

Target Hardening: Sexual Assault Interdiction; “Developing the Will to Survive and Prevail”



SUNY Alfred State University Police Department

- **Instructional Objectives - [3]**

- At the conclusion of this interactive lecture, demonstration, and slide show, or if accomplished as self-study, each female college student will, with or without referencing any personal notes, verbally articulate the correct responses to the following **three** objectives:

1. The definition of target hardening; and the three elements required for victimization.
2. Three recommended general target hardening strategies for female college students; three strategies germane to female students traveling on foot; three strategies specific to female students while in the inaugural stage of dating; and three strategies related to driving and parking motor vehicles.

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3. Three recommended personal weapons for female college students to use during unprovoked, violent attacks.



Target Hardening: Sexual Assault Interdiction; “Developing the Will to Survive and Prevail”

- Did **you** know?
- Females, ages 15 – 26, are the demographic most likely to be victims of violent sexual encounters.
- 44% of the victims of sexual assault are under the age of 18.
80% of the victims of sexual assault are under the age of 30.
- Sexual assault offenders are predators who view females as targets for victimization.
- These predators are on the prowl daily, and nightly, trolling for victims.
- All predators have a mission and a plan – to victimize females presenting the easiest opportunities for victimization.

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- These predators are merciless.
- They cannot be bargained with.
- They cannot be reasoned with.
- They’re targeting females who are addicted to being ‘busy,’ like college students.
- They’d prefer to attack sheep, not tigers.
- How important is it to **you** to avoid being victimized?
- How motivated are **you** to not only survive, but prevail, if attacked?
- Do **you** have the ferocious, tenacious will of a tiger?
- The life **you** save will be **your own**.

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- What do sex offenders look like?
- Do they speak differently than non-offenders?
- How do they dress?
- Are there universal clues?
- Are they easily identifiable in a crowd?
- Are they readily recognizable when passed on the street?
- Who is trustworthy?
- Who is not trustworthy?
- Any thoughts or ideas?

Can you identify the convicted sex offender[s]?



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- They are all convicted, registered sex offenders!
- They exist throughout the human race:
- They are males; females; white; black; Asian; Hispanic; Native American; Christians; Jews; Muslims; atheists; Americans; foreigners; young; old; highly-educated; students; dropouts; wealthy; poor; professionals; public servants; blue collar employees; unemployed; homeless; athletes; etc..
- Frequently search the NY State Sex Offender Registry at:
- <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/> and...
- [Sign up for Sex Offender Relocation Email Alerts](#)
- **Above all, trust no one!**
- NYS Sex Offender Registry Courtesy of NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Michael C. Green, Executive Commissioner.

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- Sex offenders are persons who have been convicted of a sexual offense. Sexual offenses include such crimes as rape, sodomy, and sexual abuse. Most states have laws, which vary by state, on registration of sexual offenders. Registered sex offenders are those persons exhibiting characteristics showing a tendency to victimize or injure others; and have been convicted of a sex crime listed in the relevant state statutes; or have been convicted of attempting to commit one of those crimes; or have been found guilty, except for insanity, of one of those crimes. Registered sex offenders are required to notify the local community authorities of their residence so that the public may have access to information about convicted sexual offenders in their neighborhood.
- Source: U.S. Legal.com

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- Authorities recently arrested a sex offender on the Oklahoma State University campus after a tip from the public led to his whereabouts.
- Christopher Deraleau was a wanted man after he failed to register as a sex offender in Ellis County, Texas, a mostly rural county just south of the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area.
- Investigators tracked Deraleau, 23, to Stillwater and soon learned he was in a relationship with a female OSU student.
- Source: Andrew Knittle, NewsOK.com, November, 2013.



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- Pejoratively, sexual predators are persons, who as adults or juveniles, have been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, committing a sexually-oriented offense; and who are likely in the future to commit additional sexually-oriented offenses.
- Denotatively, sexual predators insatiably troll and hunt for prospective victims, with a maniacal fixation or obsession on committing deviant sexual acts.
- They are usually exploitative, rapacious, unmerciful individuals, often violent, usually unrepentant, and rarely willing or capable of being rehabilitated. Hence, all sexual predators are also sexual offenders, while all sexual offenders are not necessarily sexual predators.
- They exist in the real and virtual worlds and must be viewed as extremely dangerous.
- Source: U.S. Legal.com

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- Two suspected sexual predatory killers in California were registered sex offenders and were probably wearing their court-ordered GPS devices during the slayings, police say. Franc Cano, 27, and Steven Dean Gordon, 45, are suspected of raping and murdering at least four women in Santa Ana and Anaheim, and police say they are "confident" there was a fifth murder and possibly many more.

- Source: Rob Quinn, Los Angeles Times, April, 2014.
- Photo: Courtesy of Associated Press.



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- By derivation, ‘target hardening’ is a strategic approach to preventing crime and victimization.
- Essentially, proper target hardening removes opportunities for potential offenders to commit crimes, by making it exponentially harder for them to commit violent, sexual offenses, by increasing the amount of effort and attention-to-detail that must be expended in their successful commission.
[Obj. 1]
- Ideally, target hardening delays, disrupts, and ultimately - destroys potential offenders’ opportunities to commit sexual assaults and other criminal offenses.

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- Significant empirical research indicates that offenders seek and stalk victims who are easy targets: trusting; distracted; aloof; unaware; tired; preoccupied; careless; reckless; ostensibly under the influence of intoxicants, etc..
- Thus, all victimizations require three elements:
- A victim.
- An offender.
- And, an opportunity for victimization. [Obj. 1]
- While some factors, such as the predatory mindset and nefarious intentions of potential offenders are beyond the control of students, many factors can and must be controlled.

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- All students must consciously develop and continuously maintain a tactical, warrior-like mindset. This entails making, honoring, and executing an unwavering personal commitment to do everything under your individual control to make yourselves impervious to victimization.
- Simply refusing to be victimized, by acquiring and applying the tenets of target hardening.
- Students must not think in terms of probabilities of victimization, but possibilities of victimization.
- Identifiable, quantifiable risks are avoidable risks.
- Therefore, since victimization is predictable, it's also preventable.

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- Every day must be a ‘training day,’ where female students continually reinforce pragmatic, situation-specific target hardening techniques.
- This is because target hardening, like athletic or musical proficiency, is a perishable skill, requiring continual perfect practice to attain and maintain proficiency.
- Moreover, this will develop the necessary mental attitude and correct habits and patterns of behavior.
- Philosophically, this is similar to the U.S. government’s efforts to thwart terrorism: U.S. authorities must succeed every time; while terrorists only have to succeed once.
- One act of terrorism, like one sexual assault, is one too many.

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- Female students must train and condition themselves to think in terms of safety, not convenience.
- Thus, by always thinking safety, female students can substantially harden themselves as targets, thereby dramatically reducing their risk of victimization.
- These include:
- Never propping open self-locking doors, such as in residence halls or other secure buildings. [Obj. 2]
- Always verifying who is on the other side of doors before unlocking and granting entrance. [Obj. 2]
- Keeping residential and automotive doors and windows locked. [Obj. 2]

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- Never loaning or leaving keys unattended; and never affixing your name, address, and phone number to key chains. [Obj.2]
- Whenever possible, traveling in groups of two or more. [Obj.2]
- Whenever possible, traveling during daylight and in areas that are highly-populated and well-lighted. This is safer than traveling alone, in remote areas, and under darkness. While safer, doing so is not necessarily safe. Hence, doing so does not compensate for being distracted, complacent, unaware, or unprepared. [Obj. 2]
- Being circumspect, concerning attire, while walking or jogging. [Obj. 2]

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- Never jogging or walking while listening to music. If you insist on doing this, at the very least, use only one earphone. [Obj. 2]
- Avoiding lengthy, unnecessary cell phone conversations while walking; not texting, e-mailing, or engaging in social media while walking or jogging. [Obj.2]
- Periodically, stopping, looking, and listening; conducting a 180 degree scan of your surroundings; noting suspicious persons or circumstances; periodically refocusing your eyes to avoid tunnel vision - a loss of peripheral eyesight, exacerbated by stress. [Obj.2]
- Being especially vigilant, and whenever possible, avoiding the fatal funnel - that dangerous area where potential victims are silhouetted by light, and are in close quarters: stairwells; doorways; and hallways; keeping hands free in those areas; including refraining from using cell phones. [Obj. 2]

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- Letting someone know your destination, estimated time of arrival, who you are with, and your ETA back to your residence hall or dwelling. [Obj. 2]
- Avoiding alcoholic beverages if under the age of 21; if over 21, avoiding intoxication; whenever possible, not leaving beverages unattended; never drinking any beverages that have been unattended; never accepting any beverages from anyone you don't know; and, of course, avoiding all illegal drugs, including the prescription drugs of others.
- During the incipient stage of relationships, meeting your dating partners in public places, such as restaurants, as opposed to riding there in their vehicles. [Obj. 2]

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- Verifying the veracity of your prospective dating partners by ensuring they are who and what they purport themselves to be; using Google and Bing searches; and other free search engines, such as zabasearch.com. [Obj. 2]
- Zabasearch, for instance, networks with other sites offering reasonably priced, comprehensive background checks. [Obj. 2]
- All female students should download the free NY State Sex Offender Registry app. Prospective dating partners can quickly and easily be vetted, via cellphone. [Obj. 2]
- Programming the UPD’s phone number into your phone, 607-587-3999. 911 calls will be rerouted to the UPD, via the Allegany County Communications Center. [Obj. 2]

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- Never, under any circumstances, allowing yourself to be compelled into a motor vehicle against your will - even if the offender threatens or displays a firearm or any other weapon.
- Run! Scream! Use a whistle! Draw attention to your plight!
- It is extremely difficult for even skilled marksmen to discharge a firearm and strike a moving target.
- Your chances of surviving and prevailing decline precipitously once you are confined to an offender’s motor vehicle.
- Always trust **your** instincts – only **your** instincts!
- When in doubt – don’t!

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- When driving motor vehicles, and stopped in traffic, allowing an escape route, by leaving at least one-and-one-half car lengths between your vehicle, and the vehicle directly in front of yours. [Obj. 2]
- Ensuring your vehicle is mechanically sound and always has adequate fuel. [Obj. 2]
- Notifying local police first, if your vehicle becomes disabled; then notifying a loved one or friend; lastly, notifying an auto club or towing service. [Obj. 2]
- Locking your vehicle’s doors and windows and not opening them for seemingly helpful bystanders. [Obj. 2]

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- When parking motor vehicles, back into well-lighted parking places, extending the front end of your motor vehicle 6 to 8 inches beyond other vehicles parked in the same row. [Obj.2]
- Following shopping or dining, this allows students to easily observe their respective vehicle. [Obj.2]
- Using the remote, unlocking only the driver’s front door. Once the interior light illuminates the passenger compartment, examining the passenger compartment, by looking through the windshield, which is unlikely to be dark tinted glass. [Obj.2]
- Conducting a 180 degree scan of your surroundings prior to entering your vehicle. [Obj.2]
- Once inside, immediately locking the door, and departing, without unnecessary delay. [Obj. 2]

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- Vigilance is also warranted at gas stations and convenience stores.
- All motor vehicle doors should be locked while pumping and paying for gas. Moreover, purses should not be left in plain sight on the front or back seat of your vehicle. Vehicles parked adjacent to yours often contain thieves that strike with lightning quickness. Purses not readily visible and locked doors usually dissuade thieves.
- Remember, if your purse is stolen, thieves have obtained your personal identification, and possibly your keys, and phone.
- Nothing positive ever comes from that.

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- Miscellaneous target hardening suggestions include:
- Always carrying definitive personal identification.
- Always, always, always knowing your location!
- Street names, addresses or block numbers are best. However, major landmarks are better than nothing: Wal-Mart, McDonald’s, Village Hall, Club 57, etc..
- Never stop for hitchhikers.
- If made uncomfortable, by any request, by anyone, categorically, say “No!”
- “No,” is a complete sentence.
- It is preferable to be rude and unharmed, than to be polite, sexually assaulted, and murdered.

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- Be circumspect when using social media.
- Sexual predators are relentlessly trolling social media sites, searching for victims.
- Never put the Facebook mobile app on phones; turn-off geo-location on all platforms and devices; delete all unused and unwanted profiles; never post or transmit revealing photos to anyone, under any circumstances – ever!
- Platforms designed for college students include: Yik Yak, Vine, which is owned by Twitter, and Instagram, which is owned by Facebook.
- KIK, which is used with Instagram, is a favorite platform used by sexual predators.

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- Dating platforms targeting college students include Skout, Tinder, Blender, and Grinder.
- Many also offer mobile apps, which steal contact information and record you.
- Photographs posted on Instagram are never private.
- Often, these photos are sold; sometimes to sexual predators.
- Frequently, they are amended, distorted, and manipulated to be sexually explicit.
- Often, sexual predators engage in ‘catfishing;’ creating false identities for dating or sex; or ‘sextortion;’ using personal knowledge gleaned from social media to compel sexual acts.

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- One recent trend is revenge porn. This occurs when males post nude or sexually explicit photos of former girlfriends on various sites across the Internet.
- The movie, the Purge, has been the impetus for # Purge. This also allows males to post nude or semi-nude photos of former girlfriends.
- Again, those photos are not private.
- They can be a catalyst for sexual arousal; they can create the specious impression that the females depicted are promiscuous.
- Revenge porn has devastated the lives of countless victims.

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- In the event that things did not go as intended, your planning, training, and continual perfect practice will automatically trigger your tactical, warrior-like mindset.
- At that time, remember head, wrist, elbows, knees, and toes.
[Obj.3]
- Head butting the offender’s nose.
- Striking, with the wrist, the offender’s neck; or slapping a firearm pointed at you, away from you.
- Elbowing the offender’s jaw.
- Kicking the side of the offender’s knee.
- Stomping on the offender’s toes or foot.
- Kicking, striking, and if possible, squeezing the offender’s testicles.

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- Strike hard; strike fast; and run as fast as you can!
- You will not only fight like a tiger and survive!
- You will fight like a tiger and prevail!
- You owe it to yourselves to not only survive, but prevail!
- You owe it to your families and loved ones to not only survive, but prevail!
- You owe it to your fellow female students and citizens to not only survive and prevail, but to stop sexual predators from attempting to victimize others!

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- To that outcome, you must develop your observation skills to aid police during any subsequent criminal investigations.
- Paying attention to distinguishing, identifying traits of offenders.
- While as much descriptive information as possible is desirable, offenders can change their clothing, hair style and color, including facial hair.
- Descriptions of scars, marks, and tattoos are especially helpful, as they are much more difficult to alter or remove.

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- In summary, female college students must assimilate the following seven tenets to **LIVE** by:
- Do not rely solely on the police; they cannot be everywhere; and cannot prevent all crime.
- Resolutely apply what you have learned today.
- Stop, look, and listen.
- Hands must remain free.
- Avoid the fatal funnel and tunnel vision.
- Trust no one.
- Never, for any reason, under any circumstances, give up during a violent encounter.

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- Moreover, female college students must scrupulously avoid the following three **DEADLY** fundamental errors:
- **Expectancy**; believing that your personal safety is the primary responsibility of others; police; parents; boyfriend.
- **Complacency**; assuming because no one has yet attempted to sexually assault you, no one ever will; ubiquitous video surveillance prevents such offenses; such things don't happen in rural Alfred, N.Y.
- **Failure to Plan and Train**; during violent encounters, human beings automatically revert to their planning, preparation, and training.

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- Lastly, reports of sexual misconduct should be promptly reported to University Police, at 607-587-3999.
- Allegations of discrimination, including sexual harassment, should be reported to Alfred State’s Title IX Coordinators, Samantha Testani, at TitleIX@alfredstate.edu or 607-587-4028; or Nicole Hockenberry, at hockennr@alfredstate.edu.
- Allegations of discrimination, including sexual harassment, may also be reported to Alfred State’s Deputy Title IX Coordinators: Les Kachurek, Chief of University Police; kachurlp@alfredstate.edu or 607-587-3999 or 3993; Matthew Ryan, Senior Director of Residential Services; ryanmj@alfredstate.edu or 607-587-4350; Casey Gross, Associate Dean for Judicial Affairs; grosscl@alfredstate.edu or 607-587-4066; and Gina Boyd, Athletic Department; boydgm@alfredstate.edu or 607-587-4363.

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- All students and employees are encouraged to visit Alfred State’s Title IX webpage, <https://www.alfredstate.edu/human-resources/title-ix>
- This comprehensive reference contains the College’s policy on Discrimination and Harassment, explains Title IX, defines sexual harassment, delineates reporting procedures, lists the contact information for the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators, and comprises resources for victims, including victim’s rights.
- Students and employees are also encouraged to contact University Police at universitypolice@alfredstate.edu or 607-587-3999, for relevant literature, or to request a presentation on these topics.



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Lesson Title: Target Hardening; Sexual Assault Interdiction; DWTSAP.

Dates: 11/21/2014.

Time / Duration: 75 Minutes.

Method: Interactive Lecture/Demonstration; Slide Show Format.

Location: Alfred State College.

Prerequisites: Matriculated Female Student or Employee at ASC.

Pre-test: None **Post-test:** None. **Objectives:** [3] See Slide 2.

Comprehension Check: Verbal.

Prepared & Approved By: Chief Les Kachurek, N.Y.S. DCJS
MA/GT/IE/MH/CT.

Instructor: Chief Les Kachurek, N.Y.S. DCJS MA/GT/IE/MH/CT.





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Instructor's References: [3]

1. Survival Mindset: Recognition and Avoidance of Violent Encounters, via the FBINAA Annual Training Conference, in Association with the Training Enhancement Center of South Florida, Kinsey, Donna, MPA, Philadelphia, PA, 2014.
2. Online Safety for Officers and Families, via the FBINAA Annual Training Conference, in Association with LAWS Communications of Newbury, MA, Stevens, Lauri, Philadelphia, PA, 2014.
3. All Images Courtesy of bing.com.

Instructor's Resources: Laptop Computer, Projector, 38 Slide PP Slide Show, Whistle, Keys and Key Ring.

Students' Resources: Personal Notes.

