

# Delta State University: Professor Dead after Campus “Active Shooter Drill”

By [James F. Tracy](#)


Global Research, September 14, 2015

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

(image) Professor James Tracy

*Remarkable Coincidences in Developing Story, Recent News Article on Delta’s Active Shooter Exercises Deleted From Web*

On Monday, September 14 Delta State University Professor [Ethan Schmidt](#) was allegedly shot by an unknown assailant who is  presently on the loose. The story is being [vigorously promoted by major news media](#) vis-à-vis university and Mississippi state officials, and federal agencies including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Yet Delta State is also noted in the region for “active shooter exercises”–the most recent of which were held in late August of this year (see below news report). “We’ve had and hosted several active shooter trainings on campus,” notes Delta State Campus Police Chief Lynn Buford in a story appearing in the *Bolivar Commercial* that has since been [deleted from its website](#).

Delta State’s police department works with the local sheriff’s office on such drills. When a drill scenario begins to play out campus police receive word of an alleged “active shooter” on campus. “Then we send out a text message that goes to Facebook and Twitter and email,” Buford explains. “Depending on the situation we’ll decide to either lockdown or evacuate.”

The campus community is kept apprised of such situations via “Okra Alert,” which uses social media to inform on the given incident. “It’s a text message system which includes text and email,” according to Buford. “We can also link it to our Facebook and Twitter pages.” About 4,100 people are Okra subscribers.

**The story below on Delta State’s recent active shooter exercises has been [deleted](#) from the *Bolivar Commercial*’s website. It was located on the Internet Archive and saved via a screen capture.**



There are also other curious facets to this developing story presented to the public via “social media postings.”

“Before Schmidt was identified as the victim,” **Yahoo! News** [reports](#), “friends of the slain

professor posted heartbreaking messages on his Facebook page inquiring about this wellbeing.” The story goes on to quote from Facebook:

“Watching CNN about events on your campus,” one wrote. “Please let us know when you can!”

“Yes, please let us know if you are ok,” wrote another. “Thoughts and prayers to you all at DSU.”

Further, Yahoo! News staff even claim to have known Professor Schmidt. This is indeed a remarkable coincidence! “Schmidt attended Emporia State University in Kansas **with Yahoo News editor Everett Starling**, and the two had remained friends,” notes Yahoo!

Starling said Schmidt as very involved at Emporia State, including serving as student body president.

“He’s somebody that I never knew to ever have a quibble with anyone,” Starling said. “He’s one of the best people you will ever know.”

Starling adding: “I’m stunned. He’s a great guy.”

Another unusual coincidence: Delta is scheduled to celebrate its [90th anniversary on September 15th](#)—an occasion that will surely be used by corporate news media to exploit the event.

**Here is Delta State’s official [Testing of Emergency Procedure Policy](#) concerning such readiness exercises.**



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### About the author:

James F. Tracy was a tenured Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Studies at Florida Atlantic University from 2002 to 2016. He was fired by FAU

ostensibly for violating the university's policies imposed on the free speech rights of faculty. Tracy has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the university, with trial set to begin November 27, 2017. Tracy received his PhD from University of Iowa. His work on media history, politics and culture has appeared in a wide variety of academic journals, edited volumes, and alternative news and opinion outlets. Additional information is available at [MemoryHoleBlog.com](http://MemoryHoleBlog.com), [TracyLegalDefense.org](http://TracyLegalDefense.org), and [jamesftracy.wordpress.com](http://jamesftracy.wordpress.com).

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