

THE GROWING THREAT OF VEHICLE RAMMING

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Physical Security program focuses on security awareness for soft targets and crowded places. A key focus area is mitigating hostile vehicle threats, including development of counter threat technologies. The use of a vehicle as a weapon, or vehicle ramming, is a known terrorist attack tactic. Recent terrorist incidents and violent extremist propaganda demonstrate that vehicle ramming continues to be a tactic of interest for those wishing to cause harm.

ENSURING MISSION SUCCESS

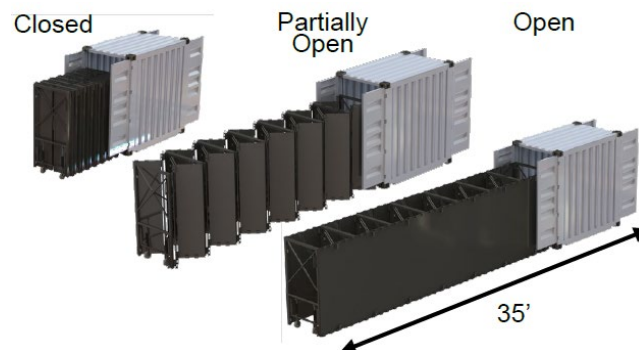
S&T is evaluating the Ready Armor Protection for Instant Deployment (RAPID) barrier in realistic environments to identify operational recommendations and/or hardware adjustments to optimize use for DHS components such as the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

The RAPID barrier is an accordion-like security wall for quickly establishing physical barriers with ballistic protection in urban environments. RAPID utilizes a hydraulic system and wheels to reduce deployment time and required manpower. Contained in a small shipping container (8' x 8' x 4.8' Quadcon), the 9,000-pound RAPID steel barrier wall is 6'6" tall and can expand like an accordion to 35 feet long. The wall can be deployed by an "unskilled" crew of five, in less than 30 minutes.

RAPID barrier applications include crowd control (e.g., large events, parades, festivals), asset protection (e.g., critical infrastructure), and law enforcement (e.g., checkpoints, traffic)

SECURING SOFT TARGETS

The Physical Security program collaborates with component stakeholders, end-users, and technology development partners to close gaps in security through innovative technologies, designed to work together to advance event planning, standoff detection, and screening of unstructured crowds.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- FY23 Q3: Conducted system performance evaluation for RAPID during operational event at National Football League (NFL) Draft 2023 (Kansas City, MO)
- FY24 Q2: Deployed RAPID barrier at NFL Honors Event in Las Vegas, NV

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- FY24 Q2: Conduct site visit to deploy RAPID at Indy 500 race
- FY24 Q3: Deploy RAPID barrier at Indy 500

PARTNERSHIPS

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) solves the nation's toughest engineering and environmental challenges. ERDC develops innovative solutions in civil and military engineering, geospatial sciences, water resources, and environmental sciences for the Army, Department of Defense, and civilian agencies.

