Lincoln Police Department

THE EYE

January 2013

Neighborhood Watch

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The 5 Phases of the Active Shooter

1) **Fantasy Stage**—Suspect daydreams about the shooting, the news coverage. Idolizes other shooters and may discuss it with friends and foes alike.

2) **Planning Stage**—Suspect decides the 'who, what, when , where and how". He will put these plans down in writing and discuss them with others.

3) **Preparation Stage**—Suspect may be buying or stealing weapons or making improvised explosive devices. Shooters have been known to contact friends or family to tell them to avoid a certain area to keep them out of the line of fire.

4) **Approach Stage**—This is a dangerous stage. The suspect is on his way to his intended target. He will be armed and dangerous but could still be stopped before reaching his target.

5) **Implementation Stage**—The shooter has now opened fire and immediate action must be taken. This suspect is unique, because he is fully dedicated to going for the top score, kills. The sooner the intervention whether civilian or officer, the less casualties there will be. The greatest risk lies in doing nothing.

Before one shot is fired the suspect dreams, draws, writes, and talks; purchases, builds, and practices; packs, loads, and arrives. If any of these phases are recognized perhaps the plan can be thwarted before any lives are ended. Many lives have already been saved because someone said or did "something".

- Information from PoliceOne

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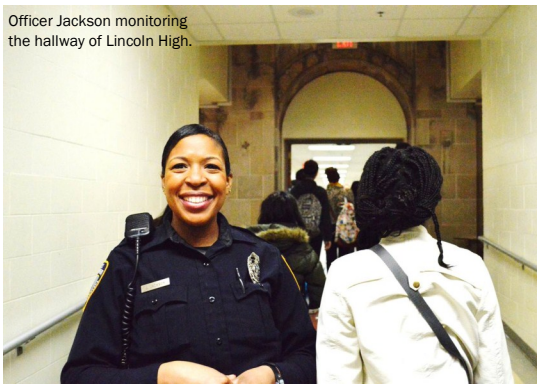
KEEPING WATCH

After the events in Newtown, Connecticut, I felt compelled to spend some time with the School Resource officers here in Lincoln. My first thoughts were that I just wanted to take some pictures of these officers doing their job. As police officers, it is not very often that we get pictures of ourselves doing our job, in our uniform. I started off my journey at Lincoln Southeast High School with Officer Robert Norton. Noting the flag at half mast and the Lincoln Police cruiser parked in front of the school, I walked in. I was met by the school personnel who wanted to confirm who I was and why I was there. Dressed in uniform, I complied and explained that I wanted to speak with Officer Norton. I started taking a few pictures. The staff joked with him. They made comments about how much they loved having him there. A student came into the office. She was having a bad day. She asked for Officer Norton. We went outside for a few pictures in front of the school. A student walked up and talked to him about a missing IPod. Several students joked with him about getting his picture taken. I realized quickly that the school resource officer provides much more than 'security'.

Officer Norton keeping watch just outside Lincoln Southeast.

Next stop… Lincoln High School and Officer Chassidy Jackson. Officer Jackson, a graduate of Lincoln High, stood proudly in the halls. She walked across the red "L" painted on the front steps of the school probably as she did years ago. I walked the hallway with her during passing period. Several students who were graduating at the semester gave her hugs and thanked her. She encouraged one young man to join a mentoring program. She joked with another student about his new hair cut. She asked them about their final exams. The students really seemed to like her and feel comfortable talking to her. She knew them by name.


Officer Jackson monitoring the hallway of Lincoln High.

What struck me most during my few hours with these officers was that they do not only provide security for the school. They are counselors, friends, mentors, leaders, teachers, and role models for these students. They care about the students, genuinely care. They did not go to college with the intent of working in a school. They are cops. They are paid to enforce the laws. Yet something in these officers is special and unique. Something that allows them to let their guard down for students. Cops are always concerned about their safety. Who is standing too close to me? Who might be plotting to hurt me, target me? Hugs from an officer can be hard to come by. These officers allow that guard to go down in order to make the students feel safe, secure, cared for. At the Lincoln Police Department, these officers are selected not only by team Captains but also by school administrators. They are chosen to work in the schools for a three year rotation. They have specialized training to prepare them for working in schools. This includes active shooter training. Many of them volunteer their time outside of work to mentor students and work school events. In Lincoln, we have six school resource officers. One for each high school. I am proud of the work they do. Thanks for keeping watch. - Officer Erin Spilker

A student hugs Officer Jackson on her last day before she graduates from Lincoln High.