

Risk Assessment Methodology for School Security

An excerpt from
**“The Effective Use of Security
Technologies in U.S. Schools”**



3 Key Questions Answered by the Methodology

- 1. What security incidents are the most important to protect against?**
- 2. What vulnerabilities prevent the school from effectively protecting against each of these incidents?**
- 3. What security measures can be implemented to arrive at an acceptable level of risk?**



Question #1: Which incidents are most important to protect against?

- **What do we need to protect, and what credible “undesirable events” can result in harm (loss)?**
 - **Students, faculty, band instruments, faculty vehicles, cash box / register?**
- **From whom do we need to protect them**
 - **Criminals, gangs, mentally disturbed individual, irate parent, student, faculty member, Chechen terrorist, rival school students**
- **What is the relative risk associated with each incident (undesirable event / threat)?**
 - **Likelihood (L)**
 - **Consequence (C)**



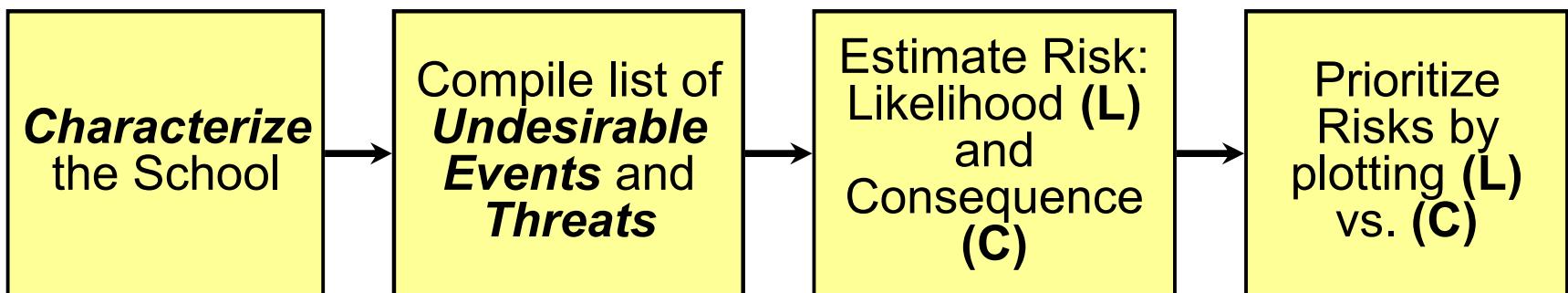
Question #2: What are the current system vulnerabilities?

- **Physical protection system is the integration of people, procedures, and equipment**
- **Requires performance evaluation against the incidents**
- **Need to know specifically where it fails to provide adequate protection**

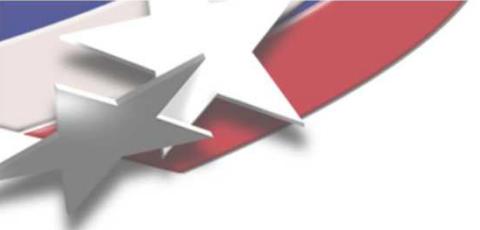


Risk Assessment Methodology:

Part 1

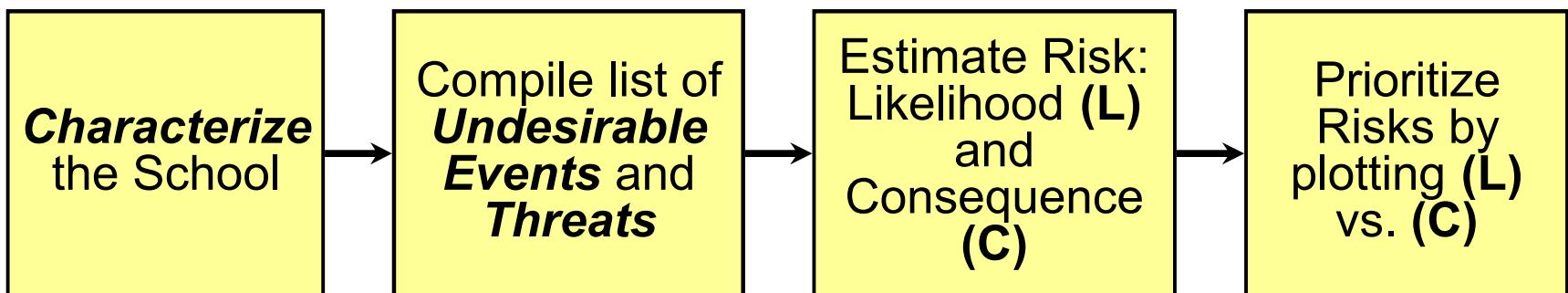


- Site maps / floor plans
- Operational constraints / characteristics
- Policy and procedure documents
- Historical incident data
- Security concerns from faculty, students, etc.

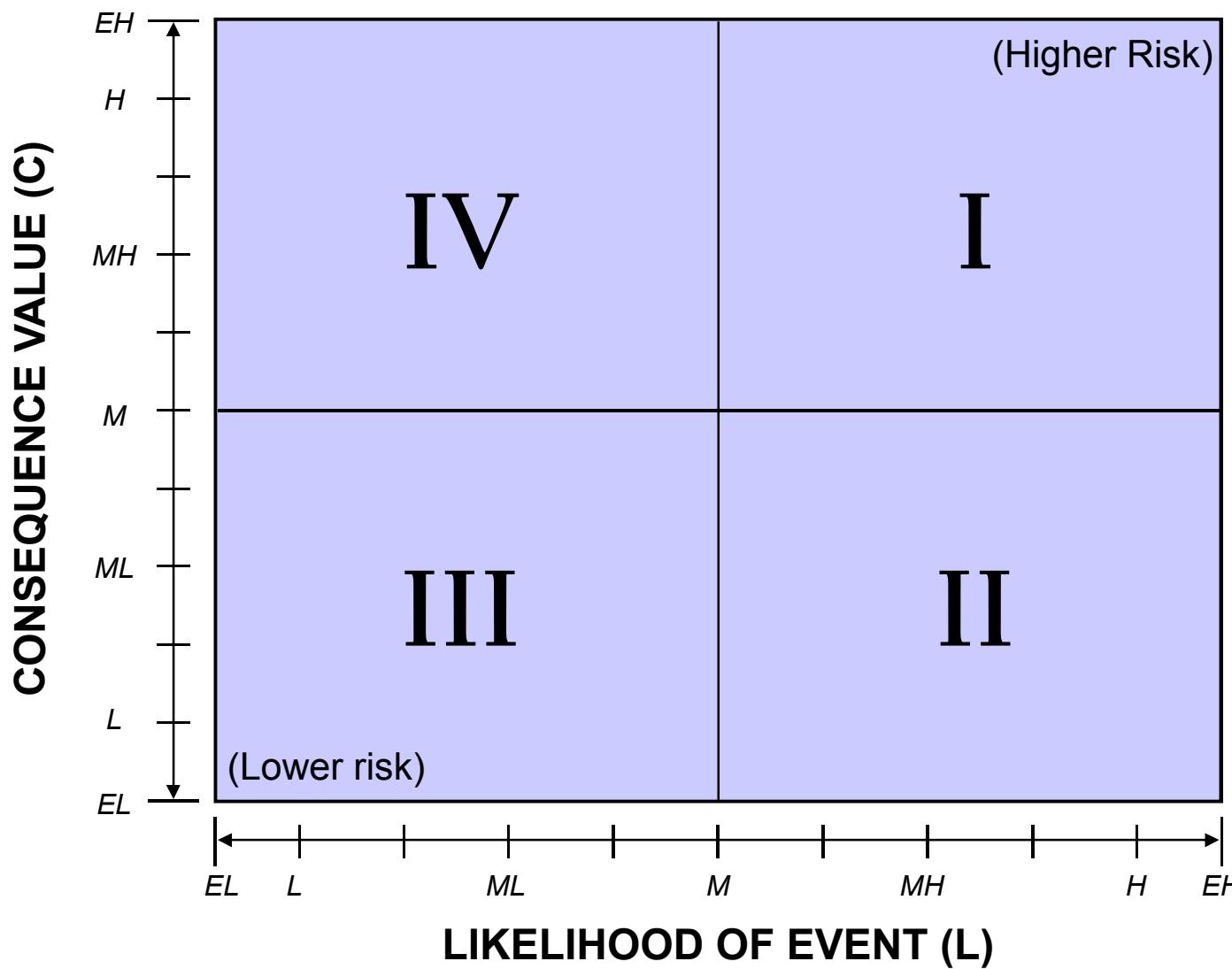


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Part 1

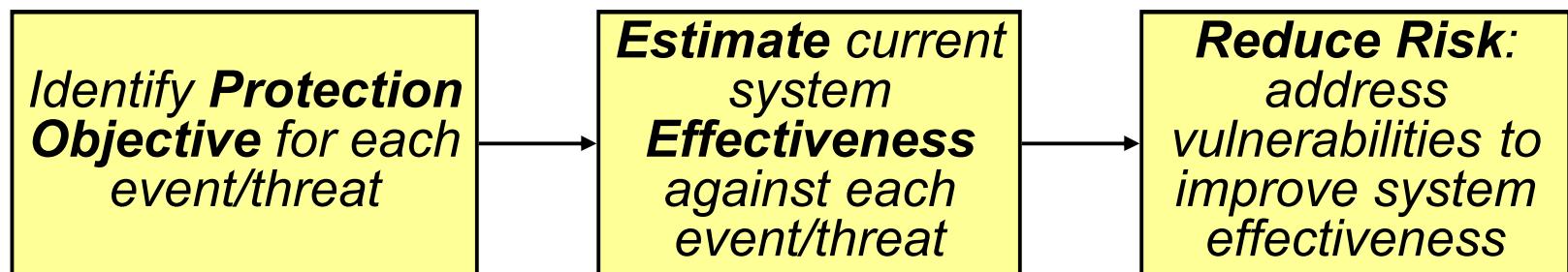


- **Example Undesirable Event:**
 - Use of firearm on campus by **student** to harm **faculty member**





Risk Assessment Methodology: Part 2



- 3 basic protection objectives:
 - Prevent
 - Required functions: detect, communicate, delay, respond/interrupt, prosecute/discipline
 - Apprehend
 - Required functions: detect, communicate, apprehend, prosecute/discipline
 - Mitigate