



LEVEL I VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING (VTRA)

POST SECONDARY EDITION

PURPOSE

This two day workshop serves as formal training for those who participate on VTRA Teams as well as information/awareness training for all other staff. It is to teach Post-Secondary leaders including upper administration, deans, directors, managers, supervisors and general staff groups about the multidisciplinary process of determining if a threat maker actually poses a risk to the target or targets they have threatened. Teams also assess students, staff and others who already have histories of violence and are concerned about further and/or more serious violence potential. Serious violence is an evolutionary process and most offenders leave (intentionally or unintentionally) pre-incident signs and indicators. Teams are trained to become local experts at collecting data that helps to paint a clear picture of how high risk an individual may be to carry out an act of violence towards themselves or others and what the appropriate intervention should be based on that data.

ABOUT THE TRAINER

J. KEVIN CAMERON, M.Sc., R.S.W., B.C.E.T.S., B.C.S.C.R.
Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress,
Diplomate, American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress
Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment
& Trauma Response

Eight days after the Columbine school shooting, Mr. Cameron led the crisis response during the 1999 school shooting incident in Taber, Alberta. Shortly thereafter he was seconded by the Alberta Government to a 13-month initiative where he studied traumatic aftermath from a "human systems approach." Through consultation with several American sites that had experienced school shootings, and other trauma sites throughout North America and in concert with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Behavioural Sciences Unit, he developed Canada's first comprehensive, multidisciplinary Violence Risk Assessment (VTRA) training program.

In March 2001, Mr. Cameron was invited to Washington, D.C. by the United States Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education, where he presented parts of the emerging VTRA Model and opened international collaborative relations for the development of violence threat risk assessment protocols and related training.

Later he was invited to Washington, D.C. by the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. State Department and the OECD, to participate with members of the United States Secret Service and leaders from the September 11th New York City crisis response efforts, in an "International Meeting on Helping Schools Prepare for and Respond to Terrorist Attacks."

In the spring of 2005 and 2006 Mr. Cameron met with leaders from across Canada as a participant in the RCMP National Youth Strategy initiative meeting to assist with more clearly defining the role of police officers in schools.

As lead threat assessment consultant to Surrey School District, Mr. Cameron has partnered in a comprehensive Youth Gang Prevention and Research Initiative with school leaders and a number of international experts in the field of violence

A CANADIAN MODEL

This uniquely Canadian model pulls together the practice of threat assessment, more commonly linked to school shooting prevention, and the practice of forensic or general violence risk assessment which has been used by practitioners for decades as it relates to most other forms of violence. Neither practice on their own has been sufficient to address the complex needs of the post-secondary institution where transitioning young adults merge with the adult world, established academia, and the emotional intensity of new relationships in a new setting. Serious violence is evolutionary but it is contextual as well. The VTRA Model highlights both traditional and non-traditional risk enhancing variables overlaid with a human systems based contextual assessment that allows Multidisciplinary VTRA teams to make an actual determination of current risk for harm to self or others and plan a comprehensive data driven intervention based on case specific data.

prevention and youth gangs. In 2009 Kevin accepted the invitation to serve as the lead External Clinician in the highly successful Surrey WRAP Program; an Anti-Youth Gang Project funded through the Government of Canada's Youth Gang Prevention Fund. In March 2011 the Prime Minister of Canada announced from Surrey, B.C. a five year extensions of the funding to the Surrey WRAP which provides "longer-term services and support for gang-associated youth and their families, as well as resources for education of the broader community".

In May 2011 Mr. Cameron was appointed as the President of the newly organized International Center for Threat Assessment (ICTA) which will assist in training Multidisciplinary Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Teams (VTRA) outside of Canada including training of select American School Jurisdictions with children of the U.S. Military through a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) grant funded initiative in collaboration with the University of Southern California (USC). As part of this initiative, Mr. Cameron is lead author with Dr. Marleen Wong, of the newly developed "Military Connected Schools (MCS) Model of Threat Assessment".

At the request of the editors for the Journal of College Student Psychotherapy former lead researcher for the United States Secret Service Dr. Marisa Reddy Randazzo (Managing Partner SIGMA Threat Management Associates) and J. Kevin Cameron wrote for the 2012 publication "From Presidential Protection to Campus Security: A Brief History of Threat Assessment in North American School and Colleges". This Scholarly article "provides a brief history of the development of behavioural threat assessment within schools, colleges, and universities in the United States and Canada, from the original Secret Service model used to evaluate threats against the U.S. president, to its adaptation for use in workplace settings, to later adaptations for U.S. and Canadian secondary schools (following the school shootings in Colorado and Alberta in April 1999), and to its current configuration in U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities".

*Mr. Cameron served as **Adjunct Faculty** for **Loma Linda University** from 2000 to 2005 where he taught **Crisis Intervention Counselling** in the Graduate Program for **Marital and Family Therapy**. Early in his career he also served as an **Assistant Director of Residence** (Residence Facilitator) for **Fairview College**, Alberta. While studying at **Saint Mary's University** in the late 80's he was active as a **Student Senator**, **Residence Security**, **Campus Police**, and a **Don** (Residence Assistant).*