

What happened at Virginia Tech could very likely have been avoided even if the killer slipped by all sorts of the practical and usual measures. This is a strong claim, but coming from a different and strong solution that has backing from experiment and evidence.

The killer, armed with two handguns and over 200 rounds of ammo, could very likely have been detected, long before the morning of 16 April and the start of the killing. Long before the first shots fired. Or certainly as he conducted his long circuitous route to Norris Hall. And very precise and non-alarmist warnings and directions could have been reaching hundreds and thousands of people through their cell phones, iPhones, and computers. This is what Nomad Eyes was designed for doing, and it's been around since 2004. I wish to God it had been given a chance to be put where it needs to be, and I am proposing that the time is Now to make use of it, to make everyone's lives safer.

Yes, there were all the warning signs, and we can discuss and argue forever about gun laws, privacy rights and all the investigations that could have been and should have been initiated into a clearly disturbed and volatile person's behavior.

However, there are always objects and people that can slip through, slip past, and get by many of the possible social, legal, and organizational defenses and countermeasures. We cannot rationally expect that only to tighten the gun laws, the background checks, the cross-checks among administrative and health services, will provide the kind of defensive countermeasures that we need and deserve in a society that is unmistakably more "on edge" and subject to explosive outbursts, with access to explosive killing force, than ever before.

There is nothing that can come from pointing fingers, looking for ways to assign blame, and even digging deeper for motives and forensic explanations. What is needed most now is to do something that has been available and offered in particular to Virginia (at the state govt. level) for three years. There is a simple, reliable, feasible, validated defensive-alert system that could have been in place, and it can be argued that it was ignored by certain people in the state govt. (Please note that it was never presented in the past to Virginia Tech's administration or staff. In any case, no blame is being directed – this is the time for positive action going forward.)

However, a change in thinking about problems and about solutions and about providers is long overdue. People in positions of influence especially in state and federal govt. need to stop thinking in terms of the way things were years and decades before and to begin examining some offered alternatives that has been produced from good, solid science and engineering. It is time to use solutions that have been available for not just months but years.

There is a potentially very reliable solution, one that if implemented in a public place like a VA Tech, or any other campus or high-vulnerability public place, could had a very strong chance to have picked up on the threat and the dangers, one way that could have alerted authorities and police earlier, and students and professors as well. It does not take changing a single law, and it is being offered for virtually free by its inventor. At cost, basically, because we need a Nomad Eyes in our pockets and on our shelves. <http://nomadeyes.com> tells the story and gives you the technology and even a hands-on way to try it in its generic and beta state.

If something like the Nomad Eyes system with the CEBIT explosives sensor had been in place at VA Tech, then it is very probable that the killer student's ammunitions would have set off the

sensors. Long before April 16. Especially since this originated in a dorm room, not a private off-campus residence. Almost certainly if sensors were in the campus post office. This is the sensitivity of the device to conventional ammunition vapors. In the very worst case there could have been much earlier notifications to students and others all around the campus - including Norris Hall – without reliance upon someone in the administration to type out a message, and more critically, without reliance upon an easily overloaded campus email system. Nomad Eyes has had strong fail-safe and fault-tolerance built into its software. People could have been notified and had a chance to move and react. People may not have made the fatal mistake of thinking that gunshots were only construction sounds, and in fact they may have been out of the classrooms or at least barricading themselves.

In the best notification case, people would have been barricading the doors of Norris and other halls before the killer got there with his chains.

This is not just "hypothetical." This is backed by experiments conducted in govt. labs and it makes the author very sad to think that for the wrong reasons this did not have a chance to be heard or tried or put in place, because this is not theoretical but implementable – indeed, “yesterday.”

This is being offered again, hoping that someone out there with enough clout and courage will help to get it in place, at places that are continually and ever more at risk because of the illnesses, wounds and sicknesses in our society, which cannot be simply legislated, policed or “psychologized” away. We can improve the laws, improve the databases and communications, improve many things, but we cannot close the gaps and a very smart, methodical, dedicated killer or enemy can overcome. We need to be prepared and here is a way, almost sitting in our laps.

I think the best memorial for all of these wonderful students and their teachers is not another stone monument, not another building that can become a deathtrap, and certainly not just a ton of papers, reports, books, and video. And certainly not to just investigate, blame and close the book and slowly forget, only to be reminded in another eight years, or eight months.

The best answer and the best response is to implement directly, precisely at Virginia Tech - which is a great university, a great community, and a great center for innovation in all of the science and technology that underlies Nomad Eyes and CEBIT (in fact it was prior work connected with VT that helped inspire one inventor when he taught at another university) - a fully functional and deployed “Nomad Eyes” Network, with sensors that will pick up both conventional and unconventional explosives and ammo, with its situation awareness and notification network, with its response and alert communications.

This does not require millions of dollars. It does not require an act of Congress nor a lengthy government procurement process. It does not infringe upon anyone’s theoretical or practical personal rights of privacy that we hold so dearly sometimes to an extreme. It can be started simply by a couple of key people shaking hands and agreeing to Go-ahead field prototype without further delay. What needs to be done in technical customization and configuration could be easily done by a handful of smart undergrad students at VA Tech, and as the principal inventor and architect I am sure of this. It would be so appropriate and fitting, too, that a powerful tool to save lives and provide security to students, faculty, staff, and ordinary citizens anywhere could be finally implemented and put to work, with the help of the brilliant community of smart students and teachers at VA Tech who have suffered the loss of their friends, their colleagues, and their sense of peace and security.

I am asking for your assistance to get this implemented as soon as possible.

I want to see Virginia Tech protected, and from there, to places left and right across America and the world. I think you do, too, whomever you are reading this today. Here we have something to avert tragedies like that which struck one of our model schools and communities. “Nomad Eyes” by any name or configuration is simple, cheap, easy, straightforward, tested, proven, validated, and to the point. Having this in place at VA Tech already could very likely have saved 33 lives.

Please read this site. Contact us and let’s work Together. It will be very sad if the biggest barriers to preventing future massacres and tragedies of this sort are those from people being afraid to take a risk and a stand for an Innovation and an Answer.

Sincerely,
Martin Dudziak, PhD

Visit <http://nomadeyes.com> for more on this (technical, mainly)
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