

DHS Science and Technology Directorate Counter Terrorism Technology Evaluation Center

New Challenges Facing First Responders Today

First responders, including law enforcement and Department of Defense (DoD) personnel, face growing threats from home-grown violent extremists and active shooters.

Implementing technology and identifying training to assist the first responder community requires time and money. Law enforcement agencies continue to stretch budgets and manpower and fire departments and emergency medical technicians scramble to find personnel protective equipment to protect themselves while responding to these dangerous emergency situations.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), is working to deliver effective and innovative insight, methods and solutions for the critical needs of these first responders around the country.

Counter Terrorism Technology Evaluation Center (CTTEC)

Created in 2011, the CTTEC, located at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ is a joint venture between DHS, S&T's Explosives Division (EXD) and the U.S. Army Armament, Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC).

CTTEC was developed to support federal, state and local agencies in the northeast by combining DoD ARDEC and DHS S&T EXD capabilities to support tactical and technical requirements as defined by the regional stakeholder team. Technology demonstrations and training can occur at the requesting stakeholder's location or at Picatinny Arsenal.

S&T has centrally located liaisons in New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. that allows CTTEC to more easily build relationships to demonstrate technologies and coordinate training. Currently, the CTTEC supports Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware law enforcement agencies.

CTTEC was designed to assist regional stakeholder teams with:

- Establishing a requirements process that will identify their needs
- Exchanging information regarding current and emerging technologies
- Using DoD and other government facilities for training, technology testing and development of tactics, techniques and procedures
- Leveraging DHS S&T support to fulfill stakeholder requirements
- Benefiting from Joint Improvised-threat Defeat Agency JIDA funded programs

Through CTTEC, S&T EXD has been able to gather technology and training requirements from federal, state and local agencies. The partnership with ARDEC has identified emerging technolo-



West Orange, NJ Police Department waiting to enter a Synagogue during their recent active shooter exercise

gies, promoted technology development and conducted test and evaluation.

Active Shooter and IED Exercises

With funding from DHS S&T, CTTEC coordinated multiple active shooter and improvised explosive device (IED) exercises with various local law enforcement agencies. These exercises help identify technology and training gaps within the agencies, as well as share lessons learned with other agencies.

These venues also allow DHS S&T to assess different technologies that could be used to support the agencies during actual emergencies. This approach to technology assessment allows DHS S&T to save time and money in technology evaluation and selection.

CTTEC works to bring trainers to work with stakeholders prior to the training, including anti-terrorism intelligence training, IED and vehicle borne IED awareness/search procedures, response to suicide attacks, active shooter training and tactical medicine.

CTTEC Partnerships

CTTEC has partnered with many federal, state and local agencies in the past few years. Some of those agencies include:

- S&T First Responders Group
- S&T National Urban Science and Technology Lab
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- Federal Air Marshals
- Office of Bombing Prevention
- NYPD/FDNY
- New Jersey State Police
- ARDEC



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To learn more or request training, contact CTTEC's Joe Foster, at HSARPA@hq.dhs.gov.