



Homeland  
Security

July 18, 2012

The Honorable Sandy Adams  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Adams:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) training curriculum relating to the appropriate response to an active shooter situation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute offers a variety of training opportunities such as the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS) and specific courses such as "IS 907 Active Shooter: What You Can Do." This specific course was incorporated into the Department's Employee Preparedness Initiative designed for all DHS employees.

In addition, FEMA through its JCTAWS program, and the Office of Infrastructure Protection, also provide active shooter training and exercises. FEMA training programs are developed to increase awareness across the Homeland Security Enterprise. Training materials are not designed to mandate law enforcement actions, but may be used by law enforcement personnel to assist in educating the public. The course you referenced in your letter and associated materials were developed in collaboration with law enforcement subject matter experts and reviewed by the Department's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

All DHS law enforcement officers, including Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and agents, are trained and equipped with firearms and intermediate force options to address any use of force situation, including active shooter scenarios. CBP officers and agents receive quarterly use of force training throughout their CBP law enforcement careers. This training instructs them on how to reasonably utilize use of force options according to DHS and CBP policies and existing legal standards.

We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary efforts of the Nation's sworn law enforcement officers. At DHS, we applaud their efforts and support them with equipment, exercises, and training that are specific to their needs. Thank you again for your letter. Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 447-5890.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Peacock".

Nelson Peacock  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs