

HOMELAND SECURITY

Extendable Baton Training

On September 18th members from The Rhea County Sheriff’s Department and Homeland Security met At The Rhea Central Elementary School for Extendable Baton Training.



(Above: Alpha Team Leader, Bill Frazier attacks Bravo Team Leader, Tom Jones. No Homeland Security members were harmed in the filming of this picture.)

The training was conducted by Bryan King of the Winfield Police Department in Winfield, TN.



As you can see from the above picture, we had a large turn out for the Training.



(Above, Bryan gives instruction on how to approach a suspect and shows the interview stance)

The Training lasted for about 3 hours and ended with a test that each student had to demonstrate the skills they had learned in order to be certified.

Once again, this was great training and was excellent information for everyone in the group.

We are in the process of gathering together all the materials needed to make our own practice batons and pads. Then we will be able to brush up on our technique And perhaps give the training to other team members.

**Next Meeting October 28th
6 PM Civil Air Patrol Complex**

Combined November and December meeting moved to December 2nd

Due to the November meeting falling on Thanksgiving Day and Decembers meeting coming so close to Christmas Day we have decided to have Dec and Nov meeting together on December 2nd.

We hope everyone has a Happy and Safe Holiday season. Rest up and get ready for what could be another busy year in 2005.

U.S. Alerts Schools About Terror Threat

Thu Oct 7, 12:28 PM ET U.S. National - AP

By BEN FELLER, AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON - The Education Department has advised school leaders nationwide to watch for people spying on their buildings or buses to help detect any possibility of terrorism like the deadly school siege in Russia.

The warning follows an analysis by the FBI (news - web sites) and the Homeland Security Department of the siege that killed nearly 340 people, many of them students, in the city of Beslan last month.

"The horror of this attack may have created significant anxiety in our own country among parents, students, faculty staff and other community members," Deputy Education Secretary Eugene Hickok said in a letter to schools and education groups.

The safety advice is based on lessons learned from the Russia incident. But there is "no specific information indicating that there is a terrorist threat to any schools or universities in the United States," Hickok said.

Federal law enforcement officials also have encouraged local police to stay in contact with school officials and have encouraged reporting of suspicious activities, the letter says.

In particular, schools were told to watch for activities that may be legitimate on their own — but may suggest a heightened terrorist threat if many of them occur.

Among those activities:

_ Interest in obtaining site plans for schools, bus routes and attendance lists;

_ Prolonged "static surveillance" by people disguised as panhandlers, shoe shiners, newspaper or flower vendors or street sweepers not previously seen in the area;

- Observations of security drills;

_ People staring at or quickly looking away from employees or vehicles as they enter or leave parking areas;

_ Foot surveillance of campuses involving individuals working together.

The effort is the latest by the Education Department and other federal agencies to encourage school officials to maintain and practice a plan for responding to emergencies.

After the terrorist takeover of the Russian school, President Bush (news - web sites) asked his top advisers to review their strategies for dealing with hostage situations, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has said.

The federal government is advising schools to take many steps to improve the security of their buildings. Those include installing locks for all doors and windows, having a single entry point into buildings and ensuring they can reach school bus drivers in an emergency.

The Education Department sent its letter by e-mail Wednesday to school police, state school officers, school boards, groups representing principals and many other organizations.

The Homeland Security Department also sent a bulletin Wednesday to federal, state and local emergency officials to provide fresh guidance based on the review of the school siege in Russia.



We Have Not Forgotten



On Tuesday Sept. 11,2001, The World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists with 2 American Airlines Airplanes. Over 50,000 people were injured or died. Our hearts go out to these people and we BAN TOGETHER as a Nation as we Stand UNITED as ONE PEOPLE. These Attacks Affect US ALL!

**Remember November 2nd
Is Election Day**

**Please Vote
It's the least we can do for those
that have done so much.**

Last Months Meeting

If you missed last months meeting, you missed a great one.

We had special quest speakers Mike Bice, Chief John Argo and Jimbo Miles from the Rhea County Sheriff's Department.



(Above, Left to Right:: Ed Ley, Roger Jaquette, Mike Bice, Tom Mize and John Argo)

Mike taught us about some of the things we should be aware of when out in the field and also what hazards to look for.

We greatly appreciate The Sheriff's Department for taking the time to see that we are better prepared and better informed of our occupational hazards.



(My photographer tried to sneak a shot of the group from the back of the class, but James Janow was to quick for him.)

Last Months Meeting *(continued)*

With the announcement that we were having a special speaker, we drew quite a crowd.



(Once again, a great turnout for Homeland Security)

As usual, the attendance was impressive. We have a pretty solid group of volunteers and it's good to see the level of interest we have with our teams.



(Above: Some of the hazardous materials we'll likely encounter)

Thanks again to all that participated in our last meeting. It was one of the most informative meetings we have had. Hopefully, we'll have more of these types of meetings in the future.

About the upcoming November Meeting

When you receive this newsletter, the meeting will just be a few days away.

This month we will have another guest speaker and that will be Sheriff Mike Neal, barring any unforeseen circumstances that is. The Sheriff's time is at a premium and it would be understandable if he got sidetracked with all of the things that he has to attend to.

With all of that said, let me give you a little hint about one of the things he should be talking to us about. A question that has come up more than once in conversations between members is, who we are, who we answer to and where is the Homeland Security money.

All good questions and should be answered and put to rest, but I think I can answer most of them and if I'm wrong, I'm sure the Sheriff will straighten me out at the meeting.

When we first formed, we were brought together for support at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant and The Watts Bar Dam.

We were still under the direction of the Sheriff and a part of his department. That's when we were called the "Fast Action Response Team" notice the initials, F.A.R.T. I never did meet anyone that liked that name to well, although I do have a shirt with those letters on it, but the Sheriff changed our name to Homeland Security. We are still under his direction and a part of his department.

I think after seeing what type of resource we could be for the county, the Sheriff started expanding our range of possible duties.

Now, having the name Homeland Security does not mean that we are the same group that many counties in Tennessee have or does it mean that we are the same as the States Homeland Security. From what I've seen about the other groups, they are much more limited in what they can do and what responsibilities they can have. Our group is unique from all the others, and to be honest, myself and many that I've talked to prefer it that way.

We are here to support the Sheriff's department period. That's what most of us joined up for and I think we have made that pretty clear to anyone wanting to join. We are volunteers and you don't have to go out on any callouts that you don't want to.

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About the upcoming November Meeting

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However some level of commitment is required and you can understand that what we need are people that are serious about what we do.

It's understandable that some are concerned about all of the equipment we need and the cost can get expensive if you plan on having everything that's needed to protect yourself when out in the field, but this equipment is yours, even after you leave, it's still yours and most of it can be sold if you don't want to keep it.

As for all the money that you hear is being spent on Homeland Security and that comes to our county let me say this, from what I've heard, the county doesn't get all that money and what does come in has to be spent on certain things.

I for one am pleased that this money can go to help supply our City and County Officers. Folks they are out there everyday, day in and day out and I believe that anything that will make them safer and better equipped is a giant plus in my book.

Something else to consider, if we were to get federal money, we would have all kinds of guidelines to adhere to. We would be limiting ourselves as to what we could or could not do and this would only make us ineffective.

Also, Homeland Security is a big umbrella, there are all sorts of agencies that fall under that term, all first responders are in fact part of Homeland Security.

We come in under that same umbrella with the Sheriff's Department. So, any money that the Sheriff gets goes to our department, The Rhea County Sheriff's Department. When they get equipment, our department is reaping the benefits.

As for what we need, we will try and get it or see that we can get a discount on it. We are trying to make ourselves as self sufficient as we can. We want to be seen as a resource and not a liability.

Our goal is to support the Sheriff and our community and if we start siphoning off the money going to the county, we will soon become a liability.

This is not to say that what we do is not important and that we don't deserve any money that's coming in. What I'm trying to get across is that what equipment we actually need to do what we do and what we have bought so far is not entirely too much to ask. A lot of the equipment you don't actually have to have, it only depends on what level of commitment you intend to

make. Something else to consider is that we have a moral and legal obligation not to send you into a situation that puts your safety in jeopardy without a means to protect yourself.

So, you don't have to have a handgun or pepper spray or and extendable baton to be part of this team, but we can not send you out into a possible hostile situation without protection. This doesn't mean that there's nothing else to do, there's still support functions that's needed and we will find a spot for you, so don't let not having all the supplies stop you from being active.

So, what's the moral of the story you ask?

First we're part of the Sheriff's Department and not what you hear about the States programs.

Yes, we're called Homeland Security, but would you rather want to be called a "F.A.R.T." ?

And last but not least, we do get money. It comes to our Department and our county. What helps them helps us.

The Sheriff has placed a lot of faith and trust in us and we in him. We are here to help protect our communities and to support our local law enforcement and first responders.

Everyone has done a super job and should be proud to be a part of this unique organization.

We've got something going here in Rhea County that other Counties don't have. We have got some of the best volunteers around and more wanting to join. Let's not bog ourselves down by bickering about Federal money.

Once we start depending on that, we will start going around in circles trying to keep up with everything that they require instead of seeing to what our county needs.

I hope I have in some way cleared this up for you or at least provided you with something to think about.

Hopefully the Sheriff's schedule will allow his to come to our meeting and answer any questions you might have just in case I've confused you even more.

This is just the way I see it and is not necessarily the Sheriff's point of view. He may tell you something entirely different, I have not talked to him about this so this is my opinion only.

If you want to get the whole truth and nothing but the truth, come to the meeting Thursday Oct. 28th 6 PM.