Threat Assessment

Slide 1
First, what I’d like to do is show you is the institution strategic plan, which was put together for the 2009 through 2014 academic year.

Slide 1
As part of my duties, I am a member of the threat assessment team. This slide provides you with my contact information.

Slide 2
Violence is a concern at modern-day campuses. You must know what you need to do combat violence.

Slide 3
The federal government requires that the University publish crime statistics. I recommend that you check out these statistics at the site on the slide. I think you will find that the statistics show that the ODU campus is safer than the surrounding community.

Slide 4
These are a number of recent headlines.

Slide 5
Walt Taylor drew the following political cartoon in the Virginia Pilot, June 15th, editorial edition.

Slide 6
Perception is reality. This is an urban campus thus subject to many of the problems that other urban universities face. This university has taken extreme measures to educate students on how to avoid becoming victims. In reviewing the statistics over the last year, I have determined that a large majority of the victims have been students traveling alone, after midnight, in areas on the border of campus or immediately adjacent to campus.
Slide 7
Far too often, the victims had been consuming alcohol. Many of the cases have involved drug transactions and the majority of these go unreported due to the illegal activity occurring. There is also a problem with student-on-student crime.

Slide 8
The University has acted. The University has added additional police officers and security officers. Where lighting is needed, it has been added. And additional security phones have been placed in strategic locations. The police patrol at peak hours and we have increased our efforts and our cooperation with the city of Norfolk. The University is closing Elkhorn Avenue, and this will result in less availability of outsiders to the interior of campus. We’re also working toward a joint Norfolk Police presence on campus.

Slide 9
You are probably more attentive that our teenaged students -- and if you see something that appears strange, there's probably a problem. So report!

Slide 10
If you observe an environmental problem (such as lighting), contact Facilities Management. If you see a non-emergency item, please contact the Old Dominion University’s Police Department. If you see a potential threat, you can contact a member of the Threat Assessment Team or you can contact me as a member of that team. If you see an emergency, please dial 911.

Slide 11
Threat assessment is a strategy for preventing violence. We do this by identifying and evaluating individuals that pose a threat.

Slide 12
The team educates the campus community, evaluates the risk of targeted violence, and evaluates risk of self harm posed by an individual reported to the team.

Slide 13
The team will develop an appropriate response. In that response, they will assist targets in developing and implementing appropriate safety measures.

Slide 14
The threat assessment team identifies threats through behaviors of concern. Those behaviors include communications, where an individual shows intent to harm themselves or other. A possession of a weapon is always a behavior of concern. Further, even when no threat has been communicated, a person who acts in an angry and abusive manner may exhibit a behavior of concern.

Slide 15
Threats can be expressed in many ways -- including any media, drawings, or other visual representations. Behaviorally, quite simply -- if your antenna goes up, report it!

Slide 16
You are the front line. In 2003, ODU began its trip toward becoming a more residential campus. With the residential nature of our campus, incidents of suicide and suicide ideation have increased. These incidents are more numerous than any other type of threat that the team receives.

Slide 17
Warning sides of suicide: a change in attitude, a sudden drop in grades, unusual work such as a paper or art object, conveyance of hopelessness, and futility of life. Sometimes they will just bluntly say that suicide may be a better option. Extreme domestic problems...

Slide 18
The team knows what it's doing. It’s been in existence since 2008. It’s made up of highly qualified professionals sympathetic to the needs of those in trouble. The teams’ goal is to help the person, not to separate them from the University. The team is passionate about the work, and we see the results.

Slide 19
This is my contact information. As member of the team, I will convey your concerns to the team if you contact me.