



THE FLYNT GROUP INC.

ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE®

■ Blue Handover:
Private Security to Law Enforcement Handover in an Active Shooter Event



THE FLYNT GROUP INC.
ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE®

PO BOX 20111
KANSAS CITY, MO USA 64195
877.FLYNTGP (359.6847)
INFO@FLYNTGROUP.COM
WWW.FLYNTGROUP.COM

Flynt Group White Paper

Blue Handover: Private Security to Law Enforcement Handover in an Active Shooter Event

This Flynt Group White Paper addresses the challenges of handover of an active shooter crisis from armed private security officers to law enforcement officers.

Private sector firms, universities, banks, and other institutions increasingly rely on armed security officers to protect their personnel, students, and customers from the threat of an active shooter.

These organizations view it unacceptable to wait for a law enforcement response – they judge the damage a deranged active shooter can inflict each minute as a compelling reason to maintain an immediate armed response under their control and on their premises.

Of course, law enforcement will arrive and assume control of the crime scene. This dictates that techniques be developed, trained, and validated to prevent Blue-on-Blue fratricide during the transition from an armed private security team to law enforcement. This is one of the most dangerous tasks facing armed private security officers and sworn law enforcement officers.

We hope that this Flynt Group White Paper informs planning, discussion and training of both the private sector's armed security officers and our communities' law enforcement organizations.

Flynt Group's mission is to equip our clients with *Actionable Knowledge*® to wisely manage their risk positions and achieve their goals across a broad spectrum of hazards and threats. Should we be able to provide any further information, please contact us at 816.243.0044, or via email at Info@FlyntGroup.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Flynt, Ph.D., LTC (R)
President
The Flynt Group, Inc.
“Actionable Knowledge”®



Law Enforcement Handover

Law enforcement handover is a coordinated operation executed to sustain continuity of the tactical situation while transferring control between a private security organization and law enforcement. Extreme control and discipline is essential to avoid Blue-on-Blue fratricide.

During a special response event (SRE) at facilities with dedicated private security officers, the security officers (SO) will be the first to respond, gain control, and move to neutralize the threat. Typically, armed SOs are specifically trained to respond to events on their premises, have access, understand the building floor plans, and are best prepared to initially deal with the threat and establish incident command.

The introduction of uncoordinated actions while responding has the potential to result in catastrophic fratricide. Converging armed SOs, law enforcement, and other first responders must be tightly controlled and coordinated.

Tactical coordination between the private security force and responding law enforcement agencies must be quickly conducted prior to law enforcement handover and transfer of control.

Command and Control

The handover is a tactically vulnerable period and unity of effort between responding organizations is critical. The private security force will have established incident command at the outset of the SRE and should maintain control until the handover is complete. The law enforcement tactical response element should consider co-locating its command post with the private security force command post and exchange liaisons to achieve the required level of coordination to conduct a rapid, smooth handover and transition.

Tactical element leadership and control between private security and law enforcement teams should be understood by everyone prior to initiating the link up and handover. Teams should maintain organizational integrity, avoiding ad-hoc blending of private security and law enforcement officers. Only trained team members should operate within teams.

Communications

Establishing radio communications between the private security organization and law enforcement is important, if feasible. Frequencies and call signs should be quickly exchanged and radio checks conducted prior to law enforcement departing the staging area. A common frequency should be used to maintain situational awareness during the handover. Uniform characteristics, signals, and specific code words should be disseminated to the officer level; this is particularly important during periods of limited visibility and in complex structures.



Situational Awareness

The private security organization should provide law enforcement a rapid update on friendly and threat situations and locations. Descriptions of law enforcement and private security uniforms and equipment as well as threat actions, characteristics, appearance and equipment should be quickly exchanged. Private security and law enforcement teams should coordinate locations and activities and track all organizations throughout the operation. Fire control measures, routes, and link-up points should be exchanged and coordinated at all levels. During the link up, one element should remain static while the other element moves to the static element.

The private security organization should notify the 911 dispatch in the initial call of the best staging area and access point for law enforcement, particularly if there are multiple entrances. Law enforcement should be notified of any entrances that are locked down, inoperable, blocked, or threatened.

Conclusion

Extreme control and discipline is essential to avoid fratricide when conducting a handover from armed private security to law enforcement. Independent entities taking the initiative put their lives and the lives of others at risk. The private security Incident Commander is in control of the SRE until the transfer of control to law enforcement is complete. Conducting a successful handover requires frequent practice and should be incorporated into training and exercise programs.

