

Michael Dorn
Executive Director, Safe Havens International

During his campus safety career of more than 40 years, Michael Dorn’s work has taken him to 11 countries including India, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, South Africa, Trinidad-Tobago, the U.K. and Vietnam. Michael has coordinated school safety security, climate, culture and emergency preparedness assessments for more than 8,300 public, charter, faith-based, boarding, independent schools in the U.S. and abroad. Michael has provided post-incident assistance for more than 300 school crisis events including assistance to law firms, school systems, state agencies and insurance carriers for twenty active shooter and targeted school shooting incidents in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Published by five major publishing houses, Michael has authored and co-authored 27 books on school safety including Innocent Targets – When Terrorism Comes to School, the peer reviewed 450 page Jane’s Safe Schools Planning Guide for All Hazards and Staying Alive – How to Act Fast and Survive Deadly Encounters which was released by Barron’s in 2014. Michael is currently co-authoring a 450-page university textbook Extreme Violence: Understanding and Protecting People from Active Assailants, Hate Crimes and Terrorist Attacks for Cognella due for publication in January 2021. Michael has also authored hundreds of articles and columns for national publications including Police Chief, Police, School Planning and Management, Campus Safety, Today’s School magazines.

Michael served on the authoring team for the IS 360: Preparing for Mass Casualty Incidents: A Guide for Schools, Higher Education, and Houses of Worship training program focused on active shooter incident prevention and preparedness for the United States Department of Homeland Security as part of the 2013 White House School Safety Initiative. Michael has also co-authored more than two dozen nationally distributed school safety web courses with seven of those courses being specfic to active shooter events and six coureses on school-related terrorism. Michael has appeared in dozens of school safety training videos that have been utilized by law enforcement, intelligence and school officials in more than 30 countries.

A graduate of the 181st Session of the FBI National Academy and bachelor’s and master’s programs at Mercer University, Michael has completed more than 3,000 classroom hours of formal law enforcement, fire service, and emergency management training. Michael received fourteen days of intensive training and orientation from the Israel National Police, Israel Defense Forces and Israeli intelligence agencies through a fellowship from Georgia State University. Michael has also provided training to two groups of police commanders from Israel. Michael also holds a certificate in Management Development from the American Management Association – Harvard School of Business delivered through Mercer University.

During his 25-year public safety career, Michael served as:

* Police Officer, Corporal, Sergeant and Lieutenant, Mercer University Police
* Chief of Police for the Bibb County Georgia Public School System
* School Safety Specialist for the Office of the Governor – Georgia Emergency Management Agency (top expert for the nation’s largest state government school safety center).
* State Antiterrorism Planner for the Georgia Office of Homeland Security Terrorism Division – Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
* Lead Program Manager for the Georgia Office of Homeland Security Terrorism Division – Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
* Senior Analyst for Public Safety and Emergency Management – Jane’s (top expert for the renowned 105-year-old British defense, intelligence and school safety publisher with offices in nine countries).

Michael’s expertise has been utilized by many organizations including the FBI, U.S. Department of Education, the International Association of Chief’s of Police, the National Association of School Resource Officers, Israel National Police, the Ministry of Education in Trinidad-Tobago, the National Emergency Management Association, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Attorney General’s Office, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and dozens of state police, emergency management agencies and departments of education.

A leading school safety malpractice expert witness consultant, Michael served as an expert witness consultant for superior and federal court cases in nineteen states and the District of Columbia. Michael has provided expert witness and consulting services in state and federal court litigation in a number of active assailant events including the Red Lake Reservation School Shooting, the Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting and the Townsville Elementary School Shooting. Michael has also served as an expert witness in eight school other school and school bus shooting cases that did not involve active assailants.

Michael has keynoted hundreds of state, national and inernational professional conferecnes across the United States, Canada, Trinidad-Tobago and Vietnam. Michael has keynoted for audiences of up to 3,500 people and has lecured at the FBI Academy, several dozen major universities in the United States and at Vietnam National University in Saigon, Vietnam. Michael has keynoted on safe school design concepts for six national and international architectural conferences including the International Conference on Safe School Design at Johson and Wales University,

During his ten-years of service as the Chief of Police for the Bibb County Public School System in Macon, Georgia, his officers developed what is believed to be the nation’s first mulitdisciplinary threat assessment team for a K12 school system. This approach and other innovative measures helped the district prevent a number of planned school shootings, one planned school bombing and a planned double suicided. Michael helped the Georgia Department of Education develop the nation’s first 24-hour-a-day, seven day per week year round school safety hotline. The state hotline was launched in August of 1998 and was was based on a similar live monitored hotline developed in 1990 in his school system police department. Michael also assisted in launching the e-mail based reporting feature for this hotline while he was serving at the state level. The Bibb County Public School Police Department was widely utilized as a model program by dozens of organizations including the United States Departments of Education and Justice, the FBI, International Association of Chief’s of Police and National Association of School Resource Officers. Michael has presented nationally and internationally on student threat evaluation for more than twenty five years and has personnally helped avert a number of planned school shootings and one planned school bombing.

Regularly interviewed as a school safety authrority by the media, Michael has provided balanced and informed commentary for Education Week, NPR, the Wall Street Journal, the Christian Science Monitor, Time, CNN Headline News.Hannity, Fox News, 20/20, ABC, NBC, MSNBC, Al Jezeera America the New York Times the Washington Post, the LA Times, Time Magazine, Unavision, the BBC, London Times, Tokyo Broadcasting and hundreds of other media organizations from around the globe.