Philadelphia Police Department

Captain Walt Smith, Commanding Officer
Homeland Security Unit
Mission

The Philadelphia Police Department’s Homeland Security Unit was established in the spring of 2002 as a proactive response to the elevated threat of terrorism following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Prevent and Respond to potential Terrorism Related and All Hazard incidents.

Although, terrorism prevention was not a new concept for law enforcement, the events of September 11, 2001 emphasized the need for law enforcement to be both first responders & first preventers in the war on terrorism.

Homeland Security Unit
Counter Terrorism Operations
Dignitary Protection/Hostage Negotiations/Investigations
Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)
Homeland Security Unit’s Investigations

- All terrorism related information as well as acts of terrorism or potential terrorism related incidents are fully investigated by experienced Homeland Security Unit investigators.
- These investigators work in unison with the Homeland Security Unit Investigators assigned directly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI JTTF).
- This collaboration provides both a local and global perspectives on terrorism response and prevention.
Community/Business Support

- Created dedicated Intelligence Center for Counter Terrorism/Crime Prevention and all hazard mitigation supporting the Emergency Operations Center
- Terrorism Prevention Hotline (215) 685-1170
- Website Tip Line www/ppdonline.org
DELAWARE VALLEY INTELLIGENCE CENTER (DVIC)

FUSION CENTER
Fusion Partners

A Four State, Twelve County Initiative

- Agriculture
- Banking and Finance
- Chemical Industry
- Community Groups
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Emergency Services
- Energy
- Government
- Health & Related Services
- Hospitality & Lodging

- Information & Telecommunication
- Military
- Armament Research Development & Engineering Picatinny Arsenal
- Multi Agency Collaborative Environment, Herdon, VA
- Counter Drug Program, Fort Indiantown Gap, US Army Reserve
- Civil Support Team
- Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (PPLO) McGuire AFB
- Willow Grove Naval Air Station
- Port Facilities
- Postal & Shipping
- Private Security
- Public Works
- Real Estate
- Retail
- Social Services
- Transportation
Homeland Security Unit’s Training

The Homeland Security Unit provides intensive response and prevention training to the Department’s First Responders, who will be the first to arrive on the scene of a major disaster.

To enhance officer safety, training programs include proper Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) techniques, tactics and procedures as well as providing officers with indicators of potential terrorist related activity.

All Homeland Security Unit training programs support the national response strategy and include Incident Command Systems (ICS), and are in compliance with the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and the National Response Framework.
Homeland Security Unit’s Major Incident Response Team (MIRT)

- The Major Incident Response Team is the Police Department’s first line of defense in a major disaster or terrorist related event.

- These officers receive specialized training from managing a radiological incident to a natural disaster and are provided with the necessary protective equipment to be effective in major incident management.

- In addition, the Major Incident Response Team meets the department’s short term tactical objectives by providing a specially trained rapid response team, while meeting the department’s long term strategic goals of providing a regional response capability that could be deployed throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania.
Major Incident Response Team

- 500 volunteer officers and supervisors
- Officers receive specialized training in all hazard response, including Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
- Managing Chemical and Biological Incidents
- Decontamination procedures and perimeter security
- Identification of suspects and witnesses
- Primary mission is to secure the warm zone
- Not a special unit (But Special to us)
Philadelphia Police MIRT Equipment-

*Level “C” Protection*

- MSA Millennium APR with NIOSH approved CBRNE Canister and Voice Amplifier
- TYVEK-F Coverall
- Butyl Protective Hood
- Nitrile Gloves and Chemical Resistant Over-Boots
- All Secured with Kappler CHEM-TAPE
- Duty Belt w/sidearm, OC Spray, Handcuffs and Radio
PRIMAR IS MISSION
Stabilize Conditions

- Secure perimeter as needed
- Secure the warm zone
- Establish order in zone
- Identify witnesses and suspects
MIRT PRIMARY MISSION
Stabilize Conditions
ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS

- Assist / contain injured
- Identify evidence
- Identify secondary devices
- Maintain team integrity
- Decon prior to leaving warm zone
Homeland Security Unit’s Critical Infrastructure Protection Programs

- The Philadelphia Police Department’s Homeland Security Unit works collaboratively with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisors and the Private Sector in developing proactive protective strategies to ensure target hardening of critical infrastructure and critical resources.

- These programs are designed to enhance security while limiting the potential loss of critical services, therefore increasing resiliency.

- Programs include Buffer Zone Protection Plans
- Threat and Risk Assessments
- Site Assessment Visits
Buffer Zone Protection Plans and Vulnerability Assessments

PGW PORT RICHMOND PLANT

Delaware Ave – Facing Southbound from Castor Ave

PGW Storage Tanks

NO Parking or Stopping in Right Lane adjacent to Plant

Security Recommendation – 1 P/O per tour – Roving Patrol to ensure no vehicles park or stop along or near PGW Plant fence line
Homeland Security Unit’s Equipment

- The Homeland Security unit maintains a compilation of specialized equipment to support the overall mission of terrorism response and prevention, such as a state of the art command and control center.
- In addition, the Homeland Security Unit participates in the research and development of merging technologies to be able to provide the best possible tools to our first responders.
Homeland Security Unit’s Community/Business Outreach Programs

It is paramount that the Philadelphia Police Department recognizes the Community/Private Sector as first preventers in the role of crime and terrorism prevention and that both Law Enforcement and the community work in unison to enhance awareness and reduce complacency.

Members of the Homeland Security Unit provide preparedness and prevention training in order to be more efficient and effective in enhancing the safety and security of our communities.

Topics of training include terrorism awareness and indicators, workplace security, bomb threat procedures, suspicious mailings, recognizing explosives and proper procedures for handling packages containing an unknown substance and Active Shooter. All training is tailored to meet specific needs or organizational requirements.
Outreach

Programs:
- Bomb Threat Plans
- Suspicious Mailing Procedures
- Target Hardening

Community Groups:
- Community Awareness Terrorism Training (CAT EYES)
- Terrorism Awareness Training (TAP)

Designed to create community awareness and report suspicious or unusual behavior
Homeland Security Unit’s Terrorism Leads and Tips Line

- It is critical that the community be provided with a mechanism to report potential terrorism related activity.
- Successful terrorism prevention strategies include disrupting terrorist activity in the planning stages.
- Members of the community are the first to recognize unusual occurrences within their communities that may be indicators of potential terrorist related activity.
- To support the community efforts in reporting suspicious activity, each of the Twenty-Three (23) Patrol Districts throughout the city are staffed with a Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO).
- In addition, the Homeland Security Unit maintains a Terrorism Leads and Tips line #215-685-1170. As always in an emergency call 911.
Homeland Security Unit’s Agency Coordination

The Philadelphia Police Department’s Homeland Security Unit recognizes the importance of developing true partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels.

It is critical that emergency responders meet and develop strong relationships prior to meeting the first time at an emergent event.

It is also imperative that these agencies train and exercise joint and individual capabilities utilizing table top exercises, computer simulations as well as full scale training exercises.

To that end the Homeland Security Unit supports all Federal, State and Local initiatives in the development of best practices in the role of terrorism response and prevention.
AGENCY COORDINATION:

US Attorney’s Anti Terror Task Force:
- All Federal, State & local law enforcement agencies represented
- Coordinate the dissemination of information and the development of investigative and prosecutorial strategies throughout the country
- Coordinates training exercises for multi-jurisdictional scenarios
AGENCY COORDINATION:

Southeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force:

- All 5 Counties (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia) First Responders
- Coordinate the dissemination of Federal Homeland Security Grants and other funding
- Serve as a standing organizational structure for a coordinated response to a terrorist incident in this area.
Intra-Agency Cooperation

City of Philadelphia Working Group:
Emergency Management -
Police, Fire, and Health Departments
• Recognize the critical value of working with the private sector.

• Center City District - business improvement districts - public / private partnerships - sharing crime data, safety ambassadors standing joint roll calls with PPD, developing unified strategies for enhancing safety.

• RSAN/Alert Philadelphia – emergency text messaging communication system.

• Philadelphia Crime Prevention Council – 270 federal, state & local law enforcement meeting with corporate & private security bi-monthly.

• Building Owner’s & Managers Association’s (BOMA) – Safety & Security Committee – Bill Kelhower is Co-Chairperson.

• ATAC, Joint Terrorism Task Force, Intelligence Centers, Critical Infrastructure.

• Role of private sector in drills, table top exercises, sharing information & tech expertise.
Target Rich Environment

All the things that make Philadelphia a great city, make us a viable target:

Liberty Bell and Independence Hall - national treasures
Target Rich Environment

Critical Infrastructure

Utilities and Interstate 95
SUSPICIOUS MAILING
(Suspected Explosives)

- Protruding Wires
- Oily Stains
- Lopsided
- Strange Odor
- No Return Address
- Misspelled Words
- Excessive Postage
- Restrictive Markings
SUSPICIOUS MAILING (Non Explosive)
ANTHRAX LETTER
ROUTES OF EXPOSURES

Inhalation

Ingestion

Absorption

Injection
BIO vs. CHEM TERRORISM

Not immediately obvious.
May take days or weeks to notice results.
Multiple victims with similar symptoms over time
Eg. Anthrax

Immediate results
Multiple victims with similar symptoms almost immediately upon exposure
Personnel must consider evaluating safety of scene (PPE)
Eg. Chlorine, Cynide
SHELTER IN PLACE

- Atmosphere outside is more dangerous than inside
- Remain at street level or above (Some agents heavier than air)
- Area should be large enough to support people
- Few doors / windows
- Comfort considerations
- Plastic sheeting & duct tape
- Time?
- HVAC Systems
- Communications – Cell Phones, Radios, Flashlights, Medications, people with special needs, signage.
- Prior Drills and exercises necessary for success.
- Tabletop exercises recommended
Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat Spectrum

- Explosives (HIGH)
- Industrial Chemicals
- Biological Agents
- Radio-Isotopes
- Chemical Weapons
- Nuclear Weapon (LOW)
EXPLOSIVES

• 70% of all terrorist incidents involve explosives

• They can be used to disperse chemical, incendiary, or radiological materials
SUI CI DE BOMBERS
Suicide Bomber and Suspicious Device
IMPROVISED DEVICES
SATCHEL DEVICES

CENTENNIAL PARK DEVICE
Exterior view

Letter bombs

Interior view

IED (Improvised Explosive Device) contained black powder with light bulb filament initiator

Once insulation was removed between two contact points – IED functioned.
IED with friction pull initiation system

Once wire/string is pulled – IED functions
Exterior view

Suspect briefcase

Interior view

Cell phone initiated IED
Pipe bombs & bolts utilized as shrapnel
Unabomber Device
Incendiary Devices

Components
- Ignition Source
- Combustible Filler
- Housing or Container

Common Materials Used
- Roadway Flares
- Gasoline/Motor Oil
- Light Bulbs
- Matches/Fireworks
- Electrical Components
- Propane Cylinders
- Bottles, Cans, Plastic Pipes
VEHICLE BOMBS
Together Making The Region Safer!

Thank you.

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