



# Alexandria Police Department

## Directive 11.10



# ACTIVE VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

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### 11.10.01 PURPOSE AND POLICY

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidance for the Department’s initial response to active violence incidents where the suspect(s) is taking aggressive actions intended to inflict serious bodily injury to victims. This guidance will generally be applicable until the threat(s) is located and stopped or until the Incident Command System (ICS) is activated and sufficient additional resources are deployed.

It is the policy of this Department to seek out, engage, and stop as rapidly and safely as possible, suspects who are actively injuring victims. It is also essential that the Department establishes and maintains a sufficient level of preparedness to respond to such incidents. The protection of life is of paramount importance and the primary goal in completing our mission. [46.1.10.c]

### 11.10.02 DEFINITIONS

**Active Violence Incident** – An incident *in which one or more suspects participate in a random or systematic spree of violence, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm*

*others. The suspect(s)' overriding objective is to cause serious injury or death to many rather than criminal conduct, such as kidnapping, robbery, etc.*

[REDACTED]

**Cold Zone** – An area where there is little to no threat due to geographic distance from the *incident location or because* the area has been secured by law enforcement *personnel*.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Hot Zone** - Any area where there is known hazard or direct and immediate threat. Only law enforcement *personnel* shall operate in the hot zone.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Rescue Task Force (RTF)** - Teams of Fire/EMS and law enforcement *personnel* who assemble for the purpose of rapid patient treatment from within a warm zone.

**Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC)** – The medical management of casualties under hostile conditions, expecting limited equipment, limited patient assessment, and limited treatment, until the patient is removed from the warm zone or the threat is eliminated.

**Unified Command** – *An Incident Management concept that allows different agencies with varying legal, geographic, and functional authorities and responsibilities to work together effectively without affecting individual agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.*

**Warm Zone** - An area with a potential threat to safety or health *due to its location relative to the incident location(s)*.

**11.10.03 PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION**

All Department personnel must be aware of and recognize behaviors by students or other persons that indicate they may pose a threat to schools, worksites, or other locations.

**A. Common Pre-Indicators of Active Violence** - Attacks of targeted violence may be preceded by a series of preparatory behaviors including selection and location of the target, securing a weapon, subverting security measures, etc. Behaviors of concern include:

1. Unusual interest in instances of targeted violence,
2. Evidence of ideas or plans to attack a specific target (e.g., diary notes, recent acquisition of a weapon),
3. Communications of inappropriate interest or plans to attack a target (although direct threats to the target may be rare, subjects may communicate information about intentions to family, friends, co-workers, etc.),
4. Following a target or visiting a possible location of an attack, and
5. Approaching a target or protected setting. Any history of attack-related behaviors committed with a weapon and any illegitimate breaches of security are cause for concern. This is particularly true if a weapon was acquired proximate to the development of an inappropriate interest or plan of attack.

**B. School Specific Violence**

Imminent warning signs indicate that a student is very close to behaving in a way that is potentially dangerous to self and/or others and require an immediate response.

1. Imminent warning signs may include but are not limited to the below listed factors:
  - a. Serious physical fighting with peers or family members,
  - b. Severe destruction of property,
  - c. Severe rage for seemingly minor reasons,
  - d. Detailed threats of lethal violence,
  - e. Possession and/or use of firearms and other weapons, or

- f. Self-injurious behaviors or threats of suicide.
  2. Department personnel who become aware of a situation where one or more of these warning signs or indicators is present should assess whether the circumstances constitute a threat to the lives and safety of others.
  3. If a threat is perceived, staff will take appropriate action, including immediately notifying their supervisor. If deemed necessary by the supervisor, a Patrol supervisor and the Criminal Investigations Section supervisor will also be notified.
  4. If a school is involved, or has the potential to be involved, the School Resource Supervisor will also be notified.
  5. A police information report (APD-7) should be filed whenever it is warranted based on the totality of the circumstances, or at the direction of a supervisor.
- C. The Special Operations Division (SOD) commander is responsible for overseeing the Department's preparations and planning for response to an active violence incident.

#### **11.10.04 PROCEDURES**

##### **A. Initial Police Response (All Incidents)**

1. **The Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) personnel**, upon receiving a report of an active violence incident, will:
  - a. Immediately dispatch all available units in the area to the call.
  - b. Attempt to obtain from the caller as much information as possible about the incident, including the description and location of the suspect(s), the type of weapon being used, information on any injured persons and the name and location where a contact person can be located by responding officers. Call takers must instruct the caller to have the designated contact person approach the responding officers in a non-threatening manner as soon as the first unit arrives.
  - c. Notify the watch commander, and
  - d. Notify the Fire Department that an active violence incident has been reported and the nature of any known injuries.

2. **Sworn member initial response:**

[REDACTED]

- a. Available sworn personnel will immediately respond to the scene, regardless of their rank or assignment.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- e. First responders must quickly inform additional responding units of the information they have obtained about the type, description, and location of the threat.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**4. Supervisor Responsibilities**

- a. Determine situation/offense.
- b. Notify watch commander and activate ICS/SOT/HNT.
- c. Assume coordination of on-scene officers (i.e., contact/Rescue Taskforce teams).
- d. Establish containment (perimeter)

- e. Establish Unified Command with Fire/EMS supervisor. *Ensure the location of the Unified Command Post is provided to DEC and shared with the Fire Department.*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

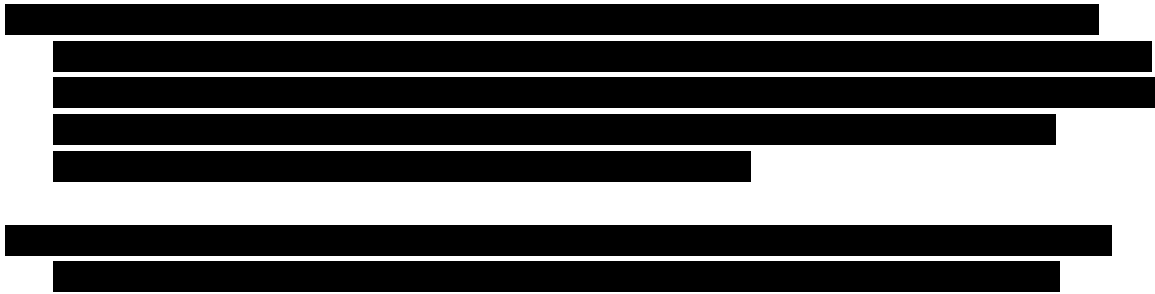
**B. Additional Police Response**

1. Once an active violence incident is confirmed, the watch commander will ensure that appropriate Department personnel are notified using the Department's Command Paging System.
2. Once the scene is secure and it is determined that the threat has been stopped, or is no longer on the scene, responding officers must treat the area as a crime scene and promptly secure all areas in which physical evidence may be located.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



### **C. Supplementary Resources**

1. The on-scene supervisor or watch commander will coordinate with responding Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service units and any other school or facility personnel, City or law enforcement resources called to assist with the handling of the incident at a Unified Command Post. **[46.1.10.b]**
2. The on-scene supervisor or watch commander will coordinate with the PIO concerning public notifications for awareness and safety. **[46.1.10.a]**

### **D. Mutual Aid**

As needed, *the on-scene supervisor or watch commander will* request additional outside resources from neighboring law enforcement agencies. Mutual aid will be requested in accordance with the Northern Virginia Active Violence Incident Plan (see Addendum A).

### **E. Post Incident Responsibilities**

1. Police personnel will remain at the incident location and assist in restoring order.
2. An After-action report will be produced.
3. As needed, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Teams will be activated.
4. An annual review of this directive and training needs will be conducted by the SOD commander. This review will be completed in a memorandum form and submitted through the chain of command to the Chief of Police for comment/approval. **[46.1.10.e]**



**11.10.05 TRAINING*****Annual Refresher Training***

*To ensure preparedness, sworn and civilian staff will participate in annual refresher training for Active Violence Incidents. The training will be geared towards individual responsibilities on an AVI scene related to rank. The Tactical Training and Response Unit will coordinate this training with the Emergency Readiness and Operational Planning Division and the Training and Development Section.*

**BY AUTHORITY OF:**

**Michael L. Brown**  
**Chief of Police**

# Directive 11.10 - Active Violence Incidents

## Appendix A

### Northern Virginia Active Violence Incident Plan (2016)

#### Addendum to the Northern Virginia Mutual Aid Plan

#### I. Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to get as many on-duty patrol resources to an Active Violence Incident (AVI) in an affected Northern Virginia jurisdiction as quickly as possible through a more flexible implementation of mutual aid by way of a prearranged patrol response plan. This plan does not replace any existing mutual aid agreements between agencies but acts as an addendum to the Northern Virginia Mutual Aid Plan.

#### II. Definition

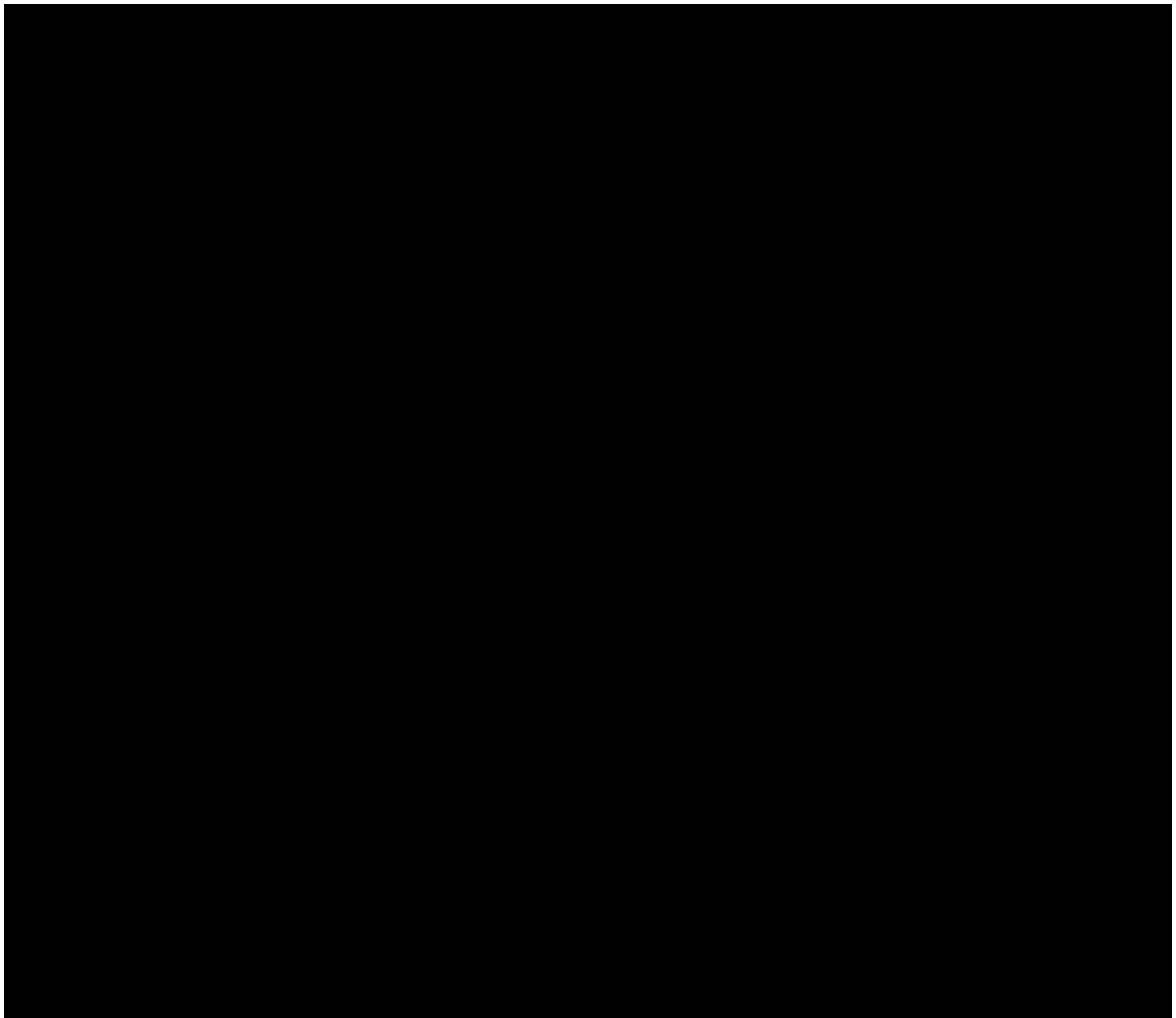
- A. Active Violence Incident (AVI) – One or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and/or populated area. The overriding objective is mass murder. The situation is not contained and is very dynamic in nature.
- B. Everbridge – Provider of software as service based platforms that are used to send emergency or critical communications to individuals or groups using lists, locations, and visual intelligence.
- C. Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) - The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 23 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.
- D. Northern Virginia - City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Town of Dumfries, City of Fairfax, Fairfax County, City of Falls Church, Town of Haymarket, Town of Herndon, Town of Leesburg, Loudoun County, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, Town of Middleburg, Prince William County, Town of Purcellville, and the Town of Vienna.

#### III. AVI Call Type

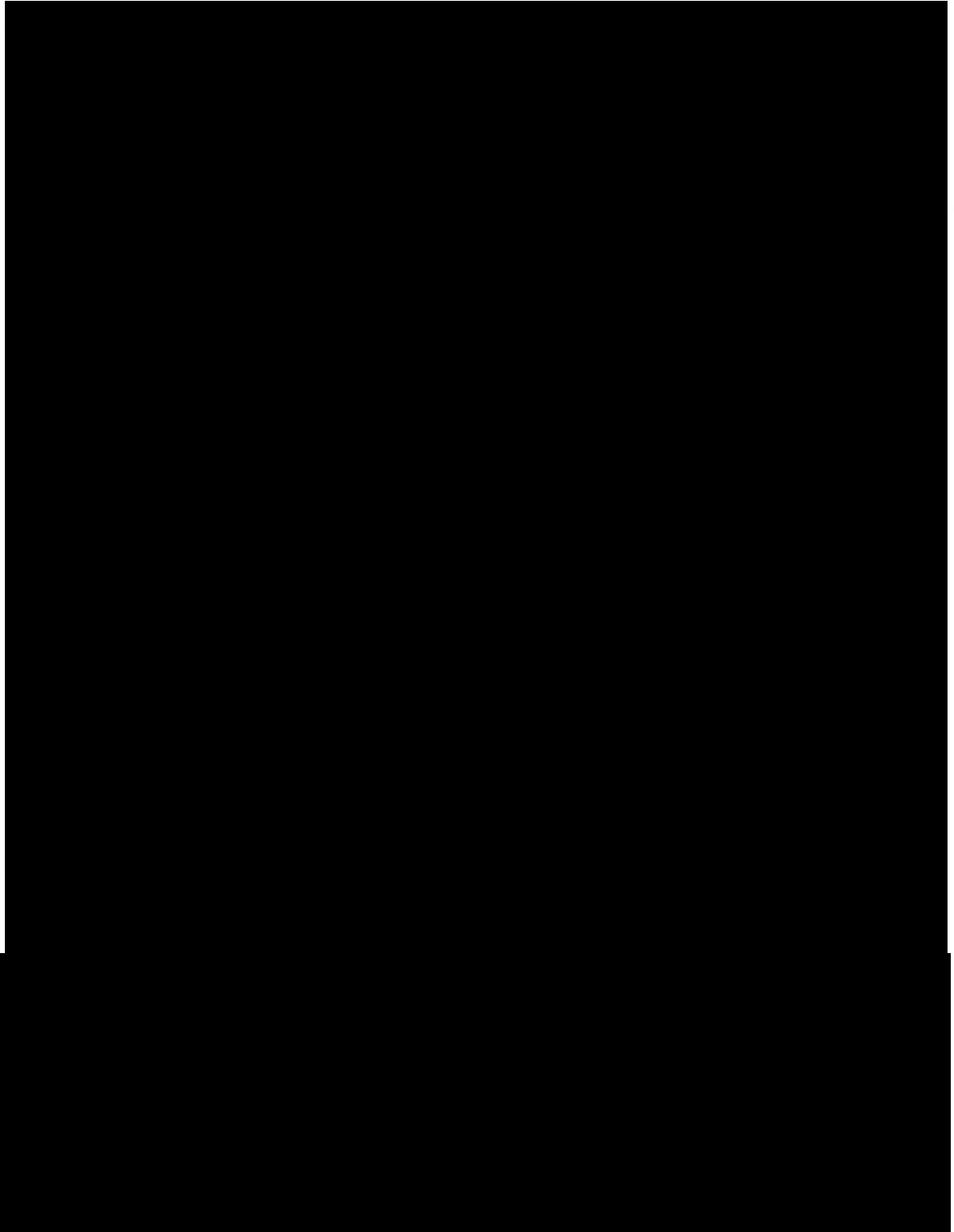
- A. In order to get the appropriate resources to the affected jurisdiction, a new call type was created. When a jurisdiction decides that an immediate, outside assistance is needed due to an AVI, the affected jurisdiction will notify its communication center and an "AVI" call type will be pushed out to the other participating jurisdictions.

- B. The communication center will inform the participating agencies that an "AVI" has been initiated and the appropriate information will be conveyed.
- C. Once the "AVI" has been relayed, the agreed upon staffing will immediately deploy to the affected jurisdiction.
- D. The AVI Call Type will contain five critical pieces of information:
  - 1. Active Violence Incident
  - 2. Location of AVI
  - 3. Brief Description of Situation
  - 4. Reporting Location (Staging Area)
  - 5. Specific Person to Report to

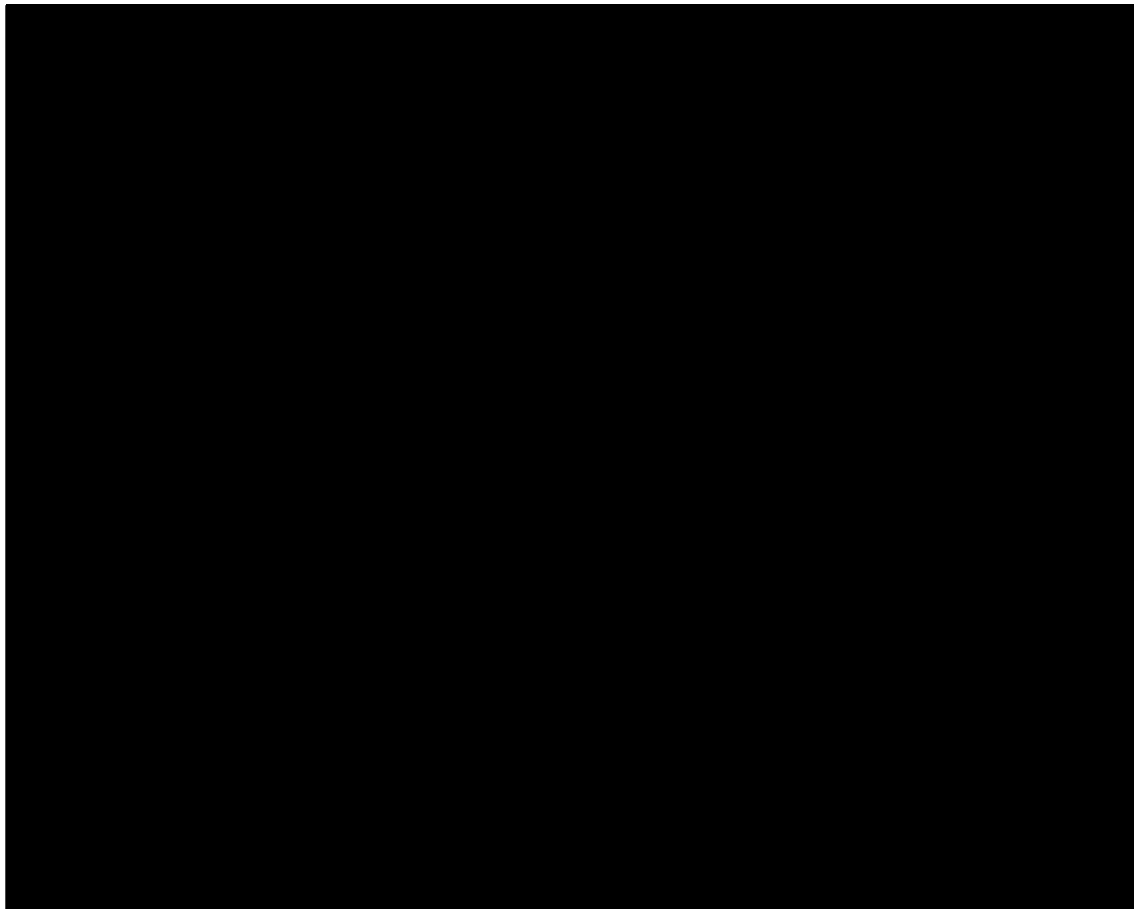
#### **IV. Communications**



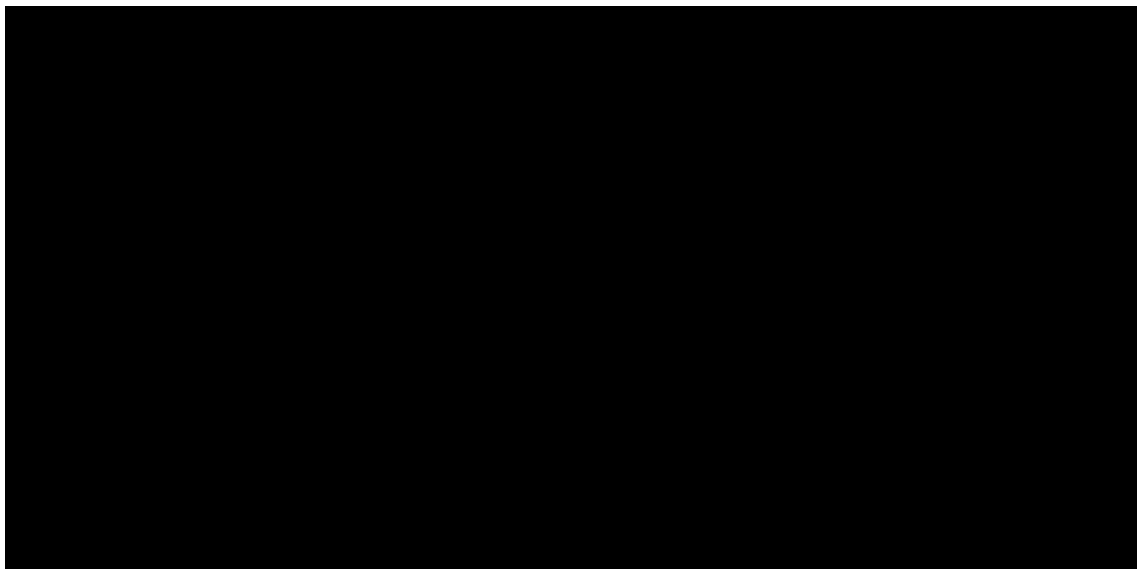
V. Response



**VI. Initial Response**



**VII. AVI Expectations - The expectation for all participating agencies is:**



**Northern Virginia Law Enforcement  
Mutual Aid Agreement of 2013**

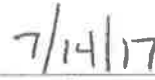
**Active Violent Incident (AVI) Addendum**

*IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement*

On Behalf of the  
Alexandria Police Department



*Michael L. Brown  
Chief of Police*



*Date*