



Raven's Challenge - Past, Present and Future

EOD/PSBS Interoperability
Training Exercise
(supported by HQDA G-38)

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Enduring Training Concept

WHY WE DO THIS:

Create a National EOD/PSBS standard training exercise focused on:

- the most likely enemy threat, IEDs.
- interoperability, Public Safety Bomb Squad (PSBS) & EOD.
- EOD's ability to win on the IED infested battlefield.
- PSBS ability to counter future domestic IED threats.
- regional Bomb Disposal interoperability & capacity.
- exposure to new Bomb Disposal ideas and technologies.



Enduring Training Concept

- ▣ WHO: Military EOD (Active/Guard), Public Safety Bomb Squads (PSBS) (Local and State), Feds (DOJ/DHS), International and Industry Partners. Over 1200 participants from 52 Bomb Squads and 6 Countries participated in RC-VIII = Mass/Scale.



“Create a National Level EOD/PSBS standard training exercise”



Enduring Training Concept

- ▣ WHAT: A collective training event, aligned with PPD-17 JPO CIED EOD/PSBS Interoperability Exercise, the US C-IED Implementation Plan, using the long standing regional Raven's Challenge Training Event.



“Create a National Level EOD/PSBS standard training exercise”



Background



- ▣ Originally held on Joint Base Lewis McChord (Fort Lewis).
- ▣ Hosted by 741st EOD Battalion (Wash. National Guard), Port of Seattle Police, Pierce County Sheriff, Washington State Patrol, ATF & FBI.
- ▣ The enduring objectives:
 - *Cross training between EOD/Bomb Squads.*
 - *Create an EOD leadership challenge: planning, logistics, C2.*
 - *Create mass/scale, allowing for sharing/leveraging of resources.*
 - *Build regional interagency cooperation/capability.*
 - *Set an example: **dynamic live fire EOD training.***
 - *Examine new/developing technologies.*





DOD Funded/Agencies Invested

- ▣ HQ DA G-38 Funded Exercise
- ▣ Managed by ATF-Partnered with FBI, DHS, TSA
- ▣ State and Local Agencies -Time, Resources
- ▣ A-T Solutions-HSEEP Protocols-Planning (Contracted)



Raven's Challenge IX (2015)

Training Objectives

- EOD/PSBS Interoperability (cross training)
- Live Fire – use of Energetic EOD Tools
- Post RSP/Blast assessments (bomb forensics)
- Mass Transit/Critical Infrastructure incident response
- Maritime EOD/PSBS Operations (team cross training)
- EOD/PSBS Teams operating in a Tactical Environment (SWAT interoperability)
- ECM/Counter RCIED capabilities/limitations
- Information flow/sharing from tactical through strategic levels (BMC/SIOC/NETF) (Exercise Bomb Management Center concepts)





2015 Highlights



- ▣ Bomb MGT Center for C2-
(Test Bed for Standardized planning)
- ▣ Mobile BATS
- ▣ ECM interface
- ▣ Disaster Scenarios (Camp Blanding)
- ▣ Mass Cal Scenarios (Bus)
- ▣ SWAT & Bomb Integration
- ▣ HME, Cache and Bomb Making
- ▣ K9 & Bomb Integration
- ▣ Maritime operations in Port of JAX & Puget Sound



Going forward

- ▣ Exercise is stable with current funding and staffing levels
 - Future - sustained, multiagency resourcing
- ▣ Training exercise needs to be listed on exercise calendars (FORSCOM/NORTHCOM)
- ▣ Command emphasis, the training quality at the team level goes up significantly when given priority by leadership
- ▣ Increased communication of expectations to participants will improve training quality



Exercise Site Requirements

- ▣ Large Concentration of PSBS Bomb Squads
- ▣ Active Army EOD Units in proximity
- ▣ “Live Fire” & “Free Play” site availability
- ▣ Logistical Support readily available





TY-16 Proposed Dates/Locations

- ▣ April 10-23 Fort Wolters Training Center, Mineral Wells, TX
- ▣ 8-21 May SPTC Oriskany, NY
- ▣ 31 May – 11 June Camp Blanding, FL
- ▣ 20 June – 1 July Elma, WA



Training = Real World Actions

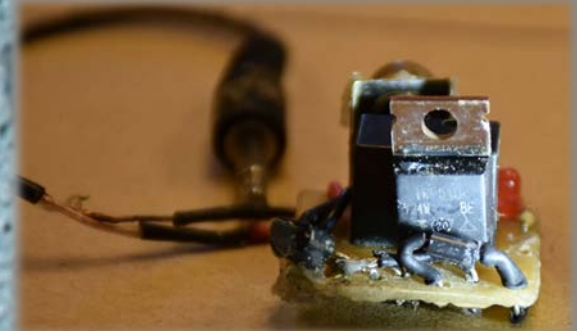
- 7 July: Team from 53rd EOD successfully dealt with a RCIED, had just participated in RC IX live ECM training

**Device found near curb
in quiet Yakima neighborhood**



KAITLYN BERNAUER/Yakima Herald-Republic

A member of an explosives disposal team works to disarm a suspicious object on South 23rd Avenue, just north of Bonnie Doon Avenue, in Yakima on Tuesday evening.





Participant Feedback

- ▣ Participant Survey after every scenario
- ▣ Feedback drives the AAR
- ▣ Team “Hot Wash” with OC after each event
- ▣ Self evaluate team actions-grow each day





RC IX First AAR Feedback

- ▣ The collective feedback has been very positive.
- ▣ Highlighted Weaknesses:
 - 1) Not enough time (Scenarios)
 - 2) Communications Interoperability & team Command and Control
 - 3) Forensic/Evidence Collection and Scene Security
 - 4) Command and Control
- ▣ Major Highlighted Strengths:
 - 1) Networking/Cross Training
 - 2) Realistic Exercise
 - 3) ECM Use
 - 4) Increased Knowledge of Equipment and TTPs