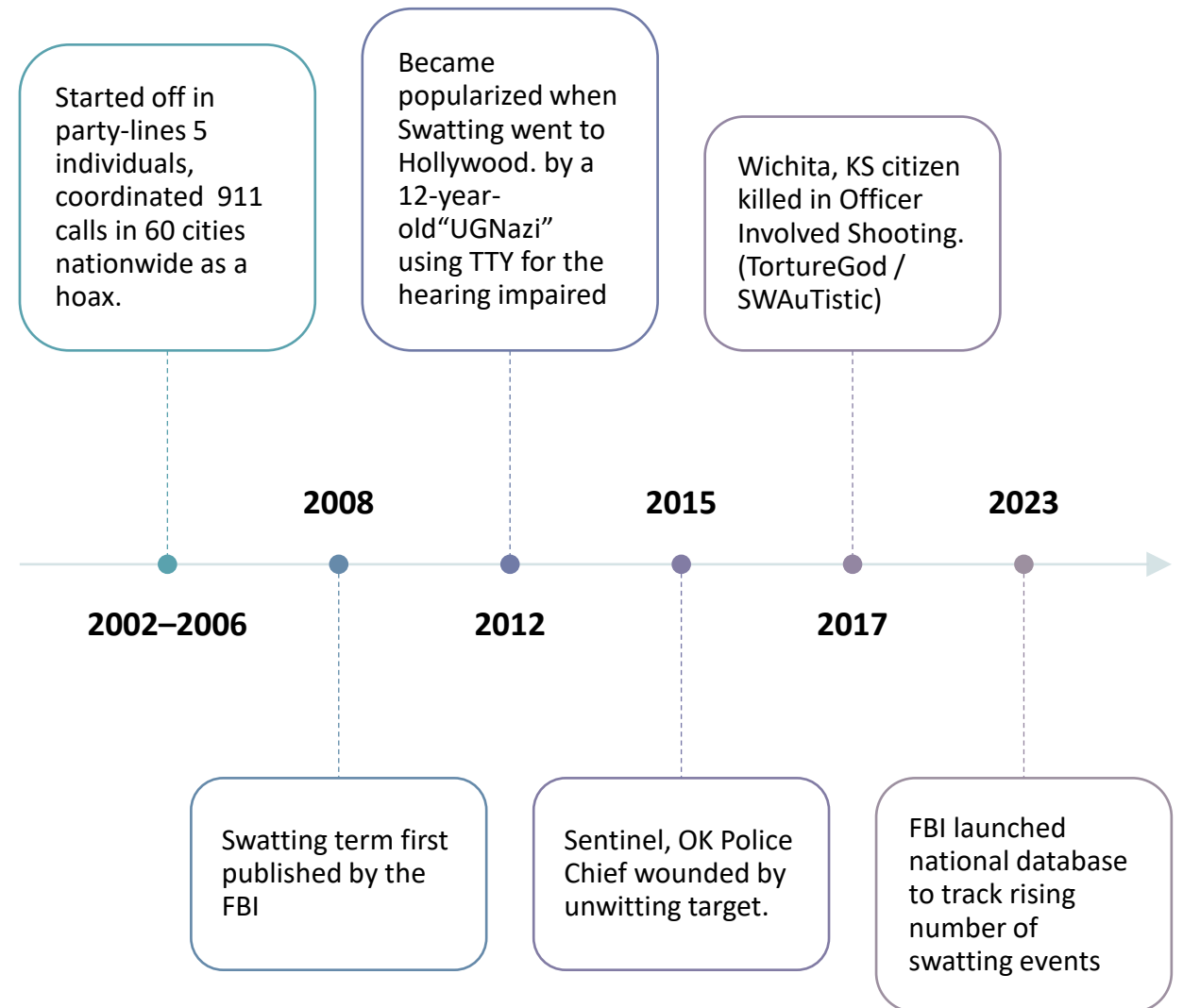


Targets



- ***Anyone of any agency can be a target:***
 - ***Politicians, Celebrities, Live Streamers (Gamers or Social Media Influencers)***
- ***Any location:***
 - ***Schools, Government Buildings, Hospitals, Studios, Courts, private residences, private businesses, sporting or special event venues etc...***
- ***Any emergency service can be duped into responding***

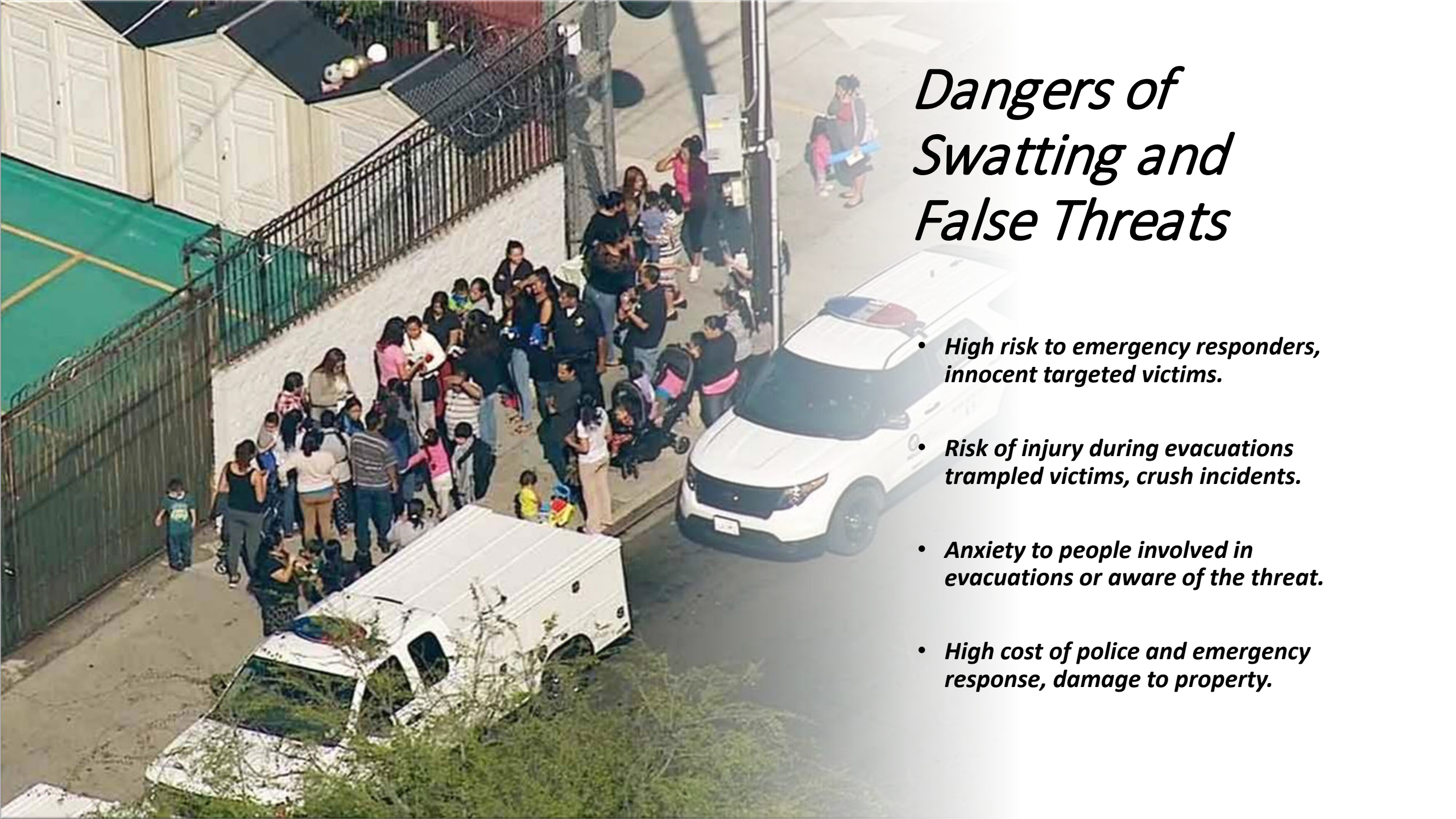
History of Swatting



Motivation

- *Goal is to provoke significant law enforcement response to create chaos and potential violence for:*
- *Online “Street Cred”*
 - *Bragging online (Twitter and Skype)*
 - *Getting caught is a badge of honor.*
- *Intimidation & Harassment*
- *Terrorize and exert their will*
- *Coercion & Extortion*
- *Boredom*
- *Swat-for-Pay*
- *For some it’s a hobby*
- *Vengeful act*

[illegible]



Dangers of Swatting and False Threats

- ***High risk to emergency responders, innocent targeted victims.***
- ***Risk of injury during evacuations trampled victims, crush incidents.***
- ***Anxiety to people involved in evacuations or aware of the threat.***
- ***High cost of police and emergency response, damage to property.***

Investigative Concerns with Swatting Cases

- *Difficult to Investigate*
- *Masked emails with VPN or hacked other emails*
- *Phone numbers used are VOiP*
- *Phone numbers can be spoofed*
- *Majority of offenders are juveniles*
- *Underground and unusual terminology, customs and mannerisms*
- *Can be located anywhere in the world*
- *Serial and Copy-Cat concerns*
- *Law Enforcement can become the target if contact is made to investigate*

Suspects can be anywhere and target anyone



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Profile of a Swatter



Profile of a Swatter - Continued

- ***Looking for an outlet to exert control***
- ***Often socially awkward and bullied in “real life”***
- ***Anger and psychological Issues***
- ***Attend non-traditional schools, if at all***
- ***Serial offender***
- ***Posts racist, hateful, caustic, profane and dominating material online***



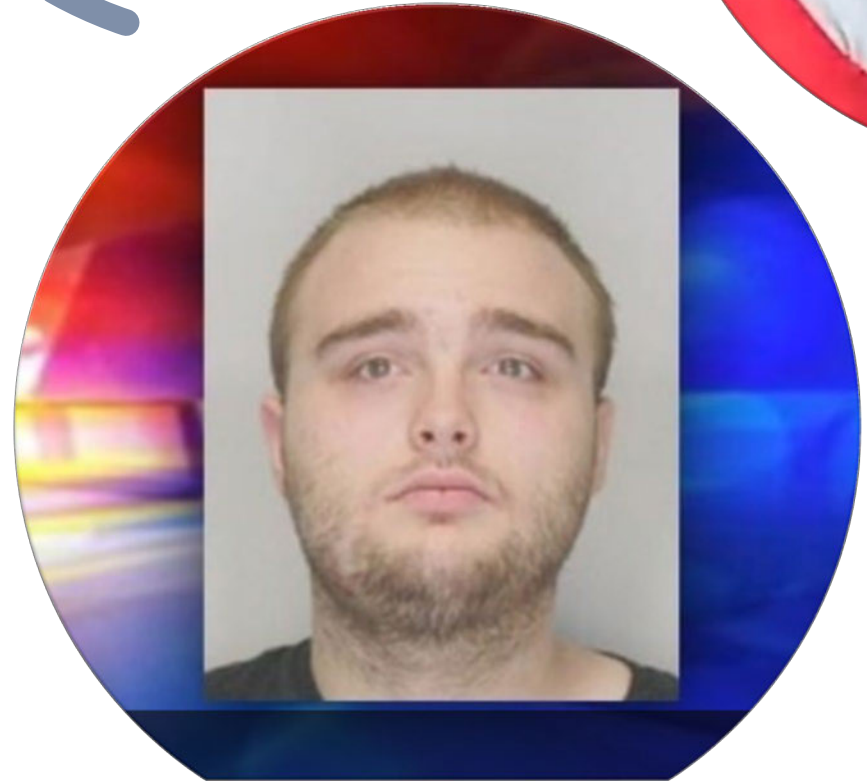
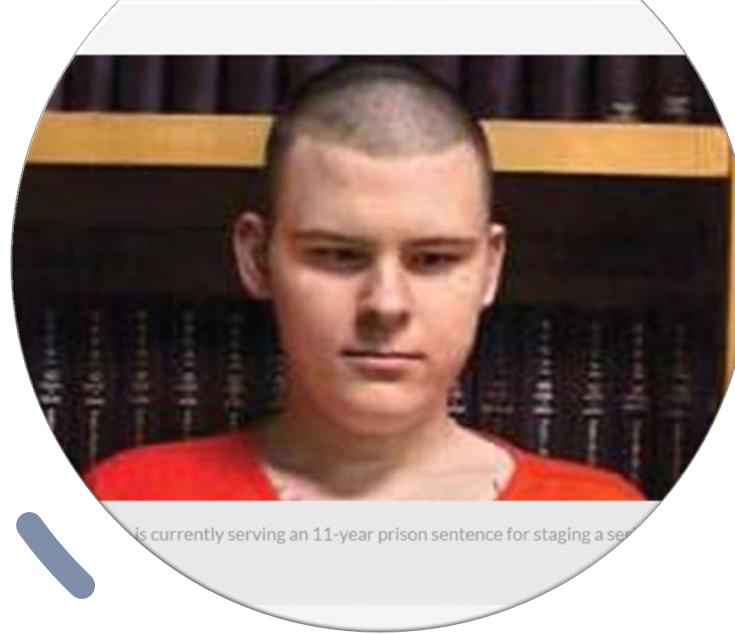
“Famed God”



“CosmotheGod”

Prosecution

- *Always Two Victims*
 - *Target*
 - *City/County – use of resources*
- *Multi-jurisdiction (Victim location & Suspect location)*
 - *Possible Federal Charges*
- *Civil penalties, even in juvenile cases, to recoup cost of response*
- *Typically, other crimes involved (ID Theft, Carding, Illegal Access, Child Porn)*



Prosecution “Issues to Overcome”

- *Highly technical investigation*
- *Suspect can live anywhere in the world*
- *Often a misdemeanor - Low Penalty*
- *Account deletion*
- *ISP delay in response (2-5 months for Skype)*
- *Juveniles primary offenders*
- *Extradition issues (Juvenile, State, International)*
- *Travel for Investigation and Testimony*
- *Evidence Transfer and Validation*

Prosecution – “CalECPA Issues”

- ***California Electronic Records Warrants and Exigent Requests***
- ***Three calendar days for exigent SW after request.***
 - ***Voluntary for ISP to respond with exigent records request***
 - ***90 Day Notification bottle neck***
- ***Failure to notify properly potentially invalidates warrant***
- ***Companies will refuse Court Order as “too broad”***
- ***Any interested party can attempt to suppress the warrant***
- ***Most internet companies have a hold-harmless clause***

High-Risk Threat vs Low-Risk Threat

High Risk

- *Identified individual*
- *Direct*
- *Specific*
- *Realistic*
- *Poses immediate danger to the safety of others*
- *Reported by concerned classmates, friends, family, teachers, school staff, or medical professional due to “leakage”.*
 - *Leakage: intentionally or unintentionally reveals clues of violent thoughts, fantasies, or direct intentions of harm to a group of people or an individual.*
- *Manifesto found, hit list, or memoir discovered*
- *Access to weapons*

Low Risk

- *Single call came into non-emergency line, suicide prevention, VA call center, etc.*
- *Voice sounds robotic, digitized, disguised, or with an accent.*
- *“Call of duty” terms used to describe weapons used*
- *VOiP number used*
- *Non-specific*
- *Caller can’t verify details*
- *Sent from anonymous email (Mail.RU, Sendity, Beeble, etc)*
- *Mispronounces streets, school, building names.*
- *Tone and demeanor inconsistent with reported crime.*
- *Background noise, clicking of mouse, recorded gunshots.*

Actionable Items – Going Forward

Coordinate with First Responders

1

Build relationships with local law enforcement through regular walkthroughs (all shifts).

2

Establish emergency notification procedures and maintain an updated personnel roster.

3

Share key contact information with 9-1-1 dispatch.

4

Develop swatting response protocols with local dispatch and law enforcement.

5

Provide critical response resources (floor plans, master keys, access cards, CCTV access).

6

Coordinate information sharing with Fusion Centers, the FBI, and security partners.

Actionable Items – Going Forward

Recognize Hoax Threats & Protect Information

1

Train staff to recognize common hoax threat characteristics (anonymous emails, vague threats, exaggerated claims).

2

Limit publicly available contact and personal information online.

3

Review your organization's online presence with law enforcement and security personnel.

4

Reduce swatting risks by protecting sensitive information.

5

Consider restricting or delaying public livestreams to limit real-time exposure.

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half features a close-up of the American flag's stars and stripes, with a semi-transparent city skyline at night visible behind it. The bottom half shows a night view of a city skyline with many lights, overlaid with a large, waving American flag. In the bottom left corner, there is a detailed police badge.

Questions?



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