

# ***Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe***

---

## **USAFE CBRN Challenge**



**Capt Ian Rybczynski  
48th Medical Group  
RAF Lakenheath**



# Overview

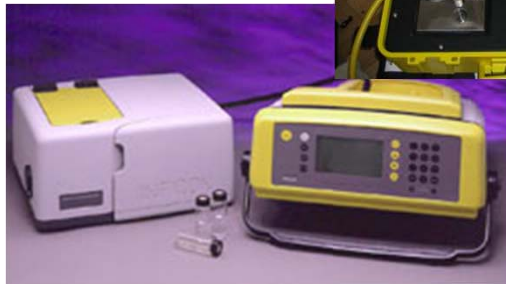
- Background
- The Challenge – how we did it
- Lessons learned
- Future USAFE and AF-level challenges





# Background

- Since 2003, advances in CBRNE detection equipment available to Bioenvironmental Engineering
  - HAPSITE (Portable GS/MS)
  - HAZMAT ID
  - Isotope identification





# *Background*

- **Need something beyond CBRN conferences**
  - **BE personnel wanted more “hands-on”**
- **CBRN response and health risk assessment (HRA) was medical group commanders’ number one BE-related concern in USAFE**







# *How We Did It Objectives*

- Employ all-hazards approach during response
- Apply technical/equipment knowledge
  - Both “new” and “old” technology
- Identify policy and equipment gaps





## *How We Did It Concept*

- Annual challenge (starting in 2005)
- Hands-on, scenario-based competition
- Focus on deployed & in garrison response equipment
  - Equipment experts available
  - Didactics limited to brief “ask-the-expert” round robin
- Use actual samples (or surrogates) rather than inputs whenever possible





# *How We Did It*

## *Competitors and Evaluators*

---

- **Each USAFE main operating base fielded team (6 teams)**
  - **Four person teams**
    - **2005: BE personnel only**
    - **2006: 3 BE personnel, 1 Civil Engineer Readiness**
- **Evaluators and technical support**
  - **From Air Staff, Air Combat Command, AFIOH, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine**
  - **HAPSITE technical expert**





# *How We Did It*

## *Competition Elements*

- Used empty stairwell housing unit (24 apts)
- “Ask the expert” round robin
- Competition breakout
  - Six response scenarios
  - Relay race (speed and urgency)
  - Knowledge (Jeopardy game)







# ***USAFE CBRN Challenge Six Scenarios***

- **Biological Lab Assessment**
- **Radiological Dispersal Device identification**
- **Chemical weapon emergency response**
- **Toxic Industrial Chemical identification**
- **CBR Identification**
- **Environmental Health Site Assessment**



**2005 competition scenarios; 2006 were similar**



## *Lessons Learned* *Positive Observations*

---

- Evaluators noted ingenuity/creative problem solving
  - Proficiency samples essential
  - Unanimous feedback from A1C to Maj...**SUCCESS!**
    - “This needs to be continued...best AF training ever received”
    - “I learned more during this week of competition than in any course or in-house training”
  - Focus on using entire suite of equipment
    - Equipment use alone was not the “end state”
    - Used as an enabler for health risk assessment
-



# ***USAFE CBRN Challenge Opportunities for Improvement***

- **Additional tactics, techniques & procedures needed**
- **Evidence/crime scene preservation needs attention**







# *Future Efforts*

- **Possible AF-level competition**
  - **Air Staff and working group devising strategy**
  
- **USAFE**
  - **Continue to include Civil Engineer Readiness**
  - **Possible expansion to include other emergency services and biological laboratory response**







# *Summary*

- **Background**
- **The Challenge – how we did it**
- **Lessons learned**
- **Future USAFE and AF-level challenges**

