Security...
Whose Responsibility is it Anyway?

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Why do I need to think about security?

Many people find "security" to be a daunting or scary topic since it forces us to think about situations that are uncomfortable or even tragic. People often say, "I don't like to think about negative things because then that brings negative energy onto me." The problem is if we are unable or unwilling to consider our potential negative future, how can we implement procedures to prevent that negative outcome from being able to occur? We, as leaders, must be capable and willing to think through the difficult and scary possibilities of dangers in our world, so that children can have the luxury of NOT thinking about those possibilities – and even more importantly, so they will not have to experience those situations.

Although many people may not want to think about security, security is intuitively a natural part of our everyday lives. If we see someone approaching something dangerous, we will be quick to jump to warn them. This is because we are wired to see and recognize danger, and that means we are instinctively and often, subconsciously seeing our potential negative future, even if we say we only like to "think positively." From a security perspective, we must train ourselves to be okay to "think negatively," so that we can maintain positive outcomes in our lives.

"Okay," you might say. "But why should WE be the ones thinking about security? Isn't that for someone ELSE to take care of — someone in a uniform?!"

Unfortunately, recent events have proven that reliance on law enforcement to protect our communities might not provide the results we hope to see. Police cannot be in all places simultaneously. As much as police try to respond quickly to an emergency event, if we understand security and we implement sound procedures, we can often prevent these emergency events from occurring or escalating out of control. **WHEN** an emergency occurs, it can take law enforcement many minutes to arrive. In everyday life, a minute is a short amount of time. But when lives are on the line, one minute is an eternity. **The time it takes first responders to arrive is usually the critical time for action.**

Even if we understand that the security of our community must be based on more than just "call 911," people often ask,

"How can ordinary people take on this role?"

It has been proven worldwide that ordinary citizens can have a profound effect on the security of their own communities.

Defining Terms

The words "SECURITY" and "SAFETY" are often used interchangeably. In many institutions across the United States, "safety teams" will be tasked with creating security protocols for their organizations. However, **safety and security are not the same thing** and in order to create an effective safety OR security program, distinctions between the two should be defined.

Safety

Safety has to do with the controls that we implement in the environment that protect us from emergency situations that occur through "acts of God" – acts that are no one's fault – or even if it is someone's fault, it was an accident. If a tornado occurs, it is no one's fault. But we need to know how to deal with it. If someone forgets to put his car in park on a hill, this is a safety issue.

Security

Security, on the other hand, is principally concerned with minimizing the potential for an emergency situation perpetrated by a human being with mal-intent. Therefore, intent is the key distinction between "security" and "safety."

The intersection between safety and security is that both are concerned with protecting against emergency situations.

Emergency

An "emergency" is a situation in which control has been lost and there are serious negative consequences.

Control

The more the environment can be controlled, the more secure your community will become, since most emergency situations will be prevented. And if you do experience a loss of control (i.e., an emergency), the faster you can regain control, the more you will be able to minimize damage and the more quickly you will be able to return to routine life.

"CONTROL" IS ACQUIRED THROUGH:

★ well placed and properly utilized physical equipment which restricts opportunities for a perpetrator to do harm and deters criminal activity

★ effective data collection, analysis, and communication to track trends, activities, and suspicious or concerning behaviors in order to offer early warning of potential threats

★ appropriate responses to the information provided through the system, so that when a threat is identified, it can be controlled as quickly as possible, in a reasonable and prudent manner.

In many institutions there is no ability to control the environment. In such an environment, the community must rely on the good will of others for their own security. This is very dangerous because then, your security is not in your control. This situation is only allowed to persist because people can have a false sense of security if they have never experienced a serious situation, personally. **Since, in their experience, no serious situation has ever occurred, they assume that no serious situation *will* ever occur.** Therefore, they do not feel the need to take the steps to control their own environment. This attitude is most obvious immediately after any serious event during which you will notice numerous people quoted in the media saying something to the effect of, "I never thought it could happen here."

> ## Do not leave your own security (and that of your community) to the good will of others.

Five Principles of Security

Security challenges can vary greatly, but the principles of controlling your environment are the same anywhere, in any situation, against any threat. **When you understand how to think about security according to these five principles, your presence in any environment makes that place more secure.**

1. Control

Control is a key component of security. In order to have true security the environment must be controlled. It must be known who enters and who exits, and there must be an ability to deny entry, or remove an individual who causes problems. This ability to control the environment does not need to harm a warm welcoming atmosphere, since the ability to control the environment also equates to an ability to determine if and when to respond, and to what degree.

2. Intent

It is more advantageous to understand the intent of an individual than to know what he is carrying. A perpetrator with criminal intent will cause far more damage with a pencil, than a law abiding citizen with a gun. When the system is built to read human intent, distance can be maintained from a threat or time will be gained during emergency situations – and control of the environment will be maintained.

3. Distance

When a threat is identified at a distance or if the threat can be kept at a distance, there is more time to respond and protect the community. In addition, if the intent of a perpetrator can be determined at a distance, time is gained and control is maintained.

4. Time

During critical situations, **TIME = LIFE**. The number one way to save lives during violent events is to shorten response times, and delay the attacker (so that responders gain time). This means that if the amount of time it takes an attacker to enter the site is delayed, lives are saved. This can be accomplished by maintaining distance from the threat.

5. Response

Without a response capability, there is no real control of the environment. During emergency situations, internal response capabilities help community members to create distance, and gain time until outside response capabilities arrive. This can save lives and allows the community to remain secure and safe.

Five Principles of Security

Intent

Control

Distance

Time
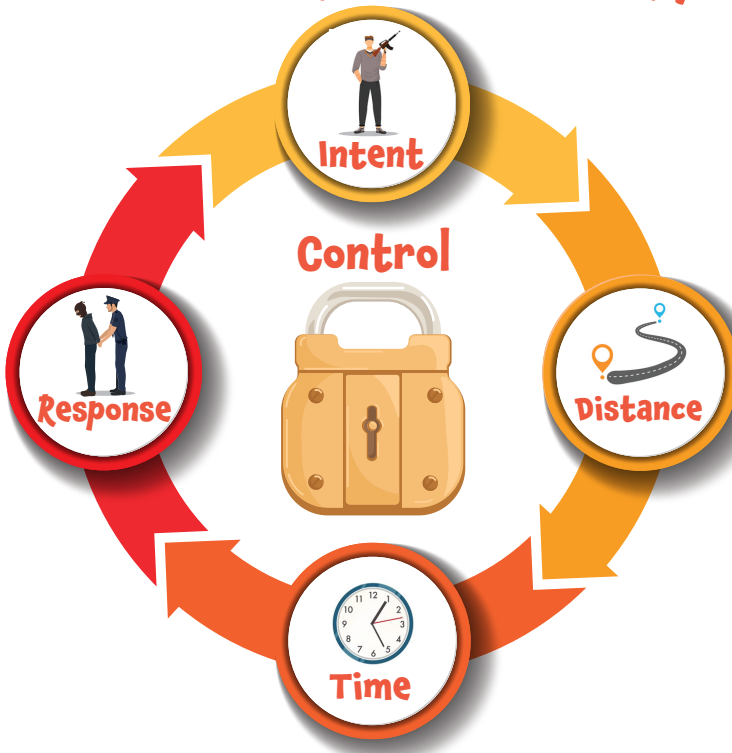
Response

Response to an emergency event comes in two forms:

1. **DEFENSIVE:** Get people away from the threat and/or keep the threat from reaching the people.

2. **OFFENSIVE:** Move toward the threat to stop or eliminate it. A threat will likely remain active until an offensive response is initiated. In the standard security model, law enforcement provides the offensive response for violent threat. However, internal offensive response capabilities have proven to greatly reduce response times and therefore, greatly increase security and safety.

Emergency Chronology

Since security is really about control, and since control is really about how to prevent an emergency, or how quickly we can end an emergency if it does occur, our security program must be built with a clear understanding of emergency chronology.

1 BEFORE → PREVENT

The perfect security program will prevent all emergencies.

2 DURING → RESPONSE

Unfortunately, it is not possible to always prevent bad things from happening. Therefore, we must be trained and prepared to respond to emergency situations so that we can prevent the next person from getting hurt.

3 AFTER → RECOVER

Recovery can be a long process that may include the need for therapists. However, if we can respond appropriately, we can save lives. From an extreme perspective, if we ensure that people survive to need therapy, then we have succeeded.

Rings of Security

Rings of Security give us opportunities to identify the intent of individuals at greater distances from the community, thereby allowing more time to respond and prevent emergencies, or regain control more quickly.

The Rings of Security exist in our environment naturally, and can be utilized to keep your environment safer. To use these rings, we must first determine the item(s) we want to keep safe and secure. In our community, the most valuable "items" are human lives. And the human lives that most need protecting are our children. This is not because we value one life over another, but simply because in most emergencies, adults have more ability to take care of themselves than children do. Therefore, our security program should focus attention first on those who are most vulnerable, and secondarily on people that are less vulnerable.

The first Ring of Security is ME and US.
WE are the closest thing to us in our environment that can naturally be used to protect ourselves.

When we think of the closest items, we think about doors, locks, and walls. Although those may be valuable security components, the greatest asset I have is myself and my colleagues. When each of us take real responsibility for our community, we become a very formidable asset. **Each of us can protect ourselves and others.**

The PROXIMAL ZONE is the next Ring of Security.

The **Proximal Zone** includes all of the items in my immediate environment, which I can utilize for security. This may include items that can keep someone from entering my room or it could include items that can be used as weapons if a threatening individual was able to force entry.

The INNER ZONE is the next Ring of Security.

The **Inner Zone** is other areas of the building, outside of my room or office. Many security assets exist in hallways or other rooms of a building. Even being able to hear a commotion or loud noises offers an opportunity to gather valuable information that could help me respond to save myself and those around me.

The OUTER ZONE is the next Ring of Security.
It begins at the edge of my environment and extends to my property line.

This is the area I can control and through which I can assess people as they approach. The **Outer Zone** may be narrow, like a sidewalk. Or perhaps large fields around my community allow ample opportunity to see someone approach from a distance. If my property line is physically delineated, I have an additional opportunity to direct the flow of traffic to desired points and restrict access from other areas. Although physical barriers such as fences or walls can be breached, if I see someone climbing my fence, I know he has mal-intent and his distance from me gives me time to respond to the potential threat.

## The fifth Ring of Security is the surrounding Community.

If we have a good relationship with our Community, we can depend on our neighbors to provide information and to help us to prevent emergencies. If someone is climbing over your fence or sneaking through the bushes, your neighbors may call the police for you. **Our communities can be a very valuable security asset.**

When SECONDS count, law enforcement is only MINUTES away.

FIRST RESPONDERS are the final Ring of Security.

While police, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel will try to get to you as fast as possible, they exist outside of your primary rings of security and will therefore take extra time to arrive onsite. Even if a police officer is already onsite when an emergency begins, it will still take time for him/her to reach the location of the emergency. This means that you must know what to do until First Responders can get to you. This also means that **all of the Rings of Security between you and First Responders are your zone of responsibility.**

First Responders
Community
Outer Zone
Inner Zone
Proximal Zone
Me &US
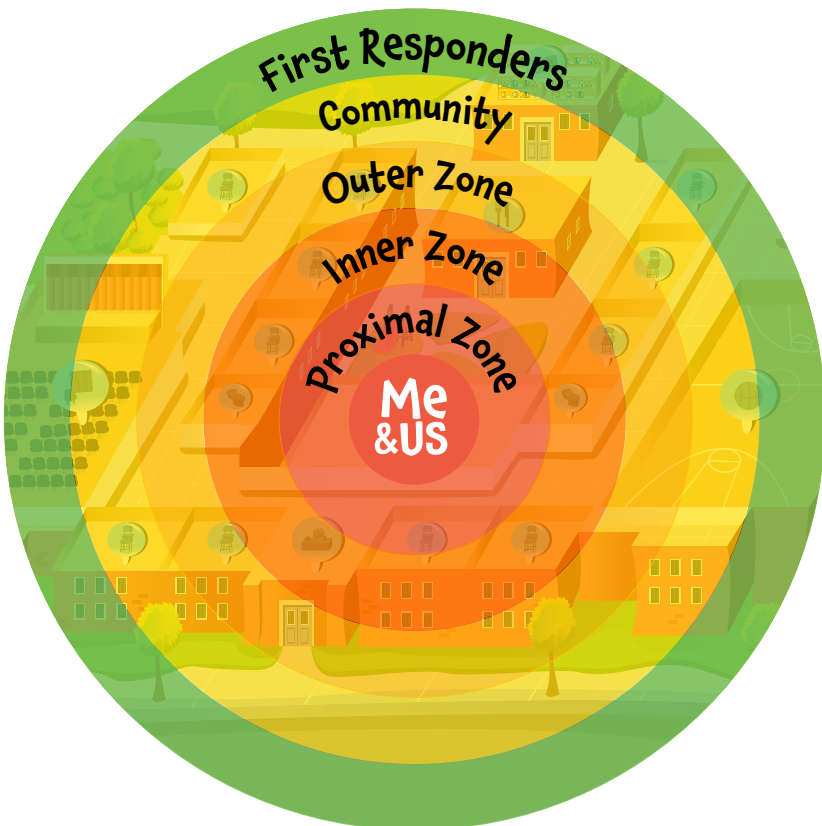
Many institutions put a heavy emphasis on security equipment and technology. Although equipment and technology can help improve the security and safety within your environment, nothing is a greater asset than you and the people around you. In order to develop your skills, it is important to train. Training does not just mean that you have an intellectual understanding of the concepts in this booklet. Training requires that you develop physical skills and capabilities through practice and repetition.

The goal of any security program is to prevent all emergencies from occurring. Of course, it is never possible to prevent ALL emergencies, however, with a high level of awareness and vigilance, and with effective security protocols, emergency situations become extremely rare.

Routine Security Protocols

- ★ **Any individual seeking entrance to the campus should be scrutinized before entry.**
- ★ **Any unknown visitor* should be escorted on campus at all times.**
- ★ **Approach and directly confront** anyone on site who you do not recognize.**
- ★ **If someone is suspicious***, do not leave them until security takes over or until you determine that they are cleared to enter.**
- ★ **Position yourself between the students/children and the suspicious individual**
- ★ **External doors should remain closed & locked.**
- ★ **If you are in your classroom, the classroom doors should remain closed and locked.**
- ★ **If a classroom is empty, the door should remain locked, but open.**
- ★ **Staff & faculty should have their keys on them at all times.**
- ★ **Master keys should be located with designated personnel.**
- ★ **Staff/faculty should know who has master keys.**

* An unknown visitor is any visitor who is not part of the community or well known by the community.

** Direct confrontation means that you speak to the suspicious person about what specifically drew your attention to him/her. This may be uncomfortable, but verbal confrontation can often identify the intent of an individual and help prevent an emergency.

*** There is no such thing as "a little bit suspicious." Someone is either suspicious, or not suspicious.

Emergency Response

When an emergency is underway, your response may become critical to regain control and reduce possible harm to yourself and those around you. There are two different kinds of response that are necessary in any type of emergency:

TWO KINDS OF RESPONSE
in any emergency

DEFENSIVE	OFFENSIVE
Get yourself and others *away* from the threat and/or keep the threat away for you.	Move *toward* the threat to neutralize the threat or to keep it from getting to the people.

The Department of Homeland Security recommends a **"Run, Hide, Fight"** model for defensive response. However, it may be difficult to know when it is time to run and when it is time to hide – or how to effectively run or hide, and why.

RUN · HIDE · FIGHT

To make the best decisions under pressure, simply ask yourself: "Is it more dangerous in here or is it more dangerous out there?"

If it is more dangerous in here, then I should evacuate and go out there. If it is more dangerous out there, I should shelter here. Emergency situations change quickly. It may be appropriate to shelter now, but may become appropriate to evacuate in another minute.

Stay alert and continue to assess your situation, so that you can quickly change your actions.

Sometimes emergency situations are very confusing and it is difficult to know where there is more danger – in here or out there. The simplest way to determine your actions in this situation is to determine if you can identify the location of the threat. If you know the location of the threat and you can escape in the opposite direction, then you should do so.
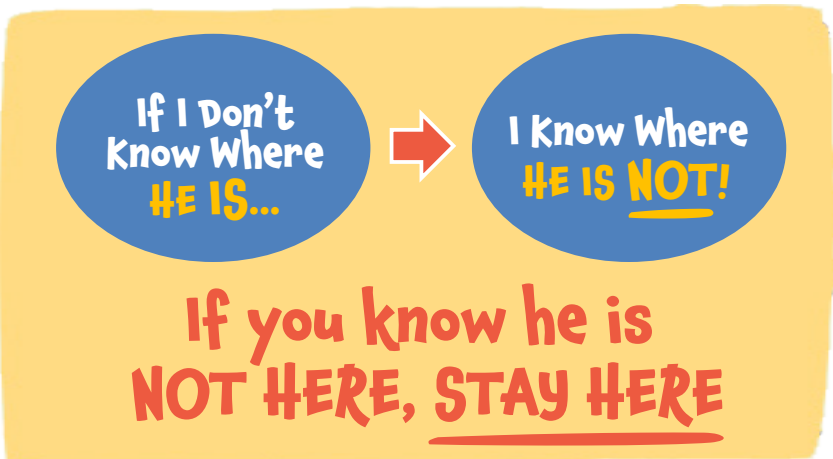
How do I evacuate?

If you can identify the location of the threat, escape in the opposite direction. Take whatever actions allow you to get out as fast as possible. Do not waste time collecting personal belongings.

> **Just get out and get out fast.**

If you can encourage other people to come with you, do so; however, **do not stay behind to try and convince someone who is frozen with fear.**

> **If you are responsible for children, you must be the LAST person to evacuate after you ensure that all of the children have gotten out.**

> **Use the FASTEST exit, not necessarily the closest one.**

Sometimes in emergency situations, everyone will run to the nearest exit. This creates a traffic jam and will slow down the evacuation, which can have catastrophic consequences. Utilizing a farther exit might allow you to get out faster.

Shelter

In many situations in a school setting, evacuation is a poor option since the students may be too young to safely do so. In this case, shelter may be your only reasonable option.

A shelter is a position in your environment that protects you from a threat. A shelter that protects people from being run over by a vehicle may be different from a shelter that protects them from bullets. Your choice of shelter may depend on the type of threat and the type of weapon(s).

Typically, in a school environment, the threat is from a perpetrator(s) armed with a firearm. Guns seem scary, but they can only cause damage in a straight line.

If you are not on the line of fire, you cannot get shot.

A shelter that can protect you against a gun is one that allows you to stay off the line of fire. This means that your environment is FULL of shelters. Some of them may be effective for a short time, such as a rock, tree, or the corner of a wall. Others may work for a longer duration, such as a room with thick concrete walls and heavy doors with locks.

Position in your shelter

People are often told to move to the corner of the room, away from the door, because this is far from the source of the threat. This position *feels* safer. However, if the attacker is able to enter the room, or even slightly open the door, the entire room becomes a danger zone. If you are far from the door, you have limited options of actions you can take to save yourself and those around you.
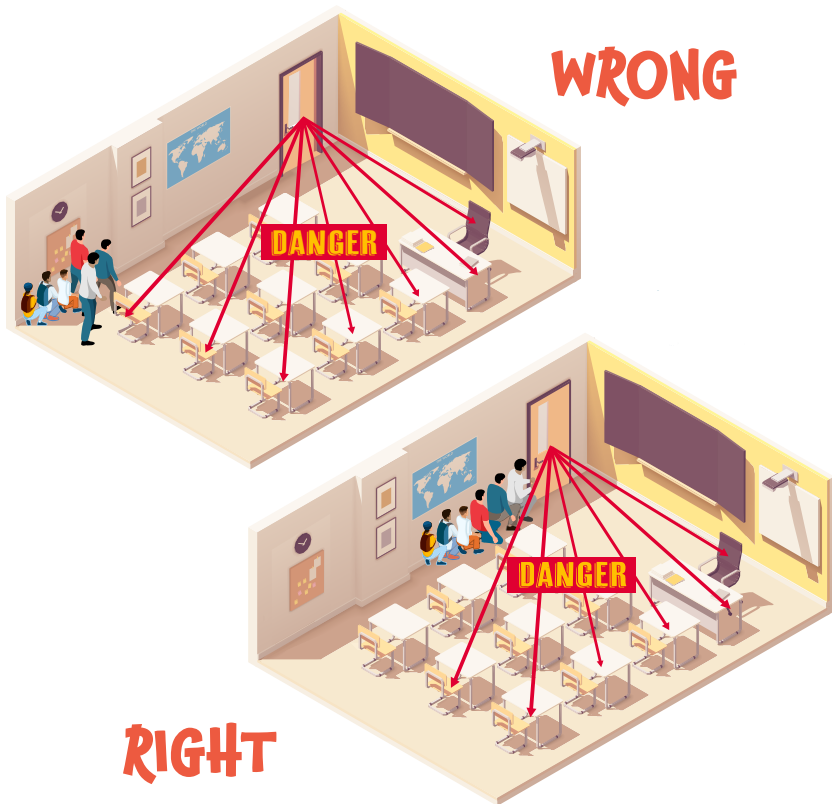
However, if you position yourself close to the door, your position is off the line of fire, while you maintain many more options of actions that can be taken, IF he is able to enter the room. This is true because in order to fight the attacker, you have to be close enough to touch him.

Barricade the door?

Many people will tell you to "barricade the door" if you are sheltering inside a room. However, there are many problems with attempting to barricade a door, all of which can endanger your life. You should lock the door, but you should think carefully about whether a barricade will actually offer you any benefit.

Problems with barricades:

1. In order to barricade the door, you must enter the "danger zone." You are taking a big risk spending any time in this area.

2. Is there anything in your environment that you can move that the attacker cannot move? If not, it is a waste of time to barricade the door with those items.

3. If the lock on the door fails, the items that most people place in front of the door only slow it from opening, but do not prevent it. Even if the door only opens a few inches, the attacker can create danger throughout most of the room. The barricade actually benefits the attacker in this scenario, because he can reach you, but you cannot reach him.

This is all assuming that the door opens inward, because any object you place in front of a door that opens outward will have no effect at all.

Fight

Fighting is not our first option, however, if the time comes, we must fight aggressively to stop an attacker. If I can control his weapon, then I can control the situation.

When someone with a weapon enters a doorway, the weapon is typically the first thing to cross the threshold. This offers us a tremendous opportunity to gain control. The person closest to the door has the most important job. He/she must:

1 **Wrap the weapon (or the attacker's arms) with a hugging motion. Squeeze as tight as you can**

2 **Go limp at the knees, dragging him to the ground.** Even the strongest person in the world will have trouble lifting your body weight with his arms.

3 **While the person closest to the door should focus on controlling the weapon, everyone else should ensure the attacker falls to the ground. This is accomplished by tackling his body and legs and squeezing as tight as possible, while staying off the line of fire.**

Teenagers may be capable of assisting, however, young children cannot be expected to fight an attacker.

Conclusion

Life has inherent risk and no security program can protect against all possible risks. However, when we take on some responsibility for the wellbeing of our community, there are many actions we can take to control risks. No two individuals are capable or willing to take on the same responsibilities, however, every individual has a meaningful role that he/she can play in the overall security program. If you find yourself in an emergency, do not ask, "Who should I call?" Instead ask, "What should I DO?" One of the actions that you *may* take, is to call someone to assist. However, there is a different mindset and an enhanced form of community when you see yourself as a participant in the system, rather than expecting someone else to take care of the problems.

If we utilize technology and equipment properly, and if we establish and adhere to sound routine protocols, emergency situations will be almost always prevented. However, it is never possible to prevent all emergencies. Therefore, the knowledge and capabilities of myself and those around me becomes important in order to regain control of an out-of-control situation. The faster we can effectively respond, the more damage can be minimized.

In a strong and resilient community, there is a guiding principle that should lead each of us.

> **"Every one of us must see ourselves as if the fate of the world rests on our shoulders alone."**
>
> **— David Ben Gurion**, First Prime Minister of Israel

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Ariel has taken his 20 years of tactical combat and counter-terrorism experience in extreme environments and adapted it to civilian life. He makes learning how to turn your institution into a safer and more secure environment, feel realistic and attainable. Ariel's methods have been embraced by Law Enforcement, Security Professionals, and community organizations around the world.

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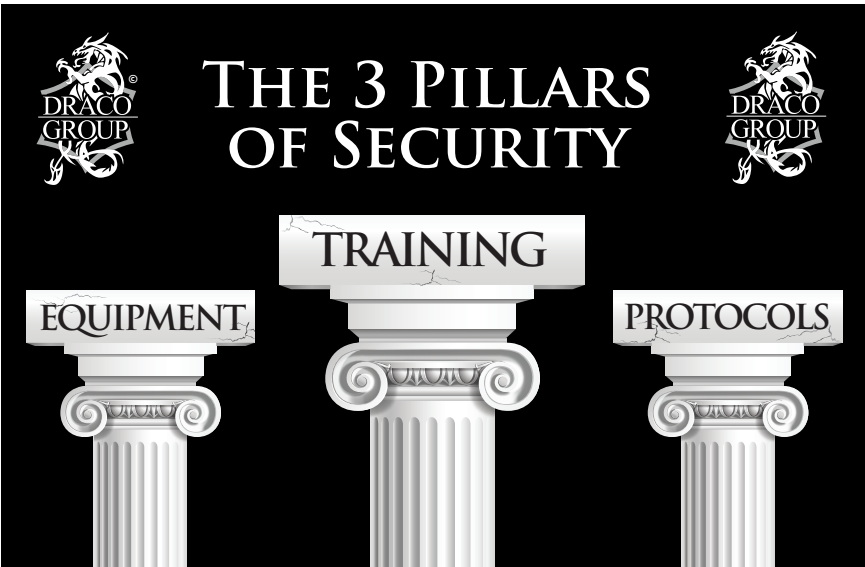
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