



SAN BERNARDINO TERROR ATTACK, LESSONS REVEALED FROM THE CARNAGE*

By Greg Tony, CEO of Blue Spear Solutions

On Friday, May 27, 2016 the Medical Examiner report detailing the autopsies of the victims from the San Bernardino terror attack were released. The eye-opening report about the shooting, which took place on December 2, 2015 at Department of Public Health training, revealed how the victims succumbed to their injuries and how others survived.

One such victim, Shannon Johnson, a 45-year-old Environmental Health Specialist, was shot multiple times in the elbow and buttocks, but it was a gunshot wound to his right thigh that proved fatal. The right thigh contains the femoral artery, which is the largest artery in the leg. Military and Law Enforcement personnel across the world frequently encounter such injuries in austere environments and provide effective treatment modalities, which result in 100% survivability rates for the injured.

The fatal injury sustained by Mr. Johnson's would have been easily treatable, but most importantly survivable. If the proper application of direct pressure techniques, a tourniquet, and/or hemostatic agent had been used on the wounded extremity, it would have effectively stopped the bleeding within seconds and Mr. Johnson would not have died as a result of the gunshot wound to his thigh.

As a nationally-certified Active Shooter Threat Instructor, Tactical Medical Instructor and Law Enforcement professional with more than a decade of advanced life-saving training and experience, I have examined numerous gunshot incidents first-hand. No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders, or what I refer to as immediate responders, will always be first on the scene. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within three minutes, therefore it is important to quickly stop that blood loss. Witnesses to Mr. Johnson's death say he died a hero, protecting the life of a colleague. His last words said as he huddled over her, "I got you."



The altruistic nature of Americans to help others when someone is in need once again is clearly depicted by Mr. Johnson's noble efforts. He saved the life of his peer, but was unable to save his own life due to lack of training, education and the availability of cost-affordable equipment. Moreover, surrounding bystanders were not trained to treat Mr. Johnson's fatal wound, the injured thigh. In today's world, where advancement in bleeding control techniques and equipment are specifically designed to prevent such fatalities from occurring, no one should die from excessive bleeding.

The shooters, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, a radicalized husband and wife, specifically targeted Farook's colleagues from the health department. This was the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil since 9/11, with 14 killed and 22 seriously injured. However, it should not be overlooked that Farook, an employee of the Department of Health, knew most of these victims personally. According to the most recent statistics from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), there have been 23,000 reported incidents of workplace violence in the United States. Of those, 80% involved a firearm. To limit liability and save lives, employers must invest in life saving training and equipment.

Blue Spear Solutions is proud to offer the Co. A.S.S.I.S.T.® program, the nation's first all-encompassing Active Shooter response training. The program consists of a three-tier systematic approach to preparation: Active Shooter Awareness and Response, Bleeding Control Techniques and Strategic Placement of Public Access Bleeding Control Stations. The program was developed as a result of the "Stop the Bleed" initiative, a months-long collaboration between Federal and non-governmental agencies, whose goal is to engage the public to have an active role in the response to disasters of all sizes.



To learn more about our Co. A.S.S.I.S.T.® program and our Advanced Public Access Bleeding Control Stations, visit our website, www.bluespearsolutions.com or email us at info@bluespearsolutions.com.

**This is the first in a series of articles about the terror attack in San Bernardino and how proper training and equipment would have saved many lives.*