



Inside Oversight

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Independent Oversight Team Tests the Department's Post-9/11 Security

The nation and the Department of Energy continue to experience changes in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. Among the most significant changes within the Department involve our approach to the physical protection of our facilities and national security assets. The new and still evolving realities regarding terrorists' intentions, determination, and capabilities have led us to rethink some of the assumptions underlying our protection programs, including the adequacy of the Design Basis Threat and the robustness of the defensive measures geared to that threat.

Independent Oversight is doing its part in assuring that our present and future protection capabilities are sufficient to meet the new realities. Among Independent Oversight's most visible actions is expanding the use of realistic performance testing during inspections conducted by the Office of Safeguards and Security Evaluations (OA-10). As part of this effort, OA-10 is reevaluating the capabilities of its Composite Adversary Team (CAT) to make sure that they reflect the capabilities of likely adversaries, as we now understand those capabilities to be.

Expanded Use of Performance Testing

Even before the September 2001 terrorist attacks, OA-10 recognized the need for a return to vigorous large-scale performance testing. After a safety-driven

hiatus of several years, in 1998 OA-10 resumed major force-on-force (FOF) performance testing, in which a simulated adversary force—the CAT—attempts to penetrate a site's defenses and engage the site's protective force. Since that time, OA-10 has gradually increased the use of major performance testing whenever indicated by inspection goals. Current plans involve further increasing the use of FOF performance tests; beginning in FY 2003, four of the planned OA-10 inspections at sites with special nuclear material will include FOF performance tests. At the same time, OA-10 continues to expand and refine its use of other techniques, including limited scope performance tests and tabletop exercises, as appropriate, in its inspections of all topics.

CAT Capabilities Increased

To support OA-10's expanded use of FOF performance testing, to be prepared to respond to possible modifications to the Design Basis Threat, and to better reflect actual adversary capabilities, Independent Oversight has made significant recent changes in the CAT's size, equipment, and training.

The size of the CAT cadre has been doubled, and now includes 26 Security Police Officers/Federal Agents. While the Department's major nuclear weapons facilities have traditionally supplied CAT members, personnel from 14 sites throughout the complex—including DOE Headquarters, two of the three Office of Transportation Safeguards commands,



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and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve—are now represented on the CAT. This “global” representation from the complex will accommodate the increased performance testing schedule, and will also allow a larger adversary team to be used to meet specific needs resulting from future modifications to the Design Basis Threat or individual site threat statements. This expansion will also allow OA-10 to extend the benefits of CAT membership—such as increased skills in offensive tactical planning, advanced offensive tactical training, and orientation to the “adversary” mind-set—to more sites in the complex in order to improve local vulnerability assessment and performance testing programs.

Independent Oversight has also upgraded the weapons and equipment available to the CAT. For example, it has added modern light machineguns, optical weapons sights, anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mine simulators, smaller and better communications devices, and various other items of individual equipment. These upgrades will let the CAT present a profile and level of (simulated) combat power reasonably equivalent to that of an actual adversary.

As in any combat-oriented organization, the quality and quantity of training are critical factors in the capabilities and performance of the CAT. While the individual members of the CAT are highly trained representatives of site protective forces, their local training and equipment are largely oriented toward defensive operations and almost exclusively limited to small arms. Independent Oversight's challenge is to provide the CAT members with an offensive orientation, and to equip and train them to plan and execute rapid, violent, hard-hitting offensive operations. An additional training challenge is to instill a sufficient level of common skills, teamwork, and mutual confidence to enable smaller, task-oriented teams formed from any combination of the 26 CAT members to plan and conduct performance test scenarios during a timeframe of typically less than one

week. To meet these challenges, Independent Oversight conducts one-week training sessions involving the entire CAT at least once a year. These training sessions consist primarily of practical exercises to improve CAT members' teamwork, tactical skills, and weapons and equipment skills. Often, this training ends with large-scale FOF exercises in which CAT elements attack a DOE facility defended by the facility's protective force.

Marine Corps Facility Used for 2002 Training

This year, Independent Oversight elevated its CAT training another notch by conducting it at the Marine Corps' Military



Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) Facility at Camp Pendleton, California. This modern facility is one of the best of its kind in the United States for realistic training using live-fire, blank-fire, smoke, gas, and other munitions in an urban environment. After lengthy coordination between the Corps and Independent Oversight, in summer 2001 the Marine Corps allowed two OA-10 representatives to complete the Marine Corps MOUT Instructor Course, qualifying them to use the facility to conduct CAT training. The OA-10 representatives were the first (and only) civilians to participate in this course, and were allowed this unique opportunity through the much-appreciated cooperation of Marine officials at Camp Pendleton.

The first OA-10 CAT training at the MOUT facility took place during the week of May 20, 2002. The core of this intensive training regimen involved offensive combat tactics in built-up areas simulating DOE sites, as well as combat inside buildings. The training also included general CAT orientation subjects, which were particularly useful to the 11 new CAT members who were participating for the first time. The training program was well received, and proved to be highly successful in elevating the skill levels of the CAT members.

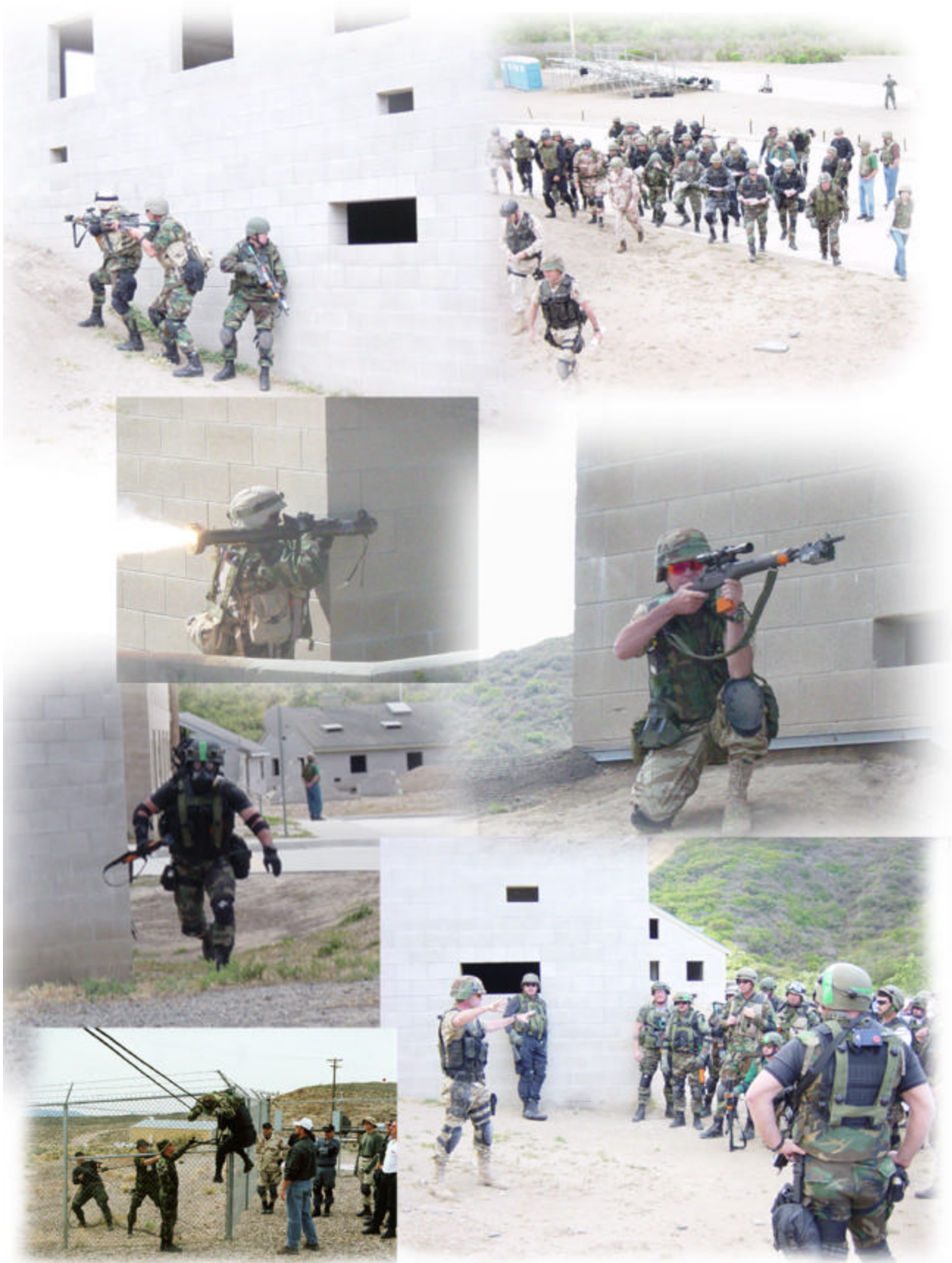
Cooperation of DOE Managers Essential to CAT Program

The CAT program could not exist without the willing cooperation of DOE and contractor managers throughout the complex. OA-10 relies on DOE field elements and protective force contractor managers to nominate well-qualified individuals to the CAT, and to make those individuals available periodically to participate in CAT training and inspections. While Independent Oversight now pays travel expenses associated with CAT duties, the parent organizations continue to cover the salaries of CAT members while they participate in CAT activities. Independent Oversight appreciates the costs and sacrifices of field elements in making these highly trained and qualified individuals available to participate in the CAT program and makes every effort to ensure that the participating organizations benefit from their contributions to the CAT program.

The Value of the CAT Program

The most obvious benefit of the CAT program is to the Department's security posture. Independent Oversight depends on the CAT to support oversight of safeguards and security programs by means of its effective, credible performance-testing program. The program also provides a direct benefit to DOE sites, in that oversight activities promote improved protection

Composite Adversary Team Training 2002



Upcoming
Oversight Activities

ES&H and Emergency
Management

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Nevada Test Site

Pantex

Security and Cyber Security

Office of Transportation
Safeguards

Argonne National
Laboratory - West

Los Alamos National
Laboratory

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capabilities and programs at the inspected sites. Finally, CAT members' home sites and organizations benefit from their participation in the CAT program because CAT members' specialized training—the offensive “adversarial” orientation and skills—and their experiences with OA-10 performance testing techniques can be used to improve local vulnerability analysis, performance testing, and protective force training.

Independent Oversight has positioned the CAT program to be responsive to evolving and future needs. It is hoped that the CAT's participation in the oversight process will encourage managers in the field to remain aware of the importance of rigorous performance testing and of the value of employing a high-quality “adversary” in their own performance testing programs. Both are key ingredients in meeting the Department's goal of continuous improvement of our protection programs. ■

Team Honors Col. Elliott P. Sydnor

The Composite Adversary Team (CAT) of 2002 presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Col. Elliott P. Sydnor (Ret.) for his many years of dedication to and leadership of the CAT. Col. Sydnor has been a part of the CAT since 1992, presenting detailed planning techniques and tactical advice, and serving as a performance test evaluator and mentor on over 50 inspection activities. Col. Sydnor's distinguished military career, spanning over 27 years, included Commandant of the U.S. Army Ranger School and various Special Forces commands and assignments. His knowledge and experience in tactics, communications, weapons, equipment, and supervision have been invaluable to the Department through his involvement in all phases of protective force performance tests designed to evaluate the effectiveness of site response plans.

This award was presented to Col. Sydnor on May 23, 2002, by two experienced, longstanding CAT members: Kathy Szymanski, from the Y-12 Plant, and Ken Baxter, from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

To continue to honor the valuable contributions made by Col. Sydnor and acknowledge the outstanding efforts of individual CAT members, the newly established Col. Elliott P. Sydnor Awards will be awarded at the completion of annual CAT training. These awards will recognize selected CAT members in the areas of leadership, motivation, and aggressiveness. ■



Col. Elliott P. Sydnor (center), with former Army Rangers, now Federal Agents and CAT members, Eugene Lucero, OTS Albuquerque (left) and Chris Limbaugh, OTS Pantex (right).

Solicitation of Comments, Questions, and Suggestions

OA welcomes your thoughts about our newsletter. Please send or phone comments, questions, or suggestions to:

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