



## Report on the course of training and practical exercises in the field of police operations related to a CBRN-E incident - explosives at the airport

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elaborated within the project

“Preventing and fighting CBRN-E terrorism – building capacity of actors involved in the detection and mitigation of CBRN-E risks at air and road border crossings on European level”



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As part of the European Commission's "Internal Security Fund" program during the implementation of the project entitled "**Prevention and combating terrorism with the use of CBRN-E weapons - building the potential of entities involved in detecting and reducing CBRN-E risk**", the Provincial Police Headquarters in Lublin carried out the first training panel related to a CBRN-E incident at the airport - liquid explosives - on 17 - 21 October 2017.

The realized undertaking was connected with the simulation of terrorist attacks on the plane with the use of liquid explosives - a situation that may actually arise during the air operations at the Airport in Lublin.

The moderator and the manager of the training and practical exercises were: Marcin Sokołowski - specialist of the Combat Team – Independent Antiterrorist Squad in Lublin and Piotr Chołyk - specialist of the EOD Team of the Independent Antiterrorist Squad in Lublin. The one responsible for the implementation of the tasks of the headquarters' group was Tomasz Leszcz - Deputy Head of the Staff Department of the Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin, the one responsible for the implementation of tasks by anti-terrorist subunits was Marcin Sokołowski while Sylwia Wojtas – the Coordinator of the Police Negotiations at the Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin – was responsible for the implementation of the tasks by the negotiators, the trainers of the WORKS11 TC training company were responsible for organizing the activities.

The training was attended by representatives of the Independent Antiterrorist Police Squads in Lublin, Warsaw, Białystok, Łódź, Rzeszów and Olsztyn, Nadbużański Border Guard Unit, Airport Security Service, Central Police Investigation Bureau, CBRN Threat Coordinator Bureau of Antiterrorist Operations of the Police Headquarters and foreign partners - the Police and Border Guard Board in Estonia and the Border and Alian Police Directorate in Sobrance (Slovakia). The training has been divided into three parts. The first part included theoretical lectures, during which the following issues were discussed:

- planning and implementation of counterterrorism activities,
- ways of producing liquid explosives and other home-made materials with a plastic consistency,
- characteristics and properties as well as effects of liquid explosives and radioactive materials,
- ways to secure traces, collect evidence of criminal activity of home-made liquid explosives,
- methods of identification and physicochemical properties of the disclosed substances with explosive properties.



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During practical exercises on the EOD training ground they had the opportunity to learn:

- methods of creating and obtaining in practice home-made explosives, including liquid and plastic materials and their camouflage methods,
- effects of the impact of liquid explosives and plasticized home-made explosives on the environment and specific objects,
- ways to camouflage various types of explosives in criminal activities.

At the same time, members of Combat Teams, Observation and Shooting Teams and representatives of the Nadbużański Border Guard Unit – Mobile Intervention Unit improved fighting skills with respect to section combat and as part of a subunit in the event of CBRN-E threats, equipment and equipment skills used during the implementation of actions, and improved their shooting skills, including techniques and principles for firing from personal and team weapons at different distances and in different conditions.

The final element of the training panel were harmonizing exercises for special units, supported by headquarters' officers and negotiators, conducted on a fragmented training issues related to the activities of the Police, Border Guard and other services in connection with the crisis situation at the airport (explosives) and gradual combining all components.

The exercise was carried out on the basis of the worked out assumption, i.e.: on 19 October 2017, an emergency landing of a passenger aircraft took place due to a technical failure reported by the master. After the landing of the aircraft, there is a crisis situation - an inherent and threatening situation in the form of a passenger's contamination / interior and unknown liquid substance and a bag / backpack with suspicious content. The crisis situation was caused by the fact that the plane landed in a place other than the planned. The following took place during the exercises:

- activities related to the receipt of information about the incident by the Police and the circulation of information in accordance with the applicable procedures between services and institutions operating in the area of public safety.
- securing the region of the occurrence of a terrorist incident by isolating it and organizing alternative detours.
- preparation of activities in terms of planning and organization with the participation of cooperating entities.
- organizing and launching the Command Center of Operation.
- working out options and directions of action.
- conducting activities related to the crisis situation as part of a police operation aimed at the optimal resolution of the incident.
- minimal negotiations,



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also:

- EOD recognition - Border Guard and Police,
- disclosure of an explosive device,
- EOD activities regarding the vehicle - activities observed by other participants in the TCO through the unmanned aircraft of the Border Guard,
- safeguarding and transport of the explosive to the polygon,
- neutralization.



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# Report on the course of training and practical exercises in the field of police operations related to a CBRN-E incident - radioactive and explosive materials at the border crossing with Ukraine

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On November 19 - 24, 2017, a second training panel was conducted related to the CBRN-E incident at the border crossing with Ukraine - radioactive and explosive materials.

The completed project was connected with the simulation of an illegal attempt to transport radioactive substances and explosives that could be used for criminal activities and the resulting hostage situation at the border crossing with Ukraine in Dołhobyczów. The moderator and the manager of the training and practical exercises were: Marcin Sokołowski, - Specialist of the Combat Team - Independent Antiterrorist Unit in Lublin and Piotr Chołyk - specialist of the EOD Team of the Independent Antiterrorist Unit in Lublin. The one responsible for the implementation of the tasks of the headquarters' group was Grzegorz Pietrasiak - District Commander of the Police in Hrubieszów, the one responsible for the implementation of tasks by the anti-terrorist subunits was Jacek Cierkoń from the Independent Antiterrorist Unit in Lublin while Dolores Mendzin Opryńska – a Police Negotiator of the Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin was responsible for the implementation of tasks by the negotiators, instructors of the WORKS 11 TC training company were responsible for organizing the activities.

The training was attended by representatives of the Independent Antiterrorist Police Squads in Lublin, Warsaw, Białystok, Łódź, Rzeszów and Olsztyn, Nadbużański Border Guard Unit, Airport Security Service, Central Police Investigation Bureau, CBRN Threat Coordinator Bureau of Antiterrorist Operations of the Police Headquarters and foreign partners - the Police and Border Guard Board in Estonia and the Border and Alien Police Directorate in Sobrance (Slovakia). The training has been divided into three parts. The first part included theoretical lectures, during which the following issues were discussed:

- crossing and EOD activities general characteristics of anti-terrorist activities in relation to a crisis situation - taking hostages at the border and EOD activities,
- latest issues in the field of Antiterrorist tactics and EOD activities,
- tactical lectures in the field of anti-terrorist operations in connection with the existing crisis situation - a person with radioactive material at the border crossing point, a threat related to the CBRN-E incident detection (radioactive and explosive materials) - general characteristics of CBRN-E materials, methods identification, neutralization and process protection of traces,
- planning terrestrial anti-terrorism actions and operations on mobile facilities in connection with taking hostages - a vehicle,
- planning terrestrial antiterrorism actions and operations on permanent facilities in connection with taking hostages - a training facility,
- tactical solutions related to the latest storming methods as part of the implementation of anti-terrorist actions and operations on land fixed and mobile facilities,



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- discussion and characterization of terrorist acts related to persons possessing a device with materials from the CBRN-E group with them (e.g. a backpack, a bag).

As part of practical exercises, instructors conducting the training detonated an explosive device, and the representatives of EOD Teams of Independent Police Counter-terrorist Subunits together with EOD officers from the Nadbużański Border Guard Department and the Board of Rescue Services of the Ministry of the Interior of Estonia and Estonia Internal Security Agency collected traces and carried out a post-explosive investigation. Similarly to the first panel, simultaneously with EOD exercises there was a training of the Police and Border Guard teams from Poland, Slovakia and Estonia in an abandoned building, as well as a training of sharpshooters.

The final element of the training was to conduct a harmonizing exercise divided into individual partial training issues related to activities and procedures performed by the Border Guard during an attempt to enter the EU and the Police in connection with the crisis situation at the border crossing, taking hostages and trying to get into the depths of the country. The aim of the exercise was to check the procedures in cooperation of the services in resolving a crisis situation at the border crossing point, in the form of illegal attempts to transport radioactive substances and explosives that could be used for criminal activities, taking hostages and refining existing variants of tactical solutions. In addition, the purpose of the exercises was to organize assault and logistic operations, as well as to develop appropriate tactical and configuration-hardware sequences in the quick change of operation in a changing location of a threat (building, vehicle, urbanized area, forest area, fast roads, roads, unpaved roads, etc.).

The exercises were carried out on the basis of the developed assumptions: on November 22, 2017, stationary radiation monitors got agitated during the departure from the territory of the Republic of Poland. Travelers, instead of waiting for border checks, get off the car, then they get into the vehicle waiting to leave the border crossing in front of them and together with passengers sitting in the car forcefully leave the border crossing (a hostage situation)

Activities during the exercises:

- activities related to receiving information about the incident by the Police and the circulation of information in accordance with the applicable procedures between services and institutions operating in the area of public safety,
- securing the region of a terrorist incident by isolating it and organizing alternative detours,
- preparation of activities in terms of planning and organization with the participation of cooperating entities,
- organizing and launching the Command Center of Operation,



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- working out options and directions of activities,
- conducting activities related to the crisis situation as part of a police operation aimed at the optimal resolution of the incident.

also:

- EOD activities of the Border Guard and the Police - the vehicle has been marked by a dog (during neutralization of the crossing gate),
- pursuit of the Border Guard and joining in by the Police,
- an emergency leave of the Border Guard Mobile Intervention Unit and the notification of the Independent Anti-terrorist Squad of the Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin and obtaining permission to take action, an emergency leave,
- a blockage post,
- escape and hide in a casual perpetrator's building with a hostage (a hostage situation),
- police negotiations,
- assault: officers of the Border Guard of the Mobile Intervention Unit form an external ring, assault of the officers of Independent Anti-terrorist Subunits of the Police on the building,
- protection of radioactive and explosive materials by EOD officers and further neutralization activities.



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## CONCLUSIONS

During theoretical training and practical exercises, all activities undertaken by Antiterrorist squads, police negotiators and other services, i.e. Nadbużański Border Guard Unit and Airport Security Service, were carried out in the same way as during real operations. Therefore, the conducted episode of the exercise provided an authentic picture of the work of officers in real conditions regarding actions in the event of a terrorist threat. Through the identified shortcomings and the identified shortcomings, it will be possible to eliminate them in the future. Exercises in this form will certainly contribute to the elimination of errors, as well as raising the level of organized activities.

Summing up, the implementation of this partial project has brought the expected results and assumed implementation goals.

During the implementation of the project "Prevention and combating terrorism with the use of CBRN-E weapons - building the potential of entities participating in detecting and reducing CBRN-E risks", the main training objectives have been met:

- training the whole squad for conducting counter-terrorism activities in the field of "Prevention and combating terrorism with the use of CBRN-E weapons. Building the potential of entities participating in CBRN-E detection and mitigation",
- improvement of fighting skills in the section and in a subunit in case of CBRN-E threats,
- improving the skills of operating the equipment and item used during the implementation of activities,
- a series of theoretical and practical classes on EOD support for counter-terrorist activities was implemented.

Topics:

- using methods and techniques for entering facilities,
- safety conditions while conducting EOD works,
- threats and counteracting threats with improvised explosive IEDs,
- preventing and combating terrorism using CBRN-E weapons,
- liquid explosives

As part of the subject of explosives, participants were acquainted with:

- methods of the identification of ammunition and explosives;
- the EOD TURPIN database;
- techniques and methods of preparing liquid explosive charges (ammonosaline explosives - ANFO, AMONALE and ammonium-nitrate-based, pyrotechnic mixtures, nitromethane based explosives);



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- parameters, toxicology, explosive sensitivity, methods of protecting liquid explosives (technical and process protection);
- how to secure and collect unique illustrative and comparative material for the needs of explosive investigations.

The following were perfected:

- firing using individual and team weapons (day and night);
- level of knowledge about liquid explosives,
- level of knowledge about the process of protecting explosives,
- A demonstration of modern explosives took place, such as:
- D41 powder fuse - fulfills all requirements regarding tactical and technical requirements for use in the Polish Army and the Police,
- plastic explosives:
  - SEMTEX 1A (250g)
  - SEMTEX 1H (250g)
  - SEMTEX C4 (250g)
  - SEMTEX 10 (250g)
  - SEMTEX 90P (500g)
  - SEMTEX 90H (500g)
  - Indirect charge Razor Booster
  - PASTEX tube 500g - a plastic explosive in the form of a paste
  - Linear cumulative charge Razor 6, Razor 10
  - SEMTEX PI SE M sheet 400x200x1mm - A plastic layered explosive
  - NSD 1/100 and NSD 3/30 non-electric detonation systems
- A tactical device for burning grids and TEC Torch padlocks was presented

Sets for mechanical execution of company transitions were presented:

- Libervit
- BCM
- Ratool
- REVISION helmets and glasses

Individual equipment of a single officer was also presented. In addition, as part of practical classes with a EOD group, training was conducted in a real scenario regarding the protection and collection of illustrative and comparative material for the needs of post-threat investigation. During the training exercises for individual training groups, particular emphasis was placed on reacting to an emergency situation with the use of improvised IED and CBRN explosive charges.

After the training cycle, the following observations and conclusions arise:



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- The need to dedicate a full-time EOD officer / breacher to perform transitions, which gives the following advantages:
  - the opportunity to develop specialization within a narrow specialty;
  - full time position related to the possibility of using explosives;
  - key position during planning and implementation of the given task (analysis of IED threats, analysis of entry points, EOD protection during implementation, process security of evidence).
- The necessity to develop standard operating procedures (SOP) in the scope of preparing work equipment; duties (in individual planning phases); knowledge of tactical, emergency and post-operative procedures; strict division of duties during the implementation phase; cooperation of support subunits on a national scale.
- Necessity to develop a EOD database, which gives the opportunity to analyze the incidents of bombs; quick real-time identification during the task implementation; identification of explosives precursors; application of neutralization methods.
- Centralization of the program and training system;
- Organizing periodic workshops enabling the exchange of experiences regarding threat analysis, trends, case study;
- Introducing a larger range of CBRNE trainings and increasing the number of devices to identify hazards, personal protection equipment and decontamination;
- Conducting joint trainings in the area of CBRNE together with subordinate ministries of the Ministry of Interior and Administration, i.e.: Fire Brigade, sanitary forces;
- Increased hardware compatibility of mining and pyrotechnic assemblies with the chemical units of the State Fire Service;
- Aiming for partial training in the context of using the acquired skills to implement comprehensive scenarios;
- Organizing periodic training combined with exercises at various levels to improve the skills of individual command elements and the executive level;
- Striving to use the full spectrum of techniques to perform transitions (including the use of explosives) - increasing the effectiveness and safety of the task.

## SUMMARY

The first joint training activities revealed significant differences in the operational procedures, tactics and techniques used to implement projects. These differences effectively hinder the conduct of a joint counter-terrorist operation by several police subunits and departments in



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cooperation with other entities of the Ministry of the Interior. The principles of cohesion and interoperability are not fully respected.

During the training, a gradual improvement in the performance of activities on all directions of activity was observed. Joint training carried out by cooperating units and subunits allows for the harmoniousness of operations, unification of procedures and shortening their implementation time. Inter-ministerial cooperation in response to hybrid threats will improve the flexibility of structures and increase readiness to take immediate action in a wide area of responsibility.

Improvement courses and trainings raise the awareness of officers in relation to hybrid threats present in the present and increase the level of expertise and skills.

Changing the law will allow for the use of more dynamic tactical solutions and procedures, which will result in gaining an advantage in the need for responding to the effects of terrorist attacks.

The advantage in action is obtained by surprise, decisive actions and speed and the use of unified procedures.

The thematic scope realized during the classes, presented techniques and procedures are so flexible that allow one to take action in other areas of interest - a wide L technique to stop a car in which dangerous personnel is expected and / or an explosive - a broad "L" to threaten explosives on other types of facilities.

The procedures, techniques and tactics require improvement and standardization both at the lowest executive level - tactical as well as at the operational and strategic levels in the area of planning and security of operations.

Elaborated by the Independent Antiterrorist Police Squad in Lublin and Chief's Cabinet of the Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin.

This publication has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



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