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College Police Compare Notes at Summit

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EDMOND, Okla. (AP) -- Police on campuses across the country have spent the year since the [Virginia Tech](#) shootings trying to figure out how to keep such attacks from happening and how to respond when they do.

Hundreds of those officers spent Monday at the National Campus Security Summit, comparing notes, training and hearing from some of their colleagues who have gone through such a rampage.

Lt. Darren Mitchell, a [Northern Illinois University](#) officer who was on duty Feb. 14 when a gunman killed himself and five others at a lecture hall there, said his NIU comrades feel so strongly about preparation that even though they went through crisis training before the shooting, they went through more about a month after the killings to help answer a question: "How can we do it even better if we were to have something happen again?"

Last year's inaugural summit also took place at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, a suburb of Oklahoma City. Speakers this year emphasized that it has become increasingly clear since a gunman killed 32 people and himself at Virginia Tech that people from all parts of a campus must remain vigilant and communicate to identify threats and try to prevent violence.

Steven Healy, the chief of police at [Princeton University](#), said it is "absolutely essential" for colleges to develop a behavioral threat assessment process. The trick, he said, is keeping a campus secure while respecting the open academic environment.

"Balance is the call of the day," Healy said. "There are many of us who believe that the openness that we have on our campuses is an essential part of the educational process. Having said that, you don't just say that the campus is a free-for-all. There are things that we need to do to assure that we're providing appropriate security."

The conference began Sunday with officers participating in a mock shooting, in which responders had to find the shooter while dealing with wounded victims. The exercise, which involved pellet guns, was meant to teach officers how to handle the chaos of a campus shooting, and to help authorities answer a crucial question many parents have asked since Virginia Tech.

"'Will my son, will my daughter, be safe at your school?' This is why we can't allow complacency to set in," said Roger Webb, the president of Central Oklahoma and a former director of the

