

BRENT BERGERON
(Retired OPP Detective Sergeant)



Retired in 2018 from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) after thirty years of service.

For twenty-five of those years, was a Detective working high-profile and sensitive criminal investigations, including homicides, organized crime, international drug trafficking and terrorism.

Worked five years in the Crime Unit, seven years in Drug Enforcement Section and thirteen with the Mobile Surveillance Unit.

Instructed at the Ontario Police College and OPP Academy on Drug Enforcement, Criminal Investigation and Mobile Surveillance courses.

In 2015, was promoted to the Rank of Detective Sergeant.

Active Shooter (Attacker) and Domestic Terrorism: Awareness, Prevention and Response

As a result of the 1999 Columbine High School tragedy, received yearly training on police Active Shooter Response.

In October 2016, was selected by the OPP to conduct a tactical review of the Mobile Surveillance Unit's ability to manage high-risk terrorism suspects and suicide bombers. Interviewing specialized Law Enforcement personnel from Municipal, Provincial and Federal police services across Canada and in England.

These specialized personnel included Mobile Surveillance officers, Anti-Terrorism investigators, Tactical Teams, Military Special Forces, Bomb Disposal Experts, Training Instructors & Incident Commanders.

In January 2017, was invited to participate in a London (England) police 4-day counterterrorism exercise designed to enhance the interoperability between all police specialized units, including military Special Forces.

This training included the detection and understanding of the suspect's behavior during the planning stage, including hostile reconnaissance of potential target locations and equipment acquisition of the equipment required to carry out the attack.

During this research, identified similarities between terrorist and active shooter pre-attack and attack behaviors. Also discovered a serious training void within Canadian law enforcement and private security related to recognizing these pre-attack behaviours and the unique response required to survive an attack.

Authored a report for the OPP outlining recommendations to enhance training for all OPP officers, joint training for specialized units and additional equipment related to terrorism investigations and attack response.

In January 2017, was the Acting Detective Staff Sergeant of the Provincial Field Intelligence Unit.

After retirement in 2018, created Soteria Security Consulting (Greek mythology: Soteria is the Goddess of safety & preservation from harm). Combined the terrorism research with personal experiences related to terrorism investigations and criminal behaviors to create terrorism and active shooter training.

Traveled to over 30 countries, including visits to the International Institute of Counterterrorism in Israel, and police training facilities in Ukraine and the Czech Republic.

Training, presentations, and consulting related to:

- Radicalization/Terrorism
- Foot & Vehicle Surveillance

BIOGRAPHY

- Active Shooters (Attackers)
- Counter-Surveillance & Hostile Surveillance Detection

For the purpose of prevention, focus is on recognizing concerning behaviors a person exhibits as they move towards becoming an attacker. Leakage of their violent intent can be detected during the attack planning stage and reported to police. Indicators of imminent attack allow potential victims an opportunity to react just prior to the attack. And finally, the universally accepted attack response of Run, Hide, Fight is explained in an easy to understand model with practical insight on how to implement this response.

Delivered presentations to a wide variety of audiences including law enforcement, private security, public transportation security, teachers, students, mental health professionals, restaurant staff & community groups.

Civilian Instructor for Mobile Surveillance Courses

- From 2019 to present, hired by the Ontario Provincial Police as an instructor for all surveillance training.
- Includes OPP Academy and Ontario Police College (OPC) Mobile Surveillance Courses
- In 2020, co-authored the revised OPP Mobile Surveillance course training standards.
- In 2021, created a 2-day Workshop for the OPP's VIP Security Section to detect Hostile Surveillance.

Executive Protection

- Licenced security guard and private investigator.
- Red Carpet (including the Toronto International Film Festival) and High-Net-Worth clients.