

Operation America

Advanced bomb-disablement training

Operation America is a five-day workshop on advanced bomb-disablement technology for bomb squad personnel. The overall program is hosted by Sandia National Laboratories and supported by police departments in the state in which the event is held. Government co-sponsors include the US Department of Justice, the US Department of Energy, and the US Department of Defense. Operation America has been held in a number of host cities throughout America. State, local, and federal bomb squad representatives from all regions of North America are invited to attend.



Bomb squad personnel learn to use the Percussion-actuated Nonelectric (PAN®) Disrupter



Classroom training (top) is followed by participation in hands-on, live-range field demonstrations (bottom)

The Operation America program focuses on teaching workshop participants advanced bomb-disablement technologies. It begins with three days of technical presentations on applied explosives technology and advanced disablement logic, tools, and techniques followed by two days of live-range demonstrations and participation in real-world scenarios. This combination of training and field exercises gives bomb squad members the knowledge and experience they need to respond to incidents involving conventional handmade bombs (commonly referred to as improvised explosive devices or IEDs).

Most of the bomb disablement technologies that are demonstrated in the Operation America workshop have been developed by Sandia National Laboratories as part of Sandia's Department of Energy Laboratory-Directed Research and Development program and its work for other federal agencies.

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