

Excerpt: Boston Marathon Bombings: Medical Response Activities at the Incident Site¹⁰

Boston Marathon Preparedness Activities

Each year, Boston emergency management and response agencies conduct extensive medical planning to prepare for the Boston Marathon. In January 2013, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) convened a multi-agency, multidisciplinary team to develop all the plans for the 117th Boston Marathon. This team spent 3 months generating *the operational and coordination* plans for this event. In addition, state and local personnel periodically met with B.A.A. [Boston Athletic Association] officials to plan for and coordinate emergency response procedures following a potential large-scale, mass casualty event. (Emphasis added)

Comment: This is where intelligence in the form of a realistic, robust national planning scenario based on multiple IEDs paid off directly.

Exercises

In recent years, MA emergency medical personnel have regularly exercised communications, coordination, and response capacities and capabilities with police and fire departments, local businesses, and volunteer groups. For example:

- ▶ On March 14, 2013, the MA State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) hosted the annual Pre-Boston Marathon Tabletop Exercise. Participants included personnel from the communities of Hopkinton, Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Newton, Brookline and Boston that host the race as well as staff from other federal, state, safety, health, communication, transportation, and volunteer agencies and organizations. *One of the exercise scenarios focused on an IED explosion . . .* (Emphasis added)

Comment: Once the plan was prepared, multiple exercises were conducted to assess how well responders worked together to handle the aftermath of an IED explosion.

Medical Assets

Over the years, Boston EMS and other medical personnel have managed the Boston Marathon and other large events as mass casualty events. As a result, at the time of the attacks all the equipment and staff needed to respond to a mass casualty event were available at or near the blast sites. In particular, on the day of the Marathon:

- ▶ More than 800 medical volunteers and staff were deployed to provide assistance to runners and bystanders. These personnel staffed 26 medical tents—which included 10 enhanced tents with ambulance support—16 first aid stations, and 49 hydration stations along the 26.2-mile course.