Weapons Detection in the Healthcare Sector

MARK REED, CHPA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CITY OF HOPE NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Mark Reed

Current

Executive Director
Security, Emergency Management, & Transportation
City of Hope National Medical Center

Education

MBA Southern New Hampshire University

BS Criminal Justice & Criminology
Arizona State University

Homeland Security Certification
Arizona State University

Recognition

2019 Campus Safety Magazine Director of the Year

2019 US OSPA Outstanding Security Team

2020 IAHSS Lindberg Bell Award

2020 Security Magazine Most Influential

Workplace Violence Impact in Healthcare

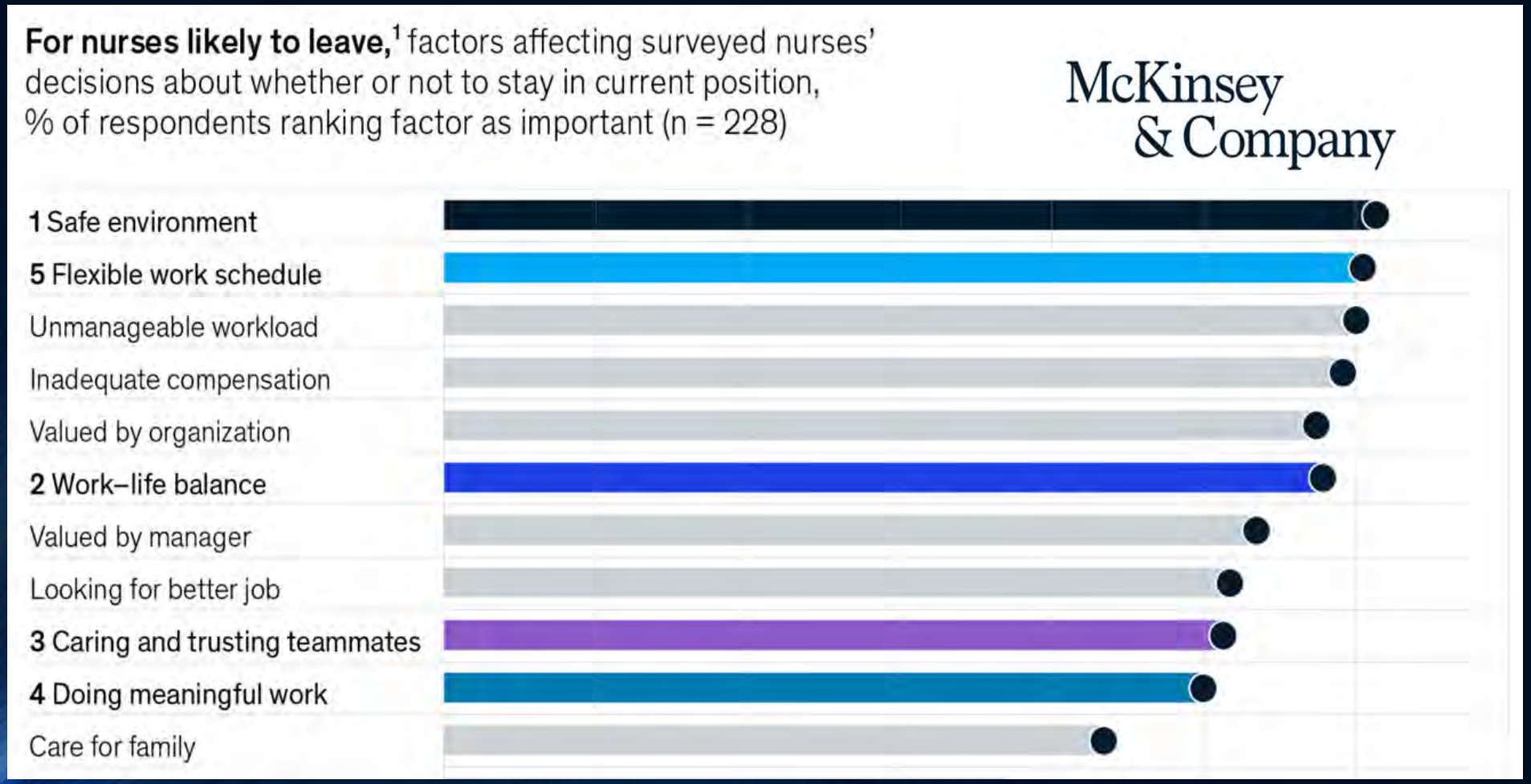
5-12X More likely than any other industry in US

92% Healthcare workers have experienced or regularly witness violence

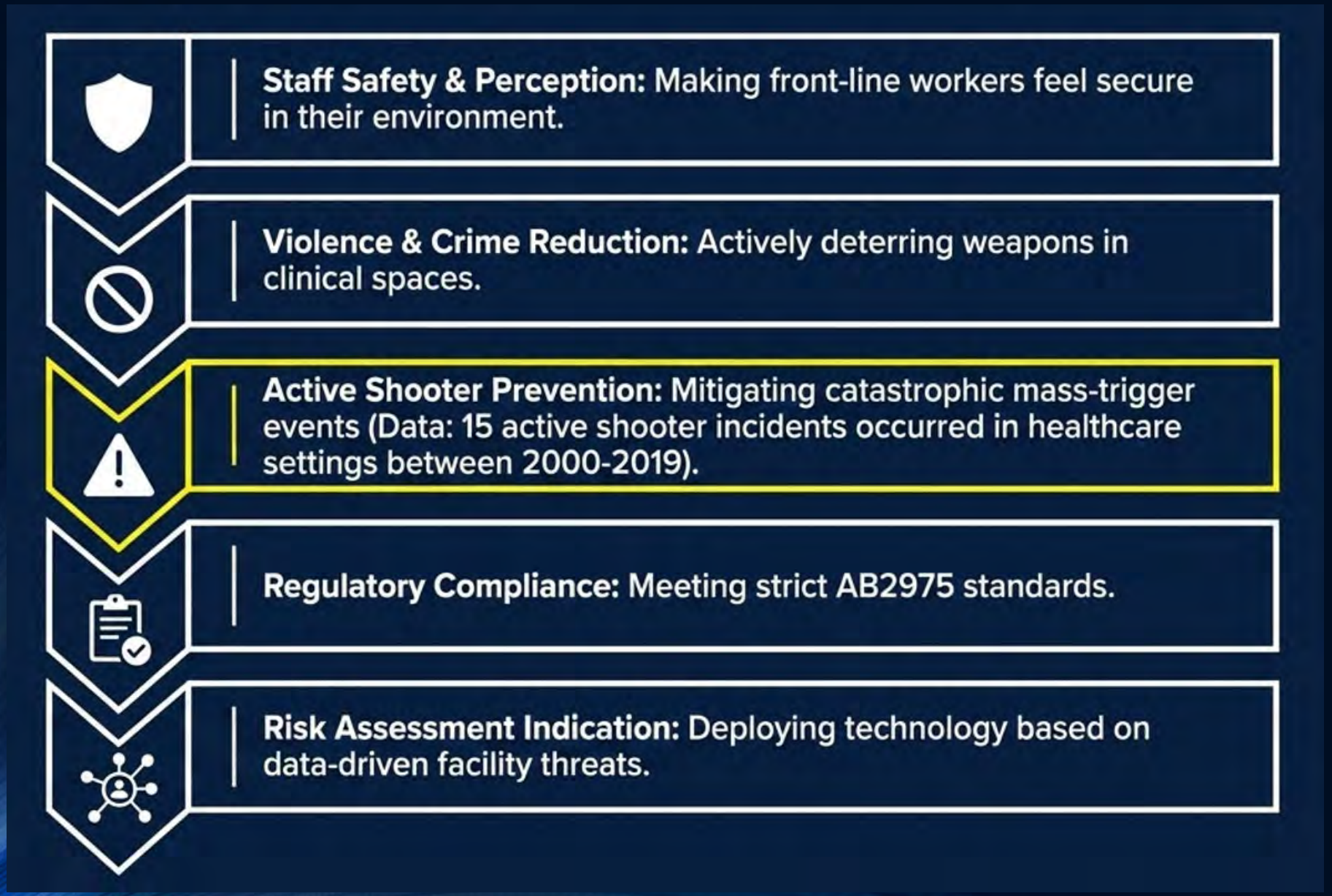
70% Behavioral health workers will be assaulted this year

$6.6M Hospital Average Nurse turnover cost

Safety, flexibility, and work environment are top priorities for surveyed nurses



Strategic Drivers for Weapons Detection



Hospital's Risk Assessment for Weapons/Magnetometers Should Include:

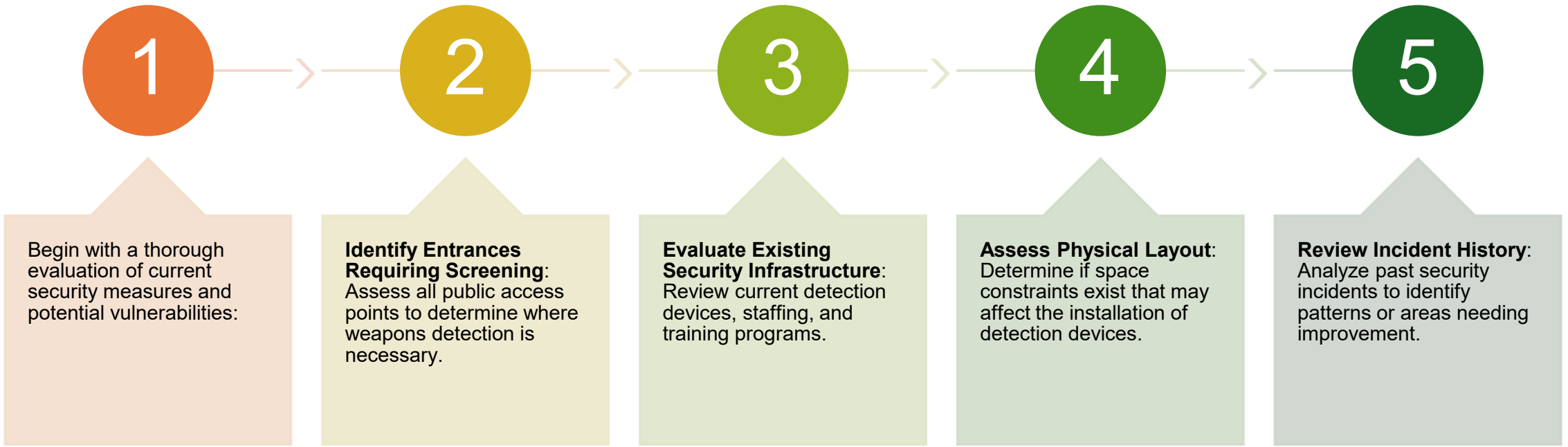
Internal Hospital Dynamics

- Behavioral and Intoxicated patients
- Stress & Anxiety (Billing, death, bad outcomes)
- Domestic Violence spillover
- Patient victims of violence (e.g., Gunshot wounds)
- Trauma Center status
- Internal floor plans and clinical processes

External Environmental Factors

- Hospital location and local demographics
- Civil disturbance risks
- Concentric crime rates (within a 1-5 mile radius)
- Prevalence of weapons in the local community
- Specific types of localized crime

Conducting a Comprehensive Risk Assessment



Engaging Stakeholders

• Key Stakeholders:

- Facilities and engineering

- Security and compliance teams (Legal, Risk, Quality)

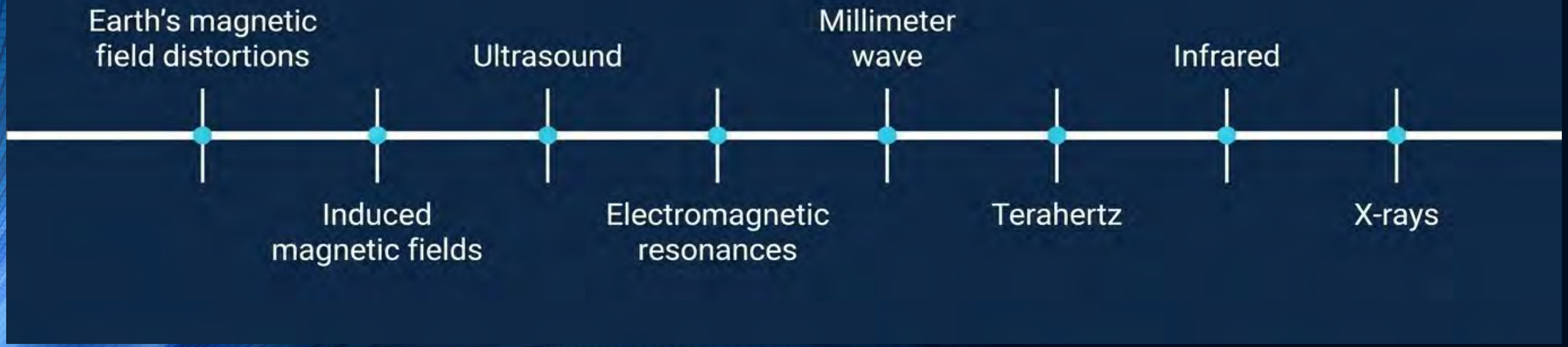
- Hospital leadership, including Human Resources

•Will your hospital require employees to go through weapons detections? If so, will start times be changed, or will discipline for tardiness and violations need to be altered? A conversation with HR can answer some of these questions.

Employee exemption: A provision permitting a hospital to exclude current hospital employees or health care providers who enter a hospital wearing an identification badge bearing their name and title from undergoing weapons detection screening

Weapon Detection Technology:
Is it effective and how does it work

All advanced weapons detection technologies (excluding video management) emit or capture signals across different frequency ranges to develop operator images or real-time warnings.



Deploying the Right Detection Modality

Handheld Scanners

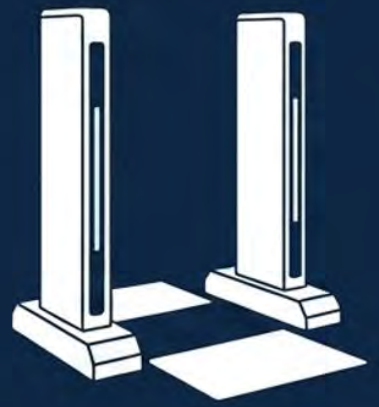
Targeted, manual secondary screening.

Highly flexible but requires close physical proximity.

Traditional Portals

Walk-through magnetometers.

Highly visible choke-point control, but prone to bottlenecks.



Advanced Imaging & Touchless

High-throughput, real-time millimeter-wave systems.

Frictionless entry utilizing advanced algorithmic screening.

Operational Considerations

- Policy and Procedure
- Prohibited Items
- Refusal to be searched and EMTALA implications
- Delay in Care
- What to do with found weapons
- Testing and calibration

Devices must be operated by dedicated, trained security personnel—NOT clinical healthcare providers.

BSIS Compliance

Personnel must be trained through Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS) standards.

The 8-Hour Requirement

A minimum of 8 hours of targeted training is mandatory.

- ✓ Operation of specific detection devices
- ✓ Hospital policies for weapon detection response
- ✓ De-escalation techniques for clinical environments
- ✓ Implicit bias awareness and mitigation

Recommendations

A Holistic Security Ecosystem

Final Recommendation: Implement advanced, highly accurate, real-time detection technologies as the foundation of a comprehensive threat mitigation strategy to prevent modern mass-trigger events without disrupting patient care.

Questions?