



MCCY CPRO Questions to AERO

AERO Responses in green

Date: 13 March 2025

Questions:

1. How to prevent our speaker's being harmed?

(AERO Response: to prevent harm to our speaker, we implemented the TOPSIS (Threat Oriented Person Screening Integrated System) approach by focusing on early **detection and deterrence** through the 3Rs: Recognize, Report, and Resolve. This proactive method allows us to identify potential threats, report them promptly, and take necessary actions to resolve the issue before it escalates, ensuring the speaker's safety

- a. can we react to stop this harmful action by pinning this person down?

(AERO Response: reacting by pinning the person down should be the last resort, only after other "detect & deter" tools have failed. In this final act, the top priority is to ensure the protection and safety of the speaker and others involved. It is essential to act swiftly and with caution to minimize harm while waiting for professional security or emergency personnel to take over)

- b. What are ways we could do to prevent it?

(AERO Response: we can prevent such incidents by being vigilant and responsive through TOPSIS training. This involves identifying Threat Oriented Persons ("TOP") and subjecting them to additional checks, enabling us to detect potential threats early and take preventive actions before harm occurs)

2. How to prevent and be alert?

(AERO Response: to prevent incidents and stay alert, we implement and practise TOPSIS. This program helps us identify Threat Oriented Persons ("TOP") and subject them to additional checks, such as "Detection of Intent," where behaviours and intent are used as indicators to gauge potential threats. It's important to note that cultural, religious, and ethnic differences are not considered suspicious, and belief systems or types of worship are not the focus. As Harmony Circle's slogan emphasizes, "**Different races, Many Beliefs, One Singapore**," promoting inclusivity and respect for diversity.)

3. How to minimise the crisis?

(AERO Response: to minimize a crisis, we ensure that first responders are trained and mobilized for every event, ready to act swiftly in case of an emergency. Additionally, having an ERP ("Emergency Response Plan") in place helps outline clear procedures for responding to crises, with the primary objective of minimizing casualties and saving lives)

4. How can smaller churches prepare better despite having a lower manpower count?

(AERO Response: to address the challenge of low manpower, smaller churches can prepare better by implementing TOPSIS in conjunction with other strategies. TOPSIS,



which focuses on detecting intent through Tell-Tale Indicator (TTI) Detection, helps identify potential threats early. However, to compensate for low manpower, the church can:

- a. **Involve the entire community** in vigilance and training, ensuring that everyone is alert and understands the importance of reporting suspicious behaviour.
- b. **Utilize technology for surveillance and communication**, reducing the need for large numbers of staff to monitor the situation.

By integrating these approaches, smaller churches can be proactive in managing risks without relying solely on manpower)

5. How do you recruit and organise the Response Teams for the various parishes and services?

(AERO Response:

To recruit and organize response teams for the various parishes and services, we issue a "**Starter Kit**" to each parish, which serves as a comprehensive guide to implementing a **sustainable** security and safety structure. The process involves:

- a. **Starter Kit Includes:**
 - Archdiocese's stance on safety and security preparations.
 - Guidance notes, success criteria, and planning steps.
 - Security & safety terminology explained.
 - KPI/metrics dashboard with Red-Amber-Green status for key areas.
 - A typical parish security & safety organization chart.
 - Work plan with timelines and deliverables.
 - Resource planning tool.
- b. **Customization:** Each parish assesses what fits best based on its size, available human resources and talents, and the commitment and passion of its leadership.
- c. **Success Factors:**
 - Strong leadership.
 - Commitment to security and safety.
 - Full support from the parish leadership for the security team's initiatives.
 - Formation of a Security & Safety Committee and monthly updates on security issues.
- d. **Steps:**
 - Share and discuss the plan with the parish leadership team.
 - Agree on the structure of the parish's security and safety and gain buy-in.
 - Define the implementation plan, timeline, and deliverables.
 - Agree on the mobilisation plan.
 - Consult with the central team, AERO (Archdiocesan Emergency Response Operations), for further guidance if needed.

This approach ensures that each parish is equipped to build a strong, **sustainable** security and safety structure, tailored to its specific needs and capabilities.



6. In an emergency, race, religion is not important, life matters. Save first and religious aspects can follow thereafter if necessary. Would that be the best humane practice? (AERO Response: Yes, that is the best humane practice. As Harmony Circle's slogan "Different races, Many Beliefs, One Singapore" reflects, our Church embraces the spirit of multiculturalism and harmony in Singapore. In an emergency, the priority is to save lives first, regardless of race or religion. The focus should always be on protecting people, and any religious or cultural considerations can be addressed once immediate safety is ensured. This approach aligns with our commitment to human dignity and the well-being of all individuals)

7. In the scenario of a knife threat, it may be easier to minimize the total number of casualties by engaging and subduing the threat. What are some practical ways to do so? Without the need to send ppl to self-defence or martial arts classes.

(AERO Response: Our Catholic Church does not believe in militarising our houses of worship. Instead, our priority is on prevention. We focus on "detection & deterrence", where vigilance and reporting are key. In the case of a knife threat, we would emphasise – as best as possible; early detection and prompt reporting to ensure the threat is addressed and neutralised. Even as we ensure the safety of all our community, AERO has a Close Protection Unit (CPU) that specialises in escort and safety measures for our priests, leaders and VVIPs, to ensure their protection in such situations.)

8. Handling Threat that is non-Life Threatening, example, autism persons that may turn violent, person standing in the centre of the hall showing signs of spiritual presence in him/ her?

(AERO Response: Our Church plans to invest in building pastoral-care units within each parish. For smaller and resource-limited parishes, the Archdiocese will provide central assistance. Importantly, the Church will always exercise empathy and care for individuals on the autistic spectrum, anyone who shows signs of distress or requires mental health support. Our approach will focus on the needs of the person involved - with understanding and compassionate de-escalation, respectful care and support – even while addressing the safety and concerns of the general church community members.)

9. What are the SOPs that the church has to tackle incidents?

(AERO Response: Our Church's SOP for handling incidents is categorized into three levels:

1. Crisis Levels:

- a. Local level (Parish): The crisis can be resolved within the parish.
- b. Archdiocesan level (Church): The crisis impacts beyond the parish and requires coordination with other entities and possible involvement of state agencies.
- c. National level: The crisis affects national values and requires broader coordination.



2. Local Level SOP:

- 1st Responder (PEPT) assesses the incident's severity.
- Priests are alerted, and instructions are given if state resources are needed.
- A preliminary report is submitted within 2 hours to AERO for further assessment, and a full report is filed within a week.

3. Archdiocesan and National Level SOP:

- SOPs are communicated to all parishes with a HOTLINE for emergencies.
- Potential crises include accidents, fires, health crises, and social disruptions.
- Crisis Management: The CMC HOTLINE is contacted to confirm if the incident is a crisis. If confirmed, a Crisis Management Group is activated, and the Site Incident Manager (SIM) is designated.
- Support for victims includes Psychological First Aid (PFA) and assistance for the next-of-kin.

This process ensures clear roles and swift action, with a focus on safety, coordination, and comprehensive reporting.

10. Some areas of crisis management are from Security and some from Fire rescue and lifesaving. How do you prioritise the resources in both areas during a crisis?

(AERO Response: to prioritize resources during a crisis, we focus on the most urgent needs first:

1. **Life-saving:** The first responder will prioritize immediate medical care for those with life-threatening injuries, providing first aid and evacuating people from dangerous areas.
2. **Safety and security:** Security personnel will secure the scene, prevent further harm, and ensure safe access for emergency responders while limiting entry to minimize risks.
3. **Coordinating resources:** While the first responder handles immediate threats, fire rescue teams and emergency services will focus on rescuing individuals from hazardous areas and addressing major injuries.

The overall priority is to manage immediate risk to life and safety, ensuring that critical resources are allocated where they are needed most until State Resources arrive to manage the larger-scale response.)