

# Joint Antiterrorism Training

By *Brian M. Hahn*  
 DCMA Detroit

What started out as a beautiful day in Lima, Ohio, quickly turned ugly with a telephone call to the Department of the Army Police at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center. A female caller claimed an armed man had taken her hostage and she desperately needed help. The gunman's only request was to speak to the installation commander. Then the call went silent.

Fortunately, the call was just the initial phase of JSMC's annual antiterrorism/force protection training exercise. The annual training exercise is required for all U.S. Army installations to provide realistic hands-on training to the force protection agencies and the entire installation population for real-life terrorism situations. The exercise also allows the facility to test the agreements and relationships in place with other public safety agencies in the local community that provide specialized expertise unavailable to the installation. A building on the grounds that is slated for demolition next year served as the perfect location for the training.

Upon receiving the threatening call, the police immediately put

their emergency action plan into place, making all of the necessary contacts and securing the area. Special reaction team members and hostage negotiators reported for duty, while others, already on duty, secured the scene and cleared the area of innocent bystanders.

In the first of two scenarios, the negotiators talked the suspect into releasing the hostage and then surrendering to the SRT. As officers placed the suspect in custody, he stated that an improvised explosive device was in the building. Lima's regional explosive ordnance disposal team mobilized to remove the deadly device.

In the second scenario, negotiations failed and the hostage died while trying to escape. Upon entry by the SRT, the IED detonated, fatally injuring the suspect and four SRT officers. The detonation also released an unknown chemical agent

contaminating several responding officers and initial victims of the blast. Unable to contend with the urgent hazardous materials situation, the Shawnee Township Fire Department responded with their hazardous materials team



A Special Reaction Team moves forward in a "stack" to entry into the target building. (Photos by Brian M. Hahn)

# g Exercise Successful

to treat and decontaminate the injured. The HAZMAT team set up for a wet decontamination and treated the surviving officers prior to evacuating them for medical treatment.

An exercise like this is a necessary step in testing and refining the skills needed to respond to an emergency. It also enables the different public safety agencies in the community to work together and build relationships that will allow them to respond to any future emergency.

The exercise showed JSMC's ability to respond to and succeed in overcoming a terrorism situation with the support of the local community and external federal agencies. While most employees at the Defense Contract Management Agency will never have to do more than listen to the direction of the police officer or security guard directing them to safety during such a circumstance, the DCMA team at JSMC has a special role. Lt. Col. Ted Epple and his facilities team do everything, from keeping the lights on to multimillion-dollar



Department of the Army Police special reaction team members perform surveillance on the target building of a hostage standoff during the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center's annual antiterrorism/force protection exercise.

upgrade and construction projects. Security and law enforcement at the installation also falls in that realm.

Although the police force does not work directly for DCMA, the force is under Epple's operational control as the installation commander. The force provides all physical security, law enforcement and antiterrorism/force protection

support. During a training exercise or an actual event, the engineers, contracting, public affairs and other disciplines of the facilities team are brought in as subject-matter experts in an attempt to restore order or respond to damaged property — whether it be man-made or due to a natural disaster.

This year's exercise proved that DCMA and the Army's Tank Command team work well together, and JSMC can continue safely producing excellent combat systems for the nation's warfighters. **C**

**This year's exercise proved that DCMA and the Army's Tank Command team work well together, and JSMC can continue safely producing excellent combat systems for the nation's warfighters.**