

Overview of Explosives Countermeasures Programs Sandia National Laboratories



David Hannum

Sandia National Laboratories

(505) 844-6926

dwhannu@sandia.gov



Outline

- **Contraband Detection Technologies Department**
 - **Capabilities**
- **Describe a systems perspective on HE Countermeasures**
- **Describe Sandia's contributions in the HE area**
 - **Explosives Characteristics**
 - **Performance Validation**
 - **Explosives Defense Analysis Team**
 - **Support for the Homeland Security Community**
 - **Operation America training, local law enforcement**
 - **Disablement technologies**
 - **Explosives blast effects modeling and analysis**
- **Summary of Sandia's capabilities**

Capabilities

- **Sandia's capabilities include efforts to:**
 - **Develop system solutions for the most challenging problems in explosives detection**
 - **Consult with government agencies on how to create better explosives protection systems**
 - Technology alone is not always the answer
 - **Characterize explosives threats**
 - **Test and evaluate explosives detection systems for specific customers**
 - **Develop and design advanced prototypes for specialized applications**





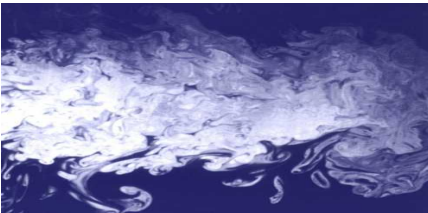
Sandia's Approach

- **Readiness—Prepare well before a potential event**
 - **Explosives characterization—understand the nature of explosives**
 - **Plan before an event occurs**
 - **Use all options for defenses, including non-technical**
- **Develop and deploy advanced defenses to be aware of an event**
 - **Use planning information to design defenses**
- **Mitigation—Prevent or neutralize an event**
 - **If an IED is discovered, disable it or lessen its effects**

Characteristics of Explosives



Testing Bulk Explosives in Portal



Analyzing Dynamic Turbulent Flow to Understand Vapor Plumes

What is the nature of explosives in a real-world situation?

- Define the detection objective
- Perform modeling, experimentation, and theoretical studies
- Discover technology gaps
- Develop technology to meet the performance requirements
- Performed studies of homemade explosives and detection capabilities for DHS

Understand the physical and chemical properties before applying technology

Performance Validation of Technologies and Systems

- **Security:** Limits of detection, probability of detection, false positives (and negatives), and vulnerabilities
- **Operational:** Reliability, maintenance, lifecycle costs, training
- **Laboratory vs. field:** Controlled vs. “real” conditions
- **Study:** Factors that affect ability to detect vehicle bombs
 - Type of explosive, distance traveled, temperature, environmental factors
 - Explosive mass and type, sample location, and sampling method



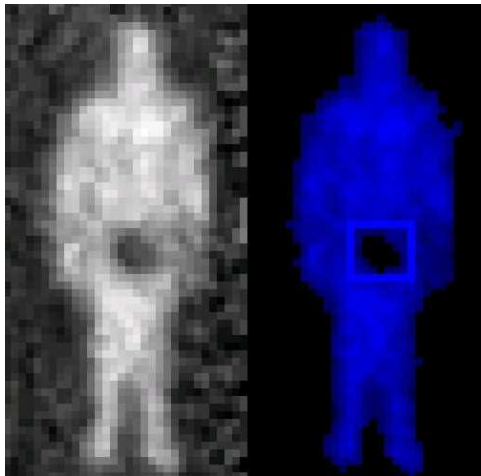
How well does the technology work to solve the problem?

Suicide Bomber Detection: Lab and Field Testing



Vapor Wake
Canine checking
passengers

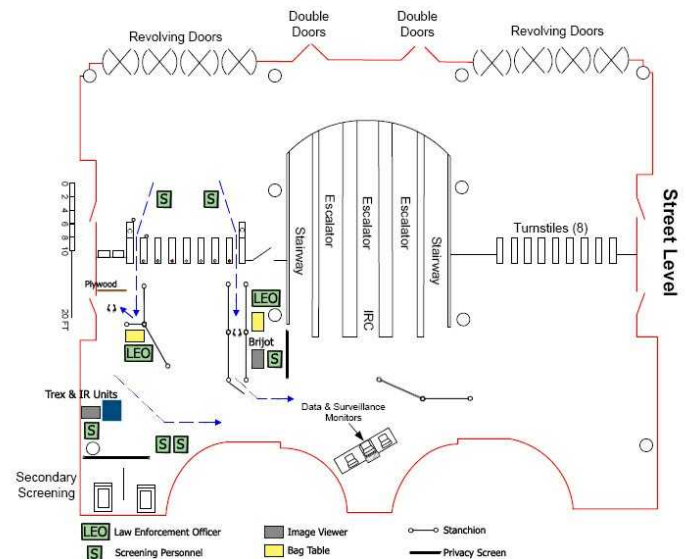
- IR, MMW and THz imagers; ticket vending machine embedded explosive trace detection; vapor wake canine
- Concealed bomb detection concepts of operation
- Lab testing with threat objects
- Field pilot at public transit authorities



Passive MMW Concealed Weapon
Detection Technology



Trace Detection
in Ticket Machine

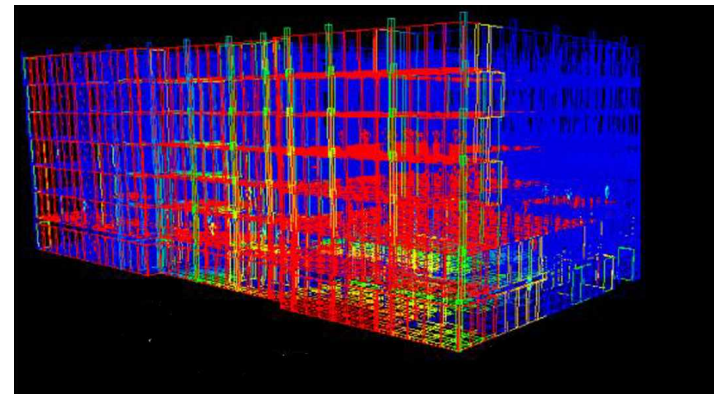


*Technical and applications evaluations of
emerging technology*



Protection Methodology: Sandia's Explosive Defense Analysis Team (EDAT)

- Performs security evaluations of potential explosives threats at DOE sites
- Makes recommendations to improve explosives protection based on the results of evaluations
- Move protection concepts from compliance-driven (“Check the box”) to performance-driven (“Does it do the job?”)
 - Use strategies in addition to technology
 - Barriers to prevent vehicle proximity
 - Hardening to mitigate damage



Example:

Analyze the effects of a large vehicle bomb on the surrounding structures

Solve explosives defense problems for our customers

Support for the HS Community

Connecting the developers to the users

- Consulting and training on appropriate applications of technology
 - Operation America—5-day workshop on advanced bomb-disablement technology for bomb squads
 - DoD 21st and 55th EOD squad for explosives detection and containment
 - UNWD base security upgrades
 - US Armed Forces in Europe
 - DOE National Labs
 - National Guard
 - South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force

Operation America Training

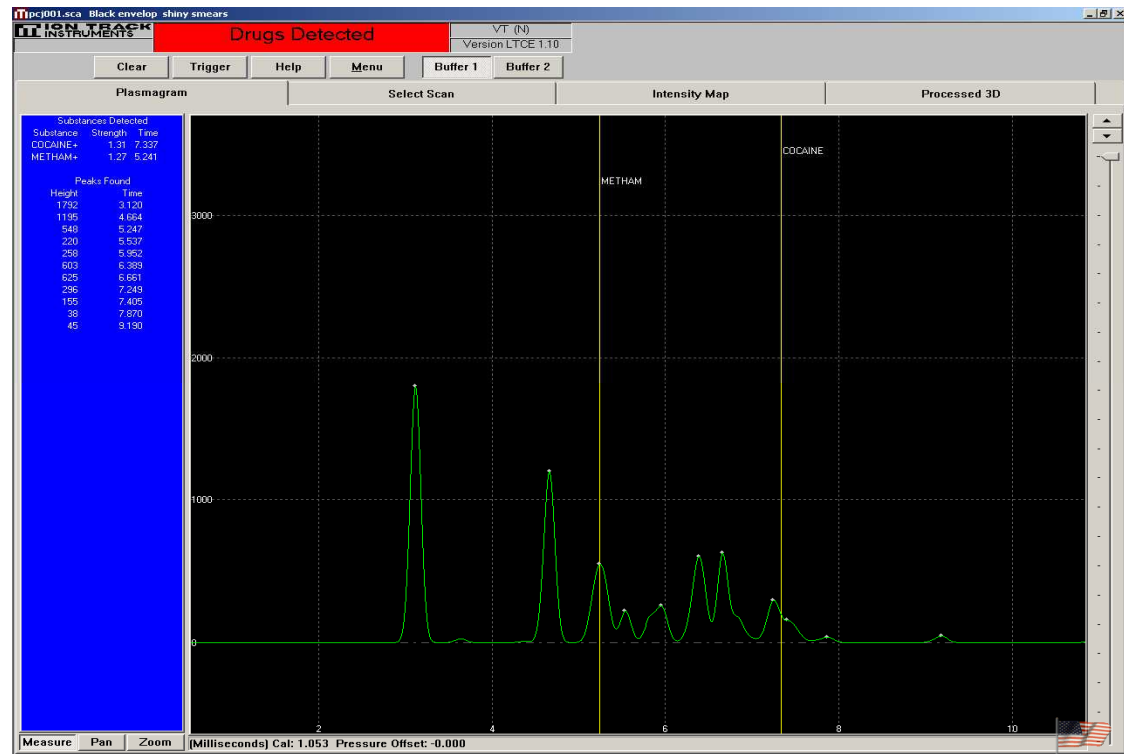



Pima County, AZ, Jail Mail Room Drug Detection Project

- Conducted site evaluation and supplied drug detection equipment
- Conducted drug contamination testing of mail room and incoming mail
- Performed laboratory calibration testing of drug detection systems



Tests with a Hound and VaporTracer Found Meth, Marijuana, Heroin, and Cocaine on Mail to Inmates





The Hound System Helps Texas Police Identify Drugs

- **South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force field tested a Hound system with a commercial detector.**
 - **During a routine traffic stop, officers discovered large quantities of liquid and powder substances. The Hound revealed methamphetamines.**
 - **Seconds vs. days for lab tests**
 - **Test of a minor's driver's license revealed cocaine, leading to his entrance into a drug rehab center.**

Explosive Device Disablement

- Sandia developed the *Percussion-Actuated Nonelectric (PAN®) Disrupter*
 - Non-destructive—saves forensic evidence
 - Sandia team disabled the booby traps in the Unabomber cabin
 - Massachusetts State Police officer trained at Operation America used a Mini-PAN® disrupter in the Shoe Bomber case



Unabomber Cabin



**PAN & MiniPAN
punch holes in the bomb, killing
the circuit and disabling active
bomb components**

Disablement Technologies and Reachback

- Sandia leads the HE Home Team for Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST)
 - Develop and maintain rapidly deployable equipment and personnel for a worldwide response to nuclear and radiological terrorist incidents
 - Supports field in response to real threats
 - Develops and evaluates equipment for field use
- Advanced RF jamming to disable remote controlled devices



Jamming equipment

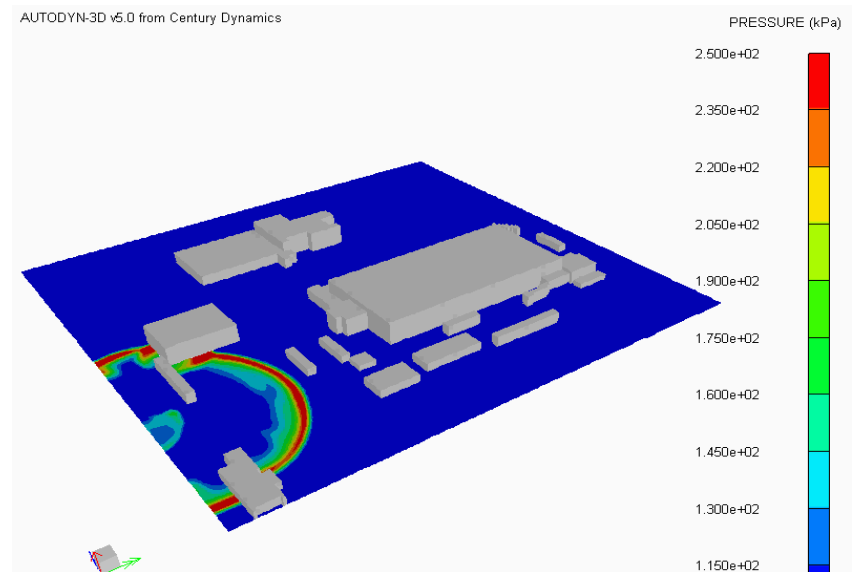


NEST focuses on rapid deployment and response

Explosives Blast Effects Modeling and Analyses

Unique Strengths:

- Explosives vulnerability analysis
- Explosive events through testing
- Fast turnaround, high-fidelity information during crises
- Focus on blast mitigation and consequence reduction
- State-of-the-art computing



HE Countermeasures Core Capabilities

- **Key Strengths:**
 - Protection Methodology
 - Detection Systems
 - Disablement Systems
 - Blast Effects Modeling
 - Blast Mitigation/Containment
 - Training/Consulting
 - Performance Validation
 - Field Testing
 - Standards Definition
- **Staff dedicated to the National Security Mission**
 - Over 200 personnel specializing in HE efforts (teaming with other labs, universities, and industry when needed)

