



## **REPORT:** **2023 Nashville School Shooting Emergency Response Impaired by Poor Location Awareness**

The following is an excerpt (page 7) from the March 27, 2025 report issued by the Metro Nashville Police Homicide Unit regarding the March 2023 school shooting at Nashville's Covenant Presbyterian Church and School. The report underscores a critical lack of location-/situational-awareness. NOTE: "Hale" refers to the school shooter:

"The first responding police officers arrived at the building at approximately 10:19 a.m. (at this point, Hale was searching the church offices on the second floor). **None of the police officers arriving at the location had ever been inside the building or were familiar with its layout. Many didn't even know The Covenant existed prior to the homicides. The responding police officers came from several different precincts, investigative units, and other specialized units across the county.**

Upon arriving, some of the responding police officers parked their vehicles in the parking lot directly in front of the church, which is positioned on the east side of the building. The first police officer entered the building through one of the west entrances at 10:20 a.m. (around the same time, Hale was walking through the first-floor hallway past the cafeteria). **Being completely unfamiliar with the interior of the school, this officer found the layout of the school to be a maze, and was unable to hear any gunfire on the other end of the school.** This officer eventually joined other officers at one of the south entrances, where those officers were trying to enter the school.

Meanwhile, Hale reached the second-floor lobby, where she found a large window overlooking the parking lot on the south side of the building. Upon seeing police officers arriving and exiting their vehicles in the parking lot outside, Hale took up a firing position at this window. She then proceeded to fire upon the officers through the window using her AR pistol."



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