



DRILLS, EXERCISES, TRAININGS

HISTORY: 2009 SCHOOL TERRORISM AWARENESS and RESPONSE (STAR) EXERCISE

The Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (LAC OEM), Sheriff's Emergency Operations, Special Enforcement and Aero Bureaus and Office of Homeland Security, Fire, Mental Health and Office of Education joined Federal and local emergency response agencies in participating in the 2009 School Terrorism Awareness and Response (STAR) training exercise and panel discussion held at the El Rancho High School located in Pico Rivera on Saturday, May 16, 2009.

The 2009 STAR training event was sponsored by InfraGard, a private sector outreach program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and U.S. Naval Post Graduate School's Center for Asymmetric Warfare.

The Pico Rivera campus was transformed into a simulated terrorist attack and hostage takeover where officials from all levels of government were brought together to train side-by-side in responding to this type of event if it ever happened at an American high school.

In the simulated exercise scenario, more than a dozen well-organized and well-armed terrorists took over the school campus and captured 20 hostages which were played by volunteers. The rescuers and mock terrorists carried fire arms loaded with blanks to simulate reality of the exercise scenario. There were also mock traps that were set to further challenge the first responders. In the end, the hostages were rescued with all being alive and accounted for.

After the conclusion of the exercise scenario, several panel discussions were held at school's gymnasium focusing on the various aspects of the training event. The panel discussion provided the attendees and volunteer hostages the opportunity to talk about what they experienced and how they were going to respond and coordinate rescue operations.

2009 SCHOOL TERRORISM AWARENESS and RESPONSE EXERCISE PHOTOGRAPHS



2009 SCHOOL TERRORISM AWARENESS and RESPONSE EXERCISE MEDIA COVERAGE

- San Gabriel Valley Tribune “Mock terrorist attack held at Pico Rivera High School” and Whittier Daily News “Mock terror drill held at El Rancho High” by Staff Writer Brian Day and Correspondent Photos by Mike Mullen.
- ABC 7 “FBI and police conduct terrorist attack drill”
- KCBS 2/KCAL 9
- NBC 4 LA
- FOX 11 News and My13
- KNX 1070 AM

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