



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

www.gdoe.net
501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913
Telephone: (671) 300-1677
Email: mtreyes@gdoe.net



K. ERIK SWANSON, PhD
Superintendent of Education

TES REYES-BURRIER
Public Information Officer
2024-PIO-0183

**July 17, 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

GDOE “Surviving an Active Threat” Training

Tiyan, Guam – The Guam Department of Education (GDOE), in collaboration with Guam Homeland Security, has initiated a critical training program titled "Surviving an Active Threat." This program is designed to equip school administrators and staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively respond to emergency situations. The training event started on July 8th and runs thru July 19, 2024 at Tiyan High School.

The course is being taught by three instructors from the Louisiana State University (LSU), National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) / Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education. This center is renowned for its Department of Homeland Security certified courses, delivered by expert instructors with extensive experience in handling counter-terrorist operations and emergency response. This initiative underscores the commitment of GDOE and Guam Homeland Security to ensure the safety and preparedness of educational institutions in the face of potential threats.

Surviving an Active Threat is designed to train non-traditional first responders in a proactive approach to enhancing preparedness for active threat incidents. By focusing on the "Run. Hide. Fight." principles, participants are equipped with the knowledge to make critical decisions during an active threat. The integration of these principles into existing emergency action plans is crucial, and through practical exercises, participants gain hands-on experience in applying these response options.

The course's structure, which includes lectures, group discussions, and practical applications, ensures a comprehensive learning experience. Additionally, the examination of case studies where these response options have been effectively employed or could have potentially altered the outcome of the incidents serves as a valuable learning tool for all attendees. This training is essential in building a resilient response system within educational institutions and other organizations.

At the end of the entire training event, there will be approximately 450 GDOE and select law enforcement personnel from multiple agencies better equipped to respond to a threat. To build capacity and support for the island, 23 of the participants will also complete a Train the Trainer course and be eligible to support community requests for future requests.

Superintendent Dr. Erik Swanson's statement highlights the dual approach needed: prevention and response. *“The emphasis on proactive and reactive training in educational settings is crucial for maintaining a safe learning environment.”* Preventative training can include conflict resolution, mental health awareness, and fostering a positive school culture, which can significantly reduce the likelihood of violence and behavioral issues. *“On the other hand, response training ensures that, in the event of a crisis, staff are well-equipped to handle the situation effectively, minimizing harm and restoring safety. This comprehensive strategy is key to protecting the well-being of students and staff alike.”* he added.

For more information, contact Chris Anderson at 671-300-1621, Tes Reyes-Burrier at 671-300-1677 or email mtreyes@gdoe.net

- END OF STATEMENT -