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► [Safety](#)

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► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

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(web)

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► [Events Calendar](#)

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► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

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► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

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THIS IS ONLY A DRILL - SWAT team takes aim at animal rights activists, who exploded bombs and wounded passengers and law enforcement officials during simulated terrorist drill Wednesday at the Metro Green Line Marine station.



Photos by Jose Ubaldo

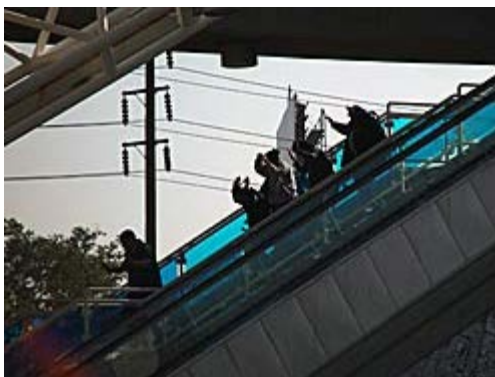
'Terrorist Attack' Drill on Metro Green Line Station

- Anti-terrorist exercise was a learning experience for area police and fire departments

(Sept. 22, 2005) Militant "animal rights activists" armed with automatic weapons took control of the Metro Green Line's Marine Station, Wednesday morning, exploding two bombs and seriously wounding 10 police officers and 15 passengers during a 45-minute shooting spree.

Had it been an actual terrorist attack, it would have been a tragedy – instead, the training exercise conducted for Metro by the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau was a learning experience for the members of the 10 area law enforcement agencies and three fire departments participating.

One of largest anti-terrorist drills every held on the Metro system, it included some 40 employees and others playing the part of passengers, while four members of the Metro Security



Deputies and police officers tossed smoke grenades and fired their weapons at the four animal rights activists, who took a heavy toll on the officers and passengers before being "killed" in a hail of simulated gunfire.

Department took the role of masked, gun-toting animal rights activists.

Responding to the threat, deputies and police officers tossed smoke grenades and fired their weapons at the four “terrorists” who took a heavy toll on the officers and passengers before being “killed” in a hail of simulated gunfire.



‘Very challenging problem’

“It was a very challenging problem,” says Sheriff’s Sgt. Andrew Bodogne, event PIO. “We learned a lot trying to deal with tactical issues presented by very aggressive terrorists at a station where they held the high ground and could cover both entrances.”

The purpose of the drill at the station in Hawthorne was to foster cooperation, build working relationships and develop strong communications among first responder agencies near the Green Line.

“Because the transit system extends into so many jurisdictions, we want to make sure we can communicate with each other,” says Bodogne. “We had excellent response from local law enforcement and fire departments.”

A video crew taped the exercise for further study as the law enforcement agencies develop new anti-terrorist tactics. A SWAT team monitored the drill, evaluated the tactics and participated in the debriefing following the exercise.

The Marine station was closed to service during the exercise. Customers were advised to use the Douglas or El Segundo stations. Metro operated shuttle vans from the Douglas station to Redondo Beach and Marine avenues.