CERA\\\
Critical Event Response Application

After Action Report
Tri-County Active Violence Incident Training
August 5, 2025

Prepared for: Ingham County Sheriff's Office and Regional Response Partners

Executive Summary

The 2025 Tri-County Active Violence Incident (AVI) exercise tested the region's capacity to respond to a complex active shooter threat at Mason High School. The scenario involved multi-agency coordination among law enforcement, fire, EMS, and emergency management. While strong collaboration and rapid tactical deployment were demonstrated, persistent challenges were identified in communications, personnel tracking, triage documentation, and overall situational awareness. This report details the exercise, highlights strengths and challenges, and demonstrates how CERA directly addresses identified gaps.

Background & Scenario Context

Scenario 1 simulated an 18-year-old male student, Michael, conducting an armed assault at Mason High School. The exercise included over 80 actors simulating victims with various injuries. Law enforcement and emergency services participated.

Exercise Schedule

Tested rapid deployment of law enforcement contact teams, establishment of Unified Command, and integration of Rescue Task Forces for casualty movement.

Actor and responder registration & safety briefings	Scenario 1 Tested rapid deployment of law enforcement contact teams, establishment of Unified Command, and integration of Rescue Task Forces for casualty movement.	Team & Responder debriefs
07:00	10:00	11:45

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Strengths Identified

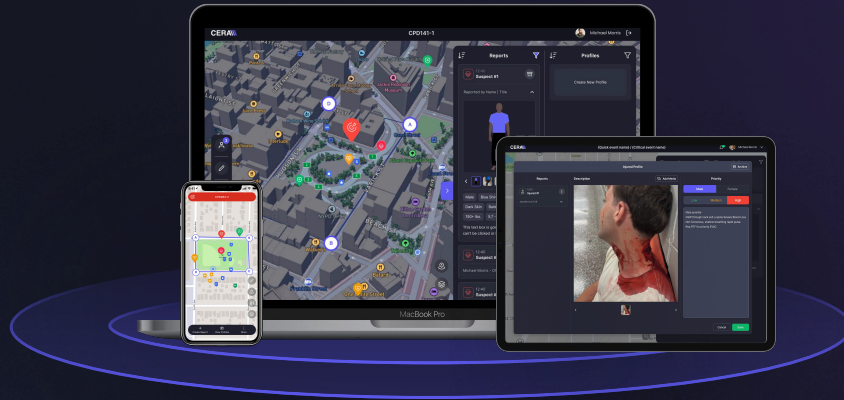|				
Unified Command established quickly across Mason PD, Ingham SO, and Mason FD.	Rapid deployment of multi-agency contact teams demonstrated interoperability.	Effective pairing of law enforcement and fire/EMS into Rescue Task Forces (RTFs).	Realistic casualty distribution enhanced training realism.	Leadership engagement ensured capture of lessons learned.

Areas of Improvements

- Communications Overload on Dispatch and Channels.

- Difficulty maintaining real-time accountability of responders.

- Casualty triage inconsistently documented and relayed.

- Redundant tasking due to fragmented situational awareness.

- Gaps in transition from threat neutralization to medical evacuation

Lessons Learned

- Dispatch bottlenecks limited the speed of information flow.

- A shared operating picture was absent, leading to misallocation of resources.

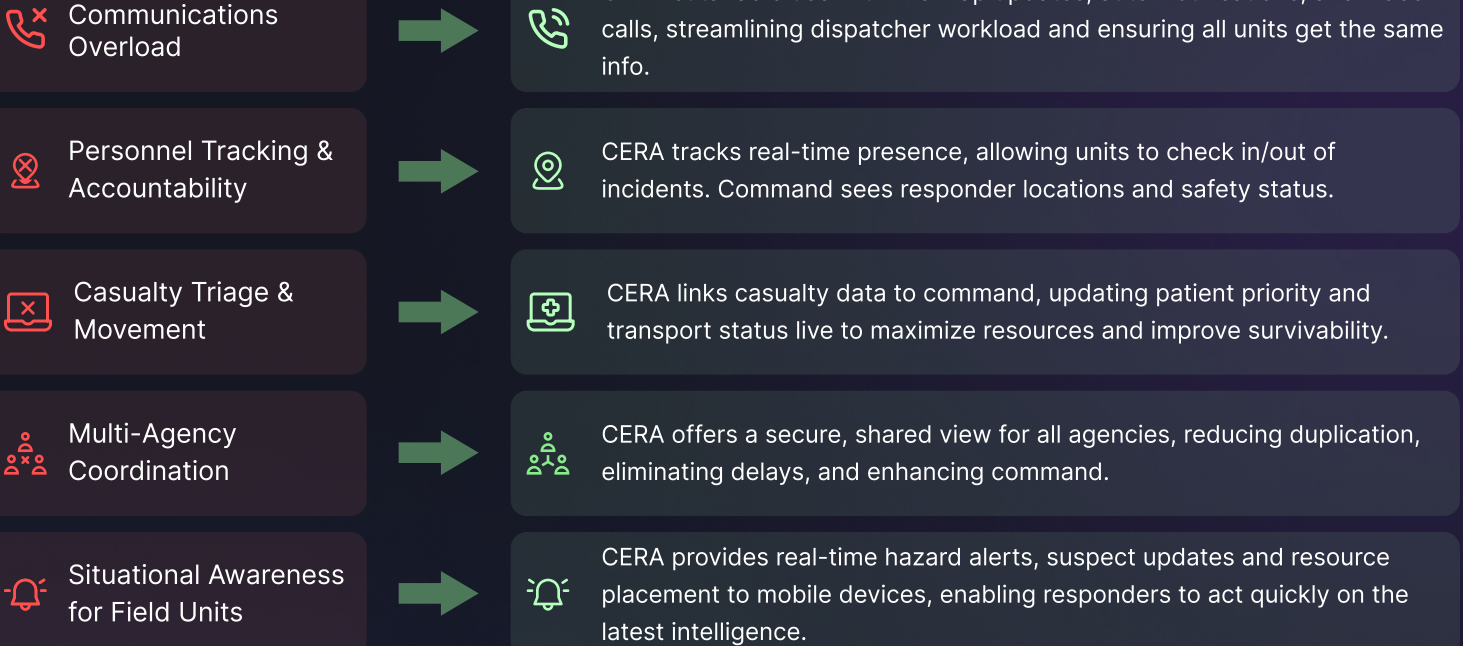- Manual radio-based updates slowed tactical and medical decision-making.

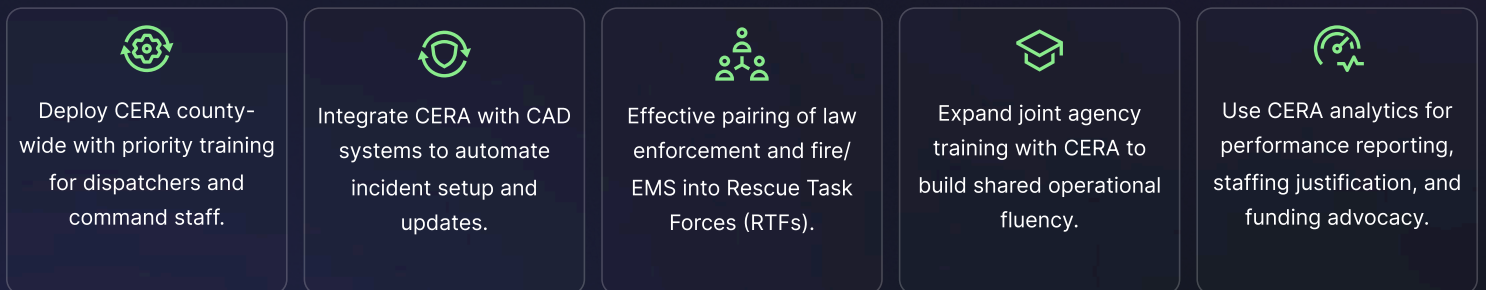- Personnel tracking was incomplete, raising accountability concerns.

- Multi-agency response requires standardized digital coordination tools

Solving Problems With CERA

CERA
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Communications Overload	→	CERA cuts radio use with live map updates, auto-notifications, and video calls, streamlining dispatcher workload and ensuring all units get the same info.
Personnel Tracking & Accountability	→	CERA tracks real-time presence, allowing units to check in/out of incidents. Command sees responder locations and safety status.
Casualty Triage & Movement	→	CERA links casualty data to command, updating patient priority and transport status live to maximize resources and improve survivability.
Multi-Agency Coordination	→	CERA offers a secure, shared view for all agencies, reducing duplication, eliminating delays, and enhancing command.
Situational Awareness for Field Units	→	CERA provides real-time hazard alerts, suspect updates and resource placement to mobile devices, enabling responders to act quickly on the latest intelligence.

Recommendations

| Deploy CERA county-wide with priority training for dispatchers and command staff. | Integrate CERA with CAD systems to automate incident setup and updates. | Effective pairing of law enforcement and fire/EMS into Rescue Task Forces (RTFs). | Expand joint agency training with CERA to build shared operational fluency. | Use CERA analytics for performance reporting, staffing justification, and funding advocacy. |

Conclusion

The 2025 Tri-County AVI exercise demonstrated both the strengths of regional cooperation and the persistent gaps in communications, accountability, and operational efficiency. CERA provides a comprehensive solution: reducing dispatcher workload, enhancing efficiency, maximizing resource allocation, and ensuring accountability of personnel. Most importantly, CERA enables faster, safer, and more effective responses that save lives and protect first responders. By institutionalizing CERA into regional protocols, agencies can ensure a modern, data-driven, and life-saving approach to critical incident management.

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