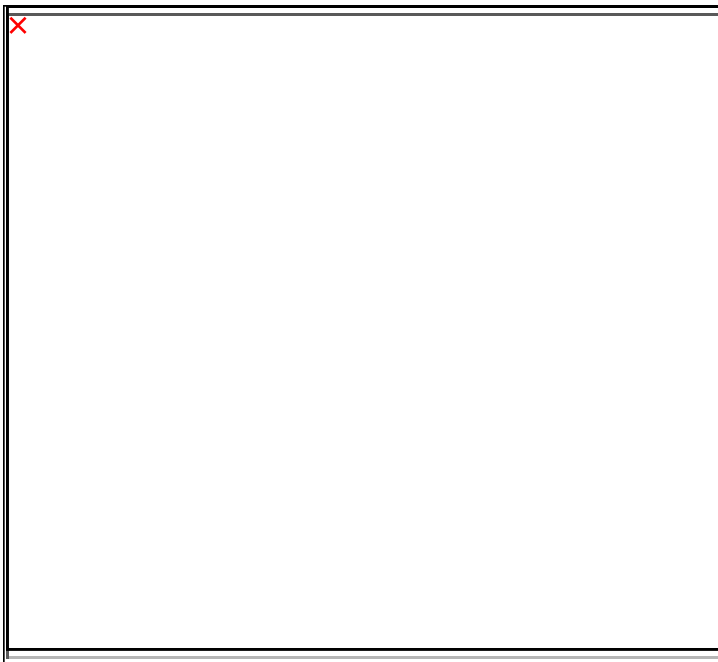


# Post and local law enforcement partners respond to simulated 'bomb threat'

*Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, USAWC Public Affairs*

## **Carlisle Barracks responds to 'bomb threat'**

July 27, 2011 - A phone call about bomb threats triggered a series of responses from the Emergency Services on post, the installation operations center, and multiple law enforcement agencies and fire departments from off post. The phone call was simulated. The bomb threat was part of an exercise. But, the response was real and thorough.



*Dale Zortman, a K-9 handler with the Pennsylvania State Police leads his bomb dog through the basement of Upton Hall during a force protection exercise July 26. Carlisle Barracks law enforcement partnered with state and local first responders for the exercise. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.*

“We had two objectives,” said Barry Shughart, the installation emergency manager about the post’s annual force protection exercise. “The

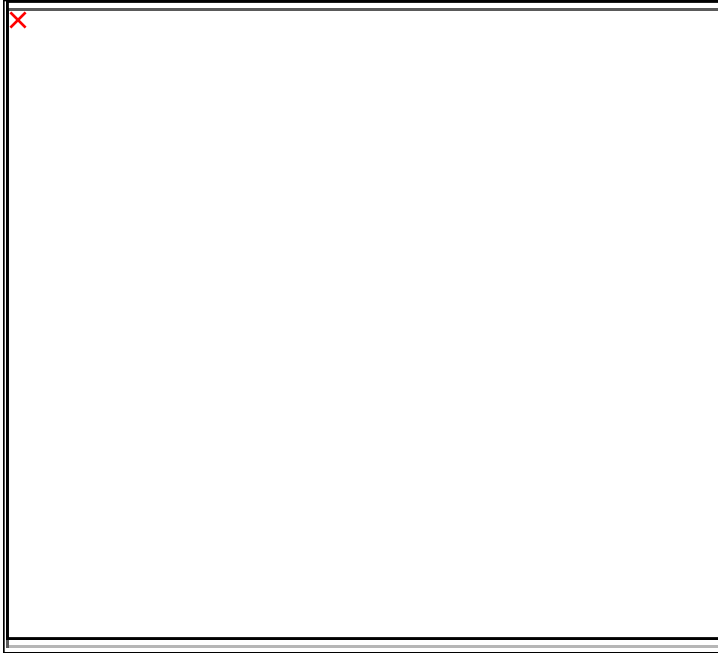
first was to test the installation’s ability to respond to emergency situations, and our ability to work with local emergency response organizations.”

In the simulated attack the police desk received seven bomb threats early in the morning of July 26. The post police evacuated the buildings and called local law enforcement agencies to help find the bombs. Assisting the Carlisle Barracks police department were the Capitol Police and the Pennsylvania State Police.

The exercise simulated a bomb explosion in the Carlisle Barracks DES building, which tested the ability of the DES to continue to provide security with limited resources at an alternate location said

Carlisle Barracks Police Sgt. Kevin Koons.

“All in all it was an excellent exercise that highlighted the outstanding partnership our emergency services and emergency management teams enjoy with our local, regional, and State law enforcement and emergency management organizations,” said Elaine Leist, deputy garrison commander.



**Nick Mikkelson, the Carlisle Barracks Physical Security officer, holds up a stick of dynamite prior to hiding it in Shughart Hall as part of a Force Protection Exercise held on July 26. Real dynamite is used to provide training for the bomb dogs. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.**

Carlisle Barracks DES agencies have a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and emergency service agencies to provide assistance to each other if needed.

“Training together gives us a chance to practice with local agencies, and identify and iron out any communications problems before a real-life situation,” said Koons.

“We only have one bomb dog on post,” said Carlisle Barracks Police Officer Harold Weary, who is the Barracks K-9 handler. “The dogs can only search for about 45 minutes before they get tired, so if we need to search a large building like Root Hall, or multiple buildings, we have to call for backup.

“Plus, in the event of a real-world emergency, the guys are familiar with the buildings on post,” said Weary, about the outside police forces.

Pennsylvania Capitol Police officer Mike Schmidt agreed with Weary’s comment on the value of joint training.

“We rely on each other for any kind of situation that pops up. So it is good that we all work together and train together,” he said. “Plus, the training worked out for us because it took us out of our normal training environment.”