

Introduction

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approach to violence
prevention (Detect,
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Respond, and
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AUPD Jurisdiction and Authority

AUPD is a licensed private police department through the District of

Officers are Campus Special Police Officers (CSPO), commissioned by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

CSPOs have arrest jurisdiction and authority on property owned, operated, and leased by the university.

This authority is derived from D.C. LAW 11-111

Strategic Plan Content

Beginning in 2012, AU invested heavily in increasing physical security and emergency response and management protocols across the university. These actions were taken as an overall risk and threat assessment process that identified opportunities to increase the safety and security of the AU community.

The overarching security strategy was based on prevention and a security posture of threats and risks that could impact the university adversely. The AUPD and Office of Risk Management created a Strategic Plan in 2013 to address the evolving security and risk management needs on campus. The plan was in place from 2013 . 2017 and revised and updated in 2017 . 2020. These plans created a framework to make strategic decisions on the scope and methodologies of safety, security, and risk management initiatives across all operational elements of the university in support of its core mission. Ten years later we continue to assess an enhance safety and security programs adjusting to the threat environment as needed.

Ten-Year Strategic Plan Content

enhancements and other initiatives. It is important to note that a guiding factor in many of the preventive and response protocols that were implemented was the result of AUPD Officers not being able to respond to or otherwise mitigate situations involving individuals armed with lethal weapons. Also, we recognize that armed police officers on university property do not prevent gun violence or other types of violent crimes from occurring.

Most recent high-profile events like Virginia Tech, UVA, and Michigan State remind us that armed police departments at universities/colleges did not stop the shooting from occurring, although response time is a significant consideration. The most effective approach is to deter and prevent violence in advance.

TRIGGER WARNING

Since 2013, the Following Strategic Approach to Detect, Deter, and Prevent Has Been Implemented (2 of 2)

Physical Security Standards: University Safety and Security Services (USSS) established security and emergency notification standards for all university buildings.

Radio Systems: AUPD invested in an encrypted radio system to enable communications when commercial systems fail during a crisis. The system allows officers to communicate at 95% coverage in all sixty buildings and on the grounds.

Mass Emergency Notification: American University implemented mass emergency communication through Rave. Rave is the leading mass notification system enabling governments, organizations, institutions, and schools to send messages quickly and reliably, including desktop notifications.

Camera Coverage: USSS expanded camera coverage of building entrances and vehicular and pedestrian access points to the campus buildings and grounds. Cameras are primarily in support of emergency management, investigations, and daily situational awareness.

University Police Partnerships and Resources

Crime Statistics: Prior Weapon Incidents on AU Campus 2013 – 2023

The following incidents involved individuals brandishing, displaying, or otherwise possessing firearms or other deadly weapons that resulted in a campus-wide lockdown being initiated.

March 2013 . An individual entered the Eagles Nest and displayed a handgun to a contract employee during a domestic argument. The individual fled campus and there were no reported injuries.

December 2013 . AUPD received a report of an individual on campus armed with a handgun. The investigation determined the individual was an off-duty Police Officer.

July 2018 . MPD notified AUPD that a man with a gun was observed walking towards the AU campus from New Mexico Avenue, NW. The subject was never located.

April 3, 2023 . An individual entered campus and, while stealing a scooter, threatened to stab the student who confronted him before fleeing the scene. Arrests were made at a later date when the subject returned.

Recent Incident Involving Weapons/Threats that Resulted in a Timely Warning to the Community

April 27, 2024: It was reported that while on an AU shuttle bus at Nebraska Avenue and Ward Circle, an individual brandished a weapon in their direction. AUPD confirmed the report and initially observed a subject off campus matching the description given by the reporting students. When the subject began walking back towards campus, AUPD initiated a lockdown and instructed the AU community to shelter in place. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) was contacted while AUPD continued to track the subject. After MPD apprehended the individual, he was arrested and taken into custody. At that point, AUPD notified the community with an all-clear and lifted the lockdown.

Threat Assessment on People of Concern

2020 – 2023: 58 threat assessments were completed regarding people of concern. A threat assessment is a process that evaluates a person's behavior to determine if they pose a threat of violence or other dangerous behavior. Threat assessments are based on facts and are designed to identify, gather, assess, and manage potential threats. The goal is to improve safety and intervene, if necessary.

Source: AUPD AUTOMATED REPORTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ARMS)

Additional Incidents of AUPD and/or MPD Responses to AU Campus for Weapon Violations 2013 – 2023

A total of 35 weapons violations involving AU affiliates, non-affiliates, or contractors. Weapons were used and/or confiscated . five resulted in arrest.

27 of the 35 incidents occurred on-campus, and eight off-campus incidents have occurred contiguous to AU property.

The types of weapons used and or confiscated include firearms,

University Safety Programs

Threat Assessment and Management Violence Prevention Program

Team committed to the safety and well-being of the university community through education, communication, planning, assessment, and management towards achieving the goal of mitigating behavioral threats (internal and external).

Members include:

- “ Dean of Students (CareNetwork)
- “ AU Counseling Services
- “ Human Resources
- “ Legal
- “ Provost Office
- “ Police Department

The goals of the team are:

- “ Assess, Refer, Support, and Monitor
- “ Law Enforcement Intervention (Judicial System support through US Attorney's Office)

Criminal Offenses on Campus

Comparison of Washington, DC Institutions

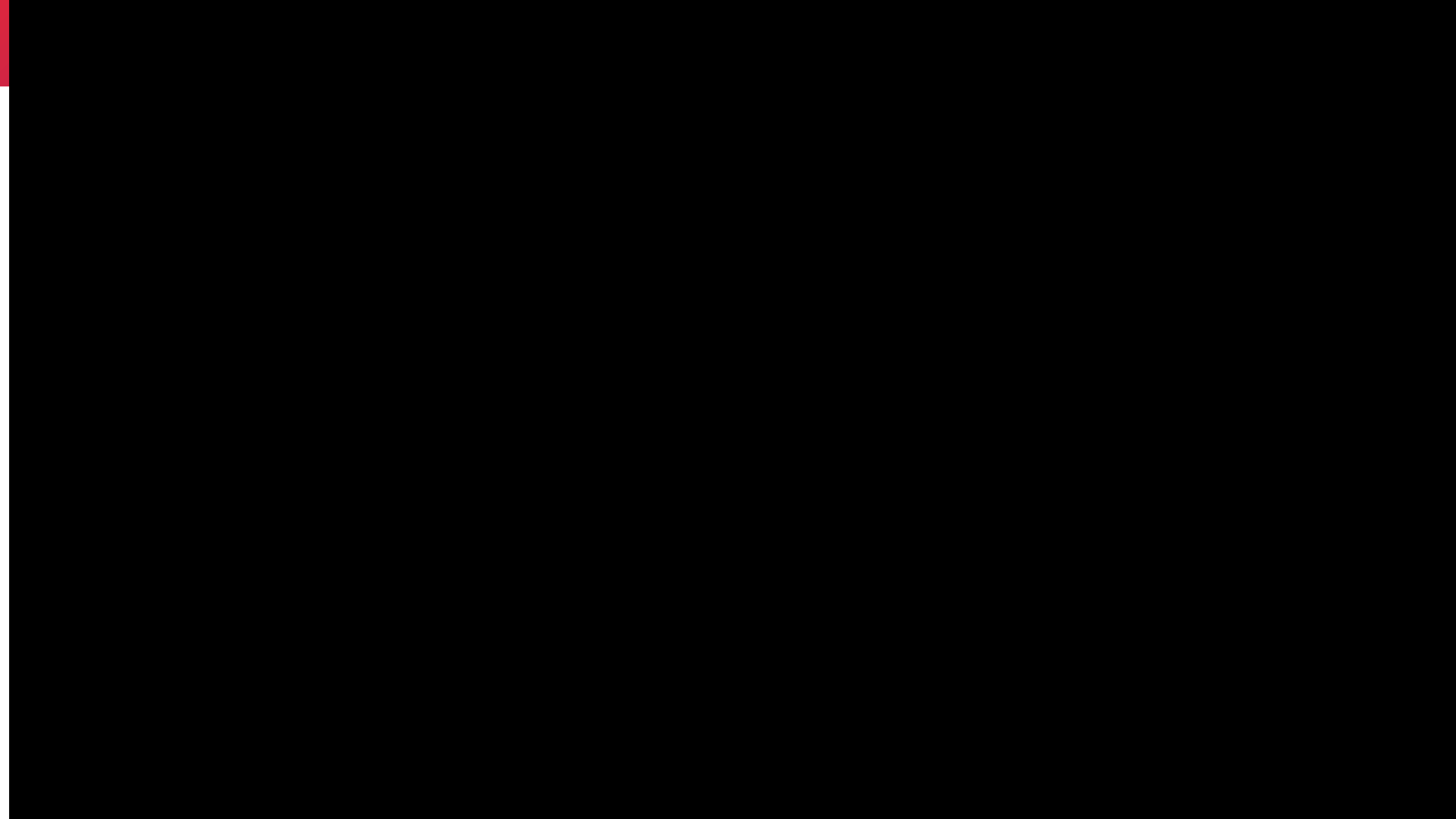
2008 . 2022

Market Comparison Institution	Men	Women	Institution Size (2022)	Murder/ Non-negligent manslaughter*	Aggravated assault	Sex offenses – Forcible	Robbery	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Arson
American University	5,105	8,780	13,885		2	5	2	33	3	
George Washington University	9,774	16,165	25,939		2	12	2	53	1	
Georgetown University	9,469	11,515	20,984		1	8		68	5	1
Howard University	3,794	9,092	12,886		24	6	14	92	19	

*In addition to the above offenses, Clery reports include Negligent manslaughter, Rape, Fondling, Sex offenses - Non-

Five-Year Metro Police Status Around Campus





Since 2013, the Following Strategic Approach to *Detect, Deter, and Prevent* has been Implemented:

AUPD Active Shooter Armed Intruder Policy: Members of the Metropolitan Police Department are trained and equipped to respond to an emergency of this nature. The police will evaluate the situation to determine the best course of action for the safety of the American University community. MPD will be responsible for all tactical operations and AUPD officers will provide assistance. The immediate response of the first armed officers on the scene is to take tactical measures to find and stop the threat to the community.

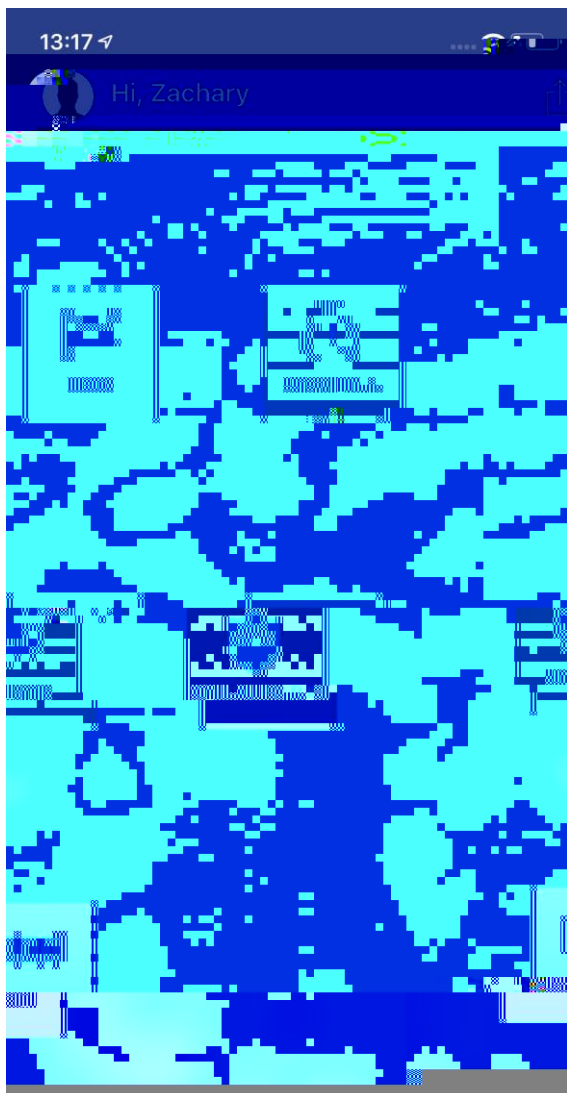
It is AUPD policy to assist armed police and emergency medical service personnel in the protection of life according to established legal protocol. The primary role of AUPD Officers responding to an active shooter /multiple casualty incident is to facilitate the rapid response of emergency response personnel to stop the threat and save lives.

It is AUPD policy that once communications personnel are notified of an active shooter/shots fired/person with a gun on campus, the communications staff will immediately initiate the following counter measures:

1. Activate the emergency lockdown button.
2. Alert the community through Rave emergency messaging.
3. Call MPD 2D for on-duty response using the MPD radio and by calling 911.

Emergency Communications Enhancements to the Ten-Year Plan

Rave Guardian Personal Safety App



Transforms cell phone into a personal safety device

Panic Button: direct, immediate connection to the University Police dispatchers with GPS location and personal profile information.

Personal Guardians: students can identify friends, roommates, and other students. When a student is in a red zone, a red timer and do not disable it before the end-time, Guardians will be alerted.

For more information, visit american.edu/police/Crime-Prevention-Programs

Global Safety

As part of AU's commitment to expanding our protective role, we realize that international travel is an integral part of the AU educational experience and mission. Due to the unique nature of international travel and the destinations that AU faculty, staff, and students visit, the Office of Global Safety (OGS) developed a process to assess risk so that informed decisions can be made when planning and approving international travel.

The OGS staff assess and review requested destinations and provide risk mitigation planning by leveraging available intelligence, providing and discussing risk assessments, providing and supporting organization pre-travel briefings, and advising on personal security issues. Additionally, OGS coordinates the AU response during critical incidents abroad; provides ongoing intelligence monitoring; and provides liaison with private and government entities, including the U.S. Department of State, intelligence providers, regional partners, and partners in higher education. We can communicate with travelers and groups abroad and conduct periodic check-ins when travelers are in high-risk destinations.

