

Security 101

Patrick Fiel educates, advises on some of nation's top security issues and events

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WALLACE — To hear Patrick Fiel describe them, his activities for nearly all of the past two decades might be summarized in one word: Security. Even before 1997, his occupation was associated with security, namely with the U.S. military, where he served slightly more than two decades.

Born in Tidewater Virginia, Fiel now lives with with his wife, Kookie, near Wallace, in a house built in 2008 on property purchased three years earlier, from where he operates PVF Security Consulting LLC. He has three children and five grandchildren.

Fiel says he has roots in North Carolina, given that his mother was a native of the New Bern area in Pamlico County. He remembers “picking tobacco on farms and fishing and crabbing with my uncles.”

Fiel retired from the army in 1997 after 22 years, and a career that took him on three overseas tours and special assignments at the Pentagon, SHAPE/NATO (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in Belgium and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Beginning at a young age, says Fiel, he had a desire to be in law enforcement and security, which led him to join, shortly after high school, the U.S. Army Military Police Corps,

the uniformed law enforcement branch of the army. He describes the corps as a branch with multiple missions. Fiel didn't mention it, but one source states that one corps mission falls under the area of “area security” and “Maneuver and Mobility Support,” or MOS, and that, since the beginning of the so-called “Global War on Terror” military police have become a valuable asset to combat operations due to the versatility of the MOS.

Fiel says he has traveled the country speaking on security trends and best practices, and says he has published over 50 national articles on security-related issues. Of late he has worked with local businesses and Duplin County Schools.

The feel for security-related things and his military service, said Fiel, resulted in, after leaving the military, his accepting a job with Washington D.C. Public School System, as executive director of school security.

“I was in charge of security for 150 schools, 76,000 students and 10,000 employees,” explained Fiel. He says, “During my tenure (six years) a 90 percent reduction in crime in and around the schools was accomplished, when schools had been plagued with corruption, gangs, drugs and weapons.”

Fiel also says he has served as public safety adviser for ADT Security Services, Inc., provided security expertise and services to various governments and private organizations and was “an instrumental resource to the national media during tragic events such as the Columbine High School shooting, the shooting at Virginia Tech, the 9-11 terrorist attacks, Sandy

Hook Elementary shooting and the South Carolina church shooting.”

The shootings at Columbine in 1999 are often referred to as when schools began paying close attention to security.

Probably as much or more as any other incidents, Fiel says the church shooting last June in Charleston illustrates one of the primary elements of security, that of people noticing strange things and odd behavior before an incident. He notes that the man who turned out to be the shooter came into the church and sat down with people he would later turn his gun on, and they apparently noticed nothing odd, or if they did, no one reacted.

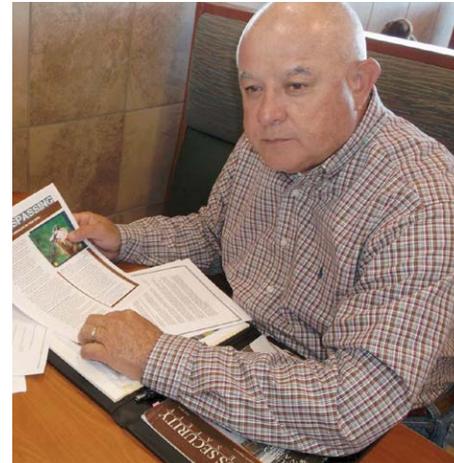
In one of his 2015 published articles, on “StarNewsOnline,” Fiel wrote that the shooting in Charleston verifies that churches, synagogues, temples and mosques now have to approach security in the same ways as schools, office buildings and hospitals.

Fiel touched on that theme in 2014 when he co-authored, with Dr. Steve Albrecht, manager of a training, coaching, and management consulting firm, an article appearing in online “Security InfoWatch” where they wrote that April has become one of the deadliest months for campus massacres and homegrown terrorist activities in the U.S.

They noted that occurring in April were incidents at Virginia Tech, in 2007; Columbine High School, in

1999; and Oikos University, in 2012. They added to that the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995 and the Waco, Texas, siege in 1993.

The authors wrote: “School administrators, public officials and the general public need to be extra vigilant during this month.”



Duplin Times photo/L.E. Brown, Jr. Patrick Fiel is a consultant on security, including that related to rural areas such as Duplin County.

And they added, “While attacks on campuses have garnered the most attention, we have to be ready to protect people in virtually every part of our society.”

Fiel describes his current business as one offering consulting services to homes, businesses, schools, churches and farms. And, he added, where he once did much traveling he now stays closer to home where, he says, “Unfortunately, in today’s

world even in rural areas we need to be very vigilant and protect our families, employees and property.” (He is available at 910-789-4265 to provide information on security concerns.)

Fiel says he has traveled the country speaking on security trends and best practices, and says he has published over 50 national articles on security-related issues. Of late he has worked with local businesses and Duplin County Schools. In 2014, he was hired by the Duplin Board of Education to develop a security-related pilot program at Wallace Elementary School.

Patrick Fiel thinks his job is to educate people, not to present a sales pitch. In that vein he wrote an article appearing in “Security Today” which noted that there is an old axiom that a good salesman could sell virtually anything to anybody and warned that school administrators can be victims of a good, but deceptive, sales pitch. Often expensive security components are purchased that, while likely of high quality and serves a legitimate purpose, but doesn't really meet the district's overall needs, he said.

Fiel wrote, “Through careful planning and following a checklist, it is possible for schools to develop a quality security plan that meets campus needs without breaking the budget.”

In two other published articles, Fiel infers that the same method can be followed as it relates to security on farms, such as guarding against theft and deterring vandalism.

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