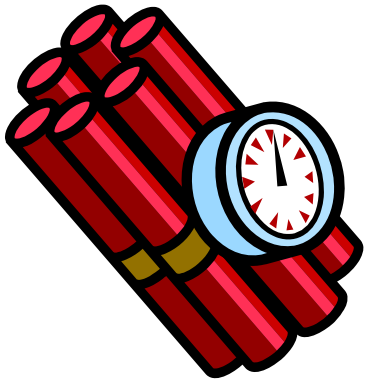
Managing a Bomb Threat Drill and a Real Event



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About Explosives

- An explosive is a reactive substance that contains a great amount of potential energy when activated is usually accompanied by producing light, heat, and pressure.
- Potential energy stored in an explosive may be:
  - Chemical Energy: Nitroglycerine
  - Mechanical / Pressurized compressed gas: Gas cylinder, aerosols
  - Nuclear: Uranium-235 or Plutonium-239

Two Types of Explosives

- Low Impact Explosive
  - Decomposition of the explosive material is propagated by a flame front, which moves slowly through the flame front: ***Deflagration***
  - ie. Flares, gun powder, fireworks
- High Impact Explosive
  - Decomposition is propagated by the explosive shock wave traversing the explosive material: ***Detonation***.
  - ie. TNT, C4
- Brisance is the speed in which an explosive reaches its peak pressure / power, used to determine the effectiveness in fragmenting shells, bomb casings, etc

Forces and Distance

- Blast – Pressure from the blast can send shock waves that create injuries both internal and external. There is a positive and negative wave
- Fragmentation – Rupture of the container fragments and become projectiles. In addition, many dirty bombs also contain nails, glass, or other projectiles
- Thermal – the explosion creates a heat energy that can cause burns and swelling of the airways

Detonation Velocity

- Trinitrotoluene (TNT), chemical, most common for military and industrial use, insensitive to shock and friction:

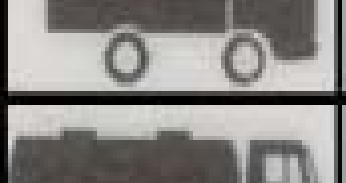
  6,940 m/s or 22,769 ft/s

- Nitroglycerine, when mixed with diatomite (soft siliceous sedimentary rock formed from diatoms or fossilized hard-shelled algae) makes a paste called Dynamite [Alfred Nobel 1967].

  1,219 – 7,010 m/s or 4,000 – 23,000 ft/s

- Cyclonite (C4), plastic, can be molded, is stable, and is insensitive to most physical shocks:

  8,092 m/s or 26,550 ft/s

ATF	VEHICLE DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM EXPLOSIVES CAPACITY	LETHAL AIR BLAST RANGE	MINIMUM EVACUATION DISTANCE	FALLING GLASS HAZARD
	COMPACT SEDAN	500 Pounds 227 Kilos (In Trunk)	100 Feet 30 Meters	1,500 Feet 457 Meters	1,250 Feet 381 Meters
	FULL SIZE SEDAN	1,000 Pounds 455 Kilos (In Trunk)	125 Feet 38 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters
	PASSENGER VAN OR CARGO VAN	4,000 Pounds 1,818 Kilos	200 Feet 61 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters
	SMALL BOX VAN (14 FT BOX)	10,000 Pounds 4,545 Kilos	300 Feet 91 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters
	BOX VAN OR WATER/FUEL TRUCK	30,000 Pounds 13,636 Kilos	450 Feet 137 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters
	SEMITRAILER	60,000 Pounds 27,273 Kilos	600 Feet 183 Meters	7,000 Feet 2,134 Meters	7,500 Feet 2,134 Meters

Types of Bombers

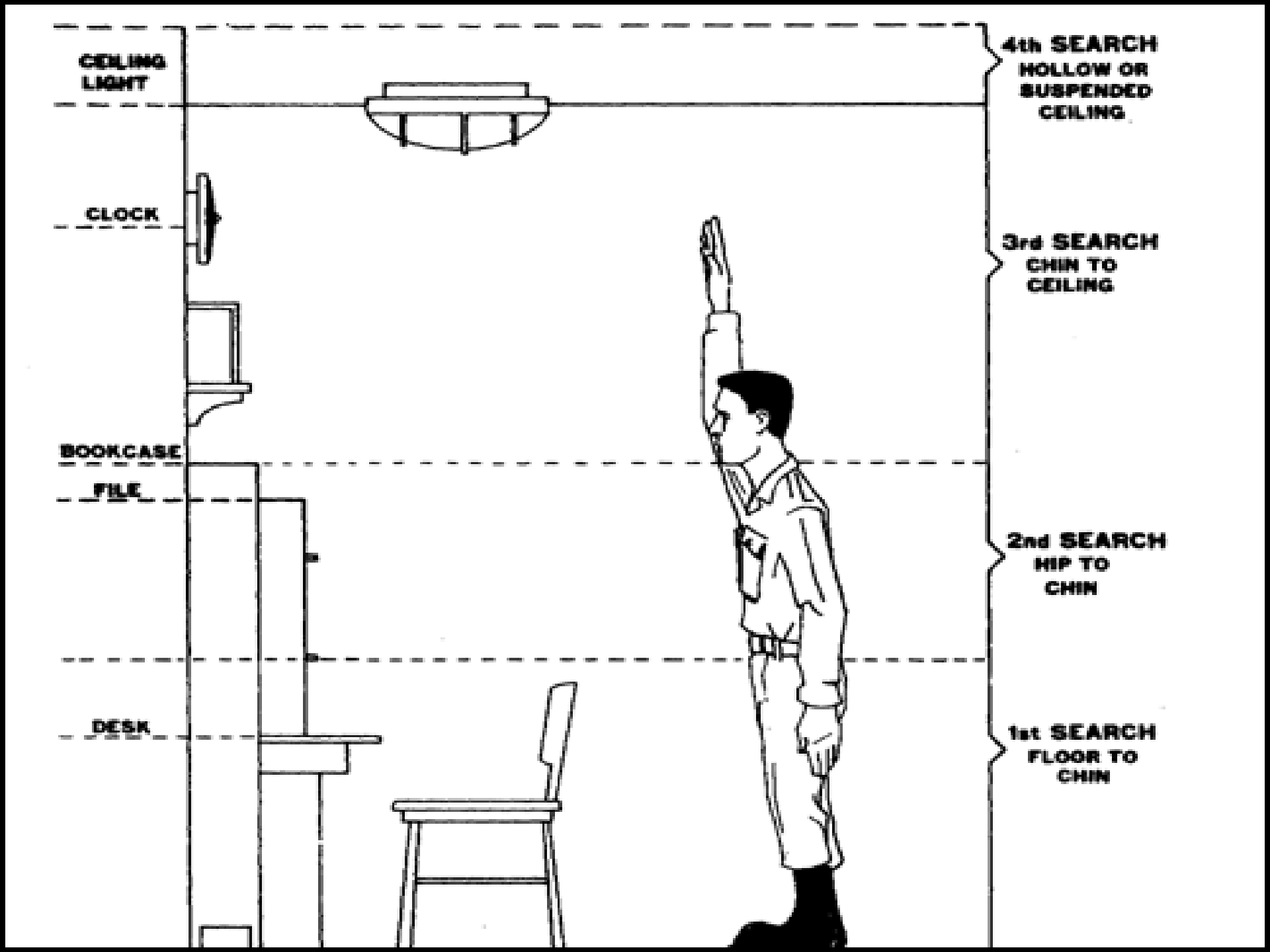
- The Amateur: Constructs unsophisticated or crude devices that usually do not work (ie. April 1999 Colombine HS massacre)
- The Professional: Sophisticated complex devices that may have tamper triggers
- The Psychopath: Devices may range from crude to sophisticated, but mostly unpredictable in construction or design (ie. Unabomber)
- The Suicidal: The Japanese made Kamikazi infamous during WWII in the mid-1940's, then other terrorists followed suit

Common Bomb Placement Locations

- Restrooms: Trash receptacles, behind toilets, false ceilings, air vents
- Lobby Area: Due to heavy traffic area at trash receptacles, behind planters or furniture
- Hallways / stairwells / fire exits where there is less travelled areas for planting
- High impact areas such as support beams, near ammunition storage, near large glass windows

The Search

- May opt to conduct a rapid then a detailed search
- Should be performed by those most familiar with that floor, ie. EVS, security, staff, engineering
- Avoid use of radios or other RF devices
- Divide room into equal parts according to number of objects to be searched
- Divide into 4 levels: floor to waist; waist to chin; chin to ceiling; above ceiling – vents, drop down
- Proceed from outside to inside, from bottom to top
- Efforts: 25% outside, 50% inside, 25% public areas
- Mark or track searched areas to avoid duplication


CEILING LIGHT
CLOCK
BOOKCASE
FILE
DESK
4th SEARCH
HOLLOW OR SUSPENDED CEILING
3rd SEARCH
CHIN TO CEILING
2nd SEARCH
HIP TO CHIN
1st SEARCH
FLOOR TO CHIN

Evacuation Decision

- Senior Member of facility management makes the decision to evacuate. May opt to evacuate, partially evacuate, or not to evacuate.
- Only 4% of bomb threats turn out to be real
- Explosives have a 75% reliability factor
- 86% verbal, 14% written threats
- 300 feet radius internally, 3,000 feet radius externally if a device is found
- Be aware of secondary or additional devices
- Remove items that may add to explosive force ie. Gas tanks, lubricants, paints, etc.

6-136 (Rev. 8-27-77)

FBI BOMB DATA CENTER

PLACE THIS CARD UNDER YOUR TELEPHONE

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. When is bomb going to explode?
2. Where is it right now?
3. What does it look like?
4. What kind of bomb is it?
5. What will cause it to explode?
6. Did you place the bomb?
7. Why?
8. What is your address?
9. What is your name?

EXACT WORDING OF THE THREAT:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Sex of caller: _____ Race: _____

Age: _____ Length of call: _____

Number at which call is received:

_____

Time: _____ Date: __/__/__ FBI/DOJ

BOMB THREAT

CALLER'S VOICE:

____ Calm	____ Nasal
____ Angry	____ Stutter
____ Excited	____ Lisp
____ Slow	____ Raspy
____ Rapid	____ Deep
____ Soft	____ Ragged
____ Loud	____ Clearing throat
____ Laughter	____ Deep breathing
____ Crying	____ Cracking voice
____ Normal	____ Disguised
____ Distinct	____ Accent
____ Slurred	____ Familiar
____ Whispered	

If voice is familiar, who did it sound like?

_____

_____

BACKGROUND SOUNDS:

____ Street noises	____ Factory machinery
____ Crockery	____ Animal noises
____ Voices	____ Clear
____ PA System	____ Static
____ Music	____ Local
____ House noises	____ Long distance
____ Motor	____ Booth
____ Office machinery	Other _____

_____

_____

THREAT LANGUAGE:

____ Well spoken (educated)	____ Incoherent
____ Foul	____ Taped
____ Irrational	____ Message read by threat maker

REMARKS: _____

_____

_____

_____

Report call immediately to:

_____ .

Phone number _____ .

Date __/__/__ .

Name _____ .

Position _____ .

Phone number _____ .

CHECKLIST

INSTRUCTIONS: BE CALM. BE COURTEOUS. LISTEN. DO NOT INTERRUPT THE CALLER. NOTIFY SUPERVISOR/SECURITY OFFICER BY PREARRANGED SIGNAL WHILE CALLER IS ON LINE.

Date_____ Time_____

Exact Words of Person Placing Call: _____

_____

_____

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. When is the bomb going to explode? _____
2. Where is the bomb right now? _____
3. What kind of a bomb is it? _____
4. What does it look like? _____
5. Why did you place the bomb? _____

_____

TRY TO DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING (CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE)

Caller's Identity: Male Female Adult Juvenile Age _____ years

Voice: Loud Soft High Pitch Deep Raspy Pleasant Intoxicated Other _____

Accent: Local Not Local Foreign Region

Speech: Fast Slow Distinct Distorted Stutter Nasal Slurred Lisp

Language: Excellent Good Fair Poor Foul Other

Manner: Calm Angry Rational Irrational Coherent Incoherent Deliberate Emotional Righteous Laughing Intoxicated

Background Noises: Office Machines Factory Machines Bedlam Trains Animals Music Quiet Voices Mixed Airplanes Street Traffic Party Atmosphere

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: _____

_____

_____

_____

ACTION TO TAKE IMMEDIATELY AFTER CALL: Notify your supervisorsecurity officer as instructed. Talk only to persons designated by your supervisor security officer.

_____

RECEIVING TELEPHONE NUMBER PERSON RECEIVING CALL

Exercises and Drills

- Have several at different times or days
- Have a situation manual and a ppt to guide along
- Ensure the players don their NIMS vests and use the JAS or EOM
- Conduct a hotwash afterwards, then an AAR
- Use the FEMA IS-120.A: An Introduction to Exercises and IS-130: Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning as well as the The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) at https://hseep.dhs.gov
- Do your HW and research! Be prepared!

Actual Event

- On November 4, 2010, 911 operator received 3 calls threatening WHMC with a bomb.
- 911 Operator calls WHMC evening Nurse Manager
- Nurse Manager activates CODE YELLOW at 11:20pm
- Those on list “A” call in and respond to ICC
- Sweep is done of entire facility by security, EVS, and Nursing staff
- Initial rapid sweep, then detailed sweep
- Floor census is begun

Actual Event continued

- Key staff at ICC within 40 minutes – donned NIMS vests
- WHMC placed on total diversion with FDNY-EMS
- Contracted ambulance transport services notified for standby in the event of an evacuation; OEM notified
- Completed sweeps did not reveal any suspicious devices
- FDNY-EMS had supervisor at site to offer assistance
- Change of shift staff were held back

The Investigation Process

- HR Director contacted regarding recent discharged employees
- Review of any threats to WHMC were done – there were two e-mails sent to the VP of Pt Safety recently
- ED staff interviewed regarding recent discharged or disgruntled patients – there was one individual identified
- All information given to NYPD Intelligence Squad within 1 hour.

Investigation Concluded

- No recent disgruntled employee or discharge cases
- E-Mail threats did not pan out
- ED staff stated belligerent patient was a “regular” and history was obtained for the Intelligence Squad (IS)
- IS returned with audio of 911 threat calls. This was played to ED staff. Caller was identified by 3 ED staff members. IS responded to callers’ address.
- Caller was arrested within 2 hours and charged with class A misdemeanor and falsely reporting an incident in the 3rd degree.
- Brooklyn DA is seeking a 1 year sentence.

Recovery

- FDNY-EMS advised to lift the total diversion status
- OEM and contracted ambulance services notified of situation – no evacuation needed
- CODE YELLOW was secured and announced 2:10 am
- ICC closed up, all forms and documents gathered by EPC for after action report. Eight staff members had responded from home, three internally, total of 11.
- An analysis from finance was requested regarding the estimates of financial loss to WHMC from this event

What went well

- ICS and NIMS structure was followed, including the donning of vests, clearly identifying staff to NYPD
- Notification system worked well, key staff responded
- Excellent dialogue, communication, and coordination between WHMC and NYPD, resulting in an arrest
- Having conducted a TTX just 3 weeks prior to the evening staff certainly helped with the expeditious manner in which the searches and census were done
- Due to limited evening staff, EVS were “deputized” to assist with the sweeps

Corrective Actions

- The need for more TTX or training was evident from the difference in response from this event (post TTX) to that of other events. The EPC will attempt to develop a 1-hr presentation to be distributed to all department heads to share with their staff regarding ICS, NIMS, EP Manual, Codes, and plans.
- The computer at the ICC could not print documents from the computer – IT instructed to ensure the drivers were properly installed
- Operator was overwhelmed with incoming calls from those responding to the Code page – 24-hr IT help desk would assist the operators in the future

Corrective Actions

- The Security Director stated that our current software does not allow for zooming in on video and there are better state-of-the-art software available on the market – The Security Director was instructed to conduct a search of the software he wanted for possible purchase / upgrade
- The emergency information staff hotline number was not working properly – This was looked into and the problem was corrected
- Had not considered other WHMC off-site facilities, even though they were not staffed (clinics)


SAFETY OFFICER
LOGISTICS
SECTION CHIE