

Preparing for a Complex Coordinated Attack

A Regional Approach

Chuck Bean
Executive Director

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About COG

- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association
- Brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia
- Membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress



Regional Approach

- COG coordinates meetings with public safety partners from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, including:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Fire and Rescue
 - Emergency Medical
 - Emergency Management
 - Many other groups
- Focuses on building regional capabilities and relationships

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Exercise Series Overview

- Sponsored by Council of Governments and National Capitol Region SWAT Subcommittee

1. Tabletop Exercise – November 29, 2016:

- Discuss response to a multi-site Complex Coordinated Terror Attack

2. Full-Scale Exercise – April 26, 2017:

- Demonstrate response to a multi-site Complex Coordinated Terror Attack



Full-Scale Exercise Scope

- Multiple sites throughout DC, MD, and VA
- 3 Core Staging Locations
- 6 Venues
- 31 Law Enforcement Departments
- 3 Fire/EMS Departments
- 4 On-scene Incident Management Teams
- 92 Controllers/Evaluators
- 6 PIOs
- 828 Participants



Full-Scale Exercise Scenario

- Complex Coordinated Attack
- Simultaneous events at multiple venues
- Active threat (mobile)
- Active threat (sniper)
- Hostage
- Improvised explosive device(s)
- Multiple casualties



DC Fire and EMS/ Twitter



Challenges

- Complex coordinated attack will most likely cross political, jurisdictional, and state boundaries
- Local and regional impacts
- Initial response depletes resources
- Not enough specialized resources for the incident(s)
- Depletion of resources for unrelated emergencies/calls for service



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Advantages to Regional Approach

- Responders, Commanders, and Executives have standing relationships
- Common operating tactics
- Some response capabilities have been developed for a regional response
- Coordinated messaging to the public
- Interoperable Communications plans in place
- Information sharing established
- Memoranda of Understanding, Mutual Aid Agreements, Concurrent Jurisdiction

Chuck Bean

Executive Director
(202) 962-3260
cbean@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments