



SECURITY PRESENTATION TO KHALSA COUNCIL

April, 2016
Española New Mexico

Introduction

Dear Khalsa Council Members and Guests:

Having 'situational awareness' when we are out and about or at an event, Gurdwara or class is important for all of us, to keep ourselves, our loved ones and others safe. I am committed to helping build a security leadership team and developing a comprehensive security program for our community over the coming years.

Threats are increasing as we grow and as the world around us grows more conflicted and troubled. I am unable to attend these Spring 2016 meetings and have asked MSS Daya Singh, who has decades of experience in the security industry, to provide the Khalsa Council with a broad outline of a basic approach to securing our events and gatherings. I'm grateful for his support in my absence, and look forward to being at the Fall meetings and moving our security program forward.

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Security and Protection for Communities and Events

- The threat to our safety is real and growing in our world.
 - We do not fear the threats, but we are aware of them and take them seriously.
 - We will be prepared and aware and guard against being victims.
 - Security is a multi-layered plan that addresses threat in every way possible.
 - There is no minimum or maximum security plan; we do the most we can with our resources knowing that any one measure could increase safety and save lives.
 - As Sikhs, we have a heritage and mission to protect ourselves and those who need our assistance, to remain safe and secure.





The Nature of the Threat

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The Disruption of or an Attack on a Gurdwara, Ashram Setting, Community Gathering, Meeting or Conference, Yoga Event, or Other Gathering of Sikhs or Kundalini yogis.

- By an “anti-Islam” fanatic mistakenly targeting Sikhs.
- By a mentally ill attacker.
- By factions within the Sikh “community”.
- By attacker(s) with internal disputes within Sikh Dharma communities.
- By an attacker with a personal dispute or grievance.



The Nature of the Threat

Forces Increasing the Threats

- Political demagogues with anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant messages.
- ISIS and other organized terrorist cells.
- Mental illness and gun availability.
- The rapid growth of our own organization where all are “welcome”.
- Increased “radicalism” within the Sikh community worldwide





Addressing the Threats

Relationships with Law Enforcement and Public Officials Are Critical

- Keep them close and familiar with activities.
- Inform local law enforcement when events will occur, and of regularly scheduled gatherings.
- Brief local law enforcement on the nature of the events, the venues, and the participants.
- Utilize resources of local law enforcement to provide security planning, patrolling and attending of events.
- Contact FBI and State Police to discuss possible threats from known individuals or groups that may exist in the area.



Addressing the Threats

Hire Off-Duty Law Enforcement Officer(s) or Private Security Officer(s) to provide security

- If the budget can be provided, hire someone who can focus only on event security
- Work with the provider or other consultant to develop a security plan for the event, and specific “post orders” for the officers.
- Officers can be armed or unarmed. If staffing with an armed officer to provide response capability to an attack with deadly force, it is critical that qualifications and experience of the officer are queried and confirmed. An unarmed officer can also be effective in handling many serious security situations. Use careful, best judgement in choosing an armed or unarmed officer. Off Duty Police Officers will be armed in almost all cases.
- Notify participants of the security presence and how to interact with the officer, to ensure coordination and limit uneasiness.



Addressing the Threats

Organize “volunteer” security “coordinator(s)” among the event organizers

- Develop a security plan that the “coordinator(s)” will execute.
 - Include oversight of the security officer(s) if one/several are part of the plan
- Ensure “coordinator(s)” have rapid, functional communication (mobile phone, etc.) to call 911 or make other critical outside or internal contact.
- Provide a “briefing” for coordinator(s) from local law enforcement or some expert security source.
- Identify “coordinator(s)” with a highly visible badge or other marking, and ensure that participants know who they are.
- {Situational} Provide “coordinator(s)” with non-lethal devices like OC Spray, loud alarm device, small “baton”, or other signaling or defensive devices.





Basic Elements of a Security Plan

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Create an Actual Security Plan

- Configure all activities (registration, teaching, meals and snacks, breaks, etc.) to be located as safely as possible within the facility (away from doors and windows, etc.)
- Plan duties, activities, patrol routes, and communication protocols for the security officers and/or security volunteers
- Document contact information for law enforcement personnel other than 911
- Establish regular communication to outside volunteer that all is o.k.
- If possible, install a security camera to record entries and exits, and other key images
- Plan briefings for registration staff and attendees.
- Maintain up to the minute intelligence from law enforcement and news sources.
- Create and brief all security personnel and staff on a “response plan” for several types of incidents including active shooter, altercation, robbery, or disturbance.

Basic Elements of a Security Plan



Access Control is Critical

- Know the identity of everyone in the room/event if possible, and “badge” everyone with an “official” event badge.
 - Do not allow anyone to enter or be in the room without registration and badging.
- Set up “registration” outside the room if possible; arrange it so entry without registration and badging is very difficult.
- Check I.D.s of anyone not personally known before badging.
- Brief registration staff on handling “crashers”.
- Limit the carrying of bags into the room, and “check” all bags entering.
- Do not allow cash, checks or credit card information to accumulate on the table or in open containers at the registration
- Check for “un-badged” entrants periodically through the event.
- Ask participants to report any “un-badged” participants or presence.

Basic Elements of a Security Plan



Conduct a Security and Evacuation Briefing, Including:

- Identify security personnel, their role and how to contact them.
- Instruct attendees to follow the instructions of security personnel.
- Instruct attendees to notify security or event personnel of any perceived threat.
- Point out any safe hiding places or areas of the room if available.
- Instruct attendees to leave the room or move away from a violent disturbance or incident, allowing security personnel and event staff to handle them.
- Instruct attendees to evacuate the room immediately if instructed to do so.
- Point out all exits from the room and how to access them.
- Point out any hazards to evacuations, and do not allow a clutter to build up anywhere that would block exit routes
- Ask everyone to remember to stay calm under all circumstances, and not to run into others when exiting.
- Point out any fire suppression devices and how to utilize them.



**Have a Safe and
Successful Event**

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