

FEED BACK

ON

ATA-10196 (POST BLAST INVESTIGATION) COURSE

DURATION	:	23.06.2014 TO 09.07.2015
VENUE	:	The 'O' Gara Group Training and Service Division, 220 Industrial Park Drive, Montross, Virginia- 22520 USA.

I was nominated for the aforesaid course the feedback of the course can be summarized as under:

INTRODUCTION

Office of Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA)

In 1983, the United States Congress authorized the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program as a major initiative against international terrorism. The Office of Antiterrorism Assistance, Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) provides training and related assistance to law enforcement and security services of qualified countries worldwide. The State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism provides policy guidance for the ATA Program.

Antiterrorism Assistance Training Program

Since the program's inception, more than 67,000 security and law enforcement officials from over 155 countries have received antiterrorism training. These officials are now better prepared to fight terrorism and protect their citizens in times of crisis.

Assistance focuses on the following major *objectives*:

1. Enhancing the antiterrorism skills of friendly countries by providing training and equipment to deter and counter the threats of terrorism
2. Strengthening the bilateral ties of the United States with friendly foreign governments by offering concrete assistance in areas of mutual concern
3. Increasing respect for human rights by sharing with civilian authorities modern, humane, and effective antiterrorism techniques

PREREQUISITES:

One should be familiar with the tactics, techniques, and procedures to conduct a post-blast investigation. During this course you have learned to identify types of explosives and their explosive effects, secure and search a blast crime scene, identify blast evidence, identify bomb builder patterns (signatures), recover and preserve crime scene evidence for use at trial, explain basic witness interview techniques to bombing incidents, and establish a command post operations following a bombing.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Pre- and Post-training Knowledge Surveys

The pre- and post-training knowledge surveys are one way to determine the quality and applicability of a course and to ensure that it provides the participant with the knowledge and skills needed. This survey is not a measurement of the participants' abilities or intelligence.

The post-training knowledge survey, the same list of questions as the pre-training knowledge survey with the same options, will be administered after completion of the last module. Just as in the pre-training knowledge survey, the sum of the participants' answers will be entered into a datasheet.

The pre-training knowledge survey and the post-training knowledge survey are then compared to provide ATA with a scientific method of assessing the value or effectiveness of the course. With the data, ATA can examine how programs (individually and collectively) are meeting the Department of State's expectations for participant learning and development. As well, ATA experts can use the data to pinpoint where improvements need to be made when expectations are not met.

Reaction Evaluation

The reaction evaluation is another way we evaluate the degree of our success in delivering training. The evaluation form will ask for input from attendees relative to how the course could be improved and how much the participant feels he or she has learned. This again is not a test of ability; rather, it is a method to solicit a range of opinions on how the course can be improved.

Post-Blast Investigation Course

This 13-day course is designed to provide participants with methods to effectively assess and investigate the bombing crime scene, including the following:

- Techniques of bomb scene assessment and investigation
- Methods used to identify, collect, and preserve evidence
- Steps to secure the crime scene
- Significance of associated forensic disciplines
- Procedures for evaluating evidence to identify perpetrators
- Storage and transportation of bombing crime scene equipment

Post-Blast Investigation Topics

1. Explosion dynamics : This module provides an overview of the physics of explosions and the potential damage they cause. A fundamental understanding of the nature of explosions is essential to post-blast bomb investigations. By understanding the dynamics and effects of explosions, an investigator will be better able to combine the basics—the small pieces—of the investigation.
2. Identification of explosives: This module expands upon the categories of explosives. The common manufactured explosives or energetic material – both commercial and military were discussed.
3. Explosives demonstration: This demonstration is of various types of explosives commonly encountered in the United States. Product identification, explosive compounds, intended purpose, and effects will be discussed.
4. IED construction techniques: During this module, participants will study the resources bombers require for the production of an improvised explosive device. They will also discuss the functioning systems and delivery methods.

5. **Equipment operation:** Because most improvised explosive devices employ some type of electric fuzing system, the post-blast investigator must have a working knowledge of basic electricity to help in the search and collection of forensic bombing evidence. With this knowledge, the investigator will understand how to read and construct electric circuits.
6. **Vehicle bombing incidents:** Various case studies from countries afflicted with terrorism were discussed followed by practical sessions on vehicle bombs.
7. **Post-blast forensics** During this module, participants will study the resources bombers require for the production of an improvised explosive device. They will also discuss the functioning systems and delivery methods.
8. **Major incident management:** A well-documented case file ensures the integrity of the investigation; allows for sharing, presenting, and referencing the information; provides a permanent record of the incident. This record is instrumental to bringing the case – especially a terrorist or criminal case – to a successful conclusion.
9. **Post-blast scene investigation procedures** This module discusses the post-blast investigation phases and the procedures to be followed during each phase. The phases of a post-blast investigation are as follows:
 - Initial response
 - Arrival/scene survey
 - Planning
 - Processing the crime scene
 - Final survey
 - Release of the scene
 - Field investigation

Course Composition

This course comprises lectures, group discussions, case studies, videos, software programs and other specialized equipment, and extensive practical exercises investigating bombing crime scenes. Participants conduct investigations of simulated crime scenes created by the detonation of actual improvised explosive devices. Throughout the course, participants are highly encouraged to participate fully and to ask questions whenever necessary. Be prepared for outdoor activities requiring moderate physical exertion.

Conclusion:

During this course, participants became acquainted with one another as well as with the facilitators and the course content, structure, and related

materials. Excellent information, impressive presentation that gave useful and concrete items to implement at work.”. The Office of Antiterrorism Assistance and its relationship with partner nations were discussed. The course was interactive, comprehensive and the trainer had a dynamic approach which kept the momentum going. Ideal for those who would like to boost their confidence whilst dealing with “Post Blast Investigations”.

After the completion of course, Participants become familiar with the tactics, techniques, and procedures to conduct a post-blast investigation. During this course you have learned to identify types of explosives and their explosive effects, secure and search a blast crime scene, identify blast evidence, identify bomb builder patterns (signatures), recover and preserve crime scene evidence for use at trial, explain basic witness interview techniques to bombing incidents, and establish a command post operations following a bombing. Therefore, the instant course has proved to be most suitable for Parliament Security Service keeping in view with the very high threat perception, hence it is suggested that this course may be conducted for the officials of the PSS with more training slots.

To conclude with, I hereby extend my heartiest gratitude for providing me such an opportunities to enrich my knowledge and skills.

Submitted.

(Ajay Kumar Thakur)

AD(S)

29.08.2014

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