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“Run, Hide, Fight:” NJDMAVA conducts campus-wide active shooter training

More than 100 Soldiers, Airmen, and employees of New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs participated in active shooter training at the Lawrenceville campus, Oct. 18, 2023. The training is an annual requirement to ensure facility security and personnel safety.

“It is important to feel safe and secure on our campus,” said Col. Yvonne L. Mays, Deputy Adjutant General of New Jersey and principal advisor to The Adjutant General and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. “Today’s training seminar will help everyone develop muscle memory in identifying potential dangers and prevent falling into a false sense of security.”

The two-hour training seminar presented five stages of how an active shooter acts on their ideations, three strategies to keep personnel safe, run, hide, and fight, and an overview of what information is most helpful to provide law enforcement in the event of an active shooter attack.

“The initial response is crucial in an active shooter scenario and statistically they are usually over in just ten minutes,” said U.S. Army Col. (Ret.) Robert K. Bryan, NJDMAVA Antiterrorism Program coordinator. Bryan, who retired from the New Jersey Army National Guard in 2019, added that the training was tailored to help recognize the indicators of a potential threat.

Eugene Joseph, NJDMAVA Technical Program Assistant said he gained insight from the seminar.

“It is important to identify and provide assistance where we can,” said Joseph. “Now I know what to look out for.”

The seminar was facilitated by training officers who presented real-life active shooter scenarios, provided a list of available resources and discussed what research-based procedures could be implemented to prevent future attacks.

“It is about listening to the experts, learning from the past and identifying what opportunities were missed from those incidents so we can prevent them from occurring in the future,” said Lt. R.J. Laird, Lawrence Township Police Department.

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