

# Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA JOINT HEARING OF SENATE  
& HOUSE, VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
COMMITTEES

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The Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force has been a tremendous asset to the Allentown Police Department, in particular, the Emergency Response Team for a number of years.

The Allentown Police Department's Emergency Response Team is a 27 member unit (22 Operators & 5 TEMS) and averages approximately 40-50 preplanned operations per year and an additional 5-10 unanticipated operations. Our Emergency Response Team is a highly trained, effective and a successful Unit, in part, due to the trainings and equipment provided to us by the Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force.

This organization has provided our Department, Team, and Officers the opportunity to attend a vast amount of trainings by obtaining, scheduling and hosting essential training schools.

## Training:

Over the past several years our Officers have attended; Rural Man Tracking, Chemical Munitions, Distraction Devices, Dignitary Protection, Basic Sniper, Advanced Sniper, TEMS, High Risk Warrant Service, Counter Terrorism Surveillance, Barricaded Gunman, Basic SWAT, SWAT Tactical Liaison, Armored Tactical Rescue Vehicle, ICS, Mobile Field Force and Woodland Operations to name just a limited selection of trainings this organization has provided to our agency.

Many of aforementioned trainings hosted by the Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Force are used on a regular basis by our Team during operations. Others, fortunately, are not. This by no means makes those trainings nonessential. Because the Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force has given our Team the opportunity to train in these areas I am confident our Team will succeed if / when we are faced with such circumstances.

**Equipment:**

The Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force has provided our Emergency Response Team with the following equipment;

Night Vision

Thermal Imaging Systems

Rifle Plates (Tactical Armor)

Ballistic Shields

Riot Gear

Robot

Lenco Bearcat Armored Rescue Vehicle.

This equipment provided by the Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force has been used numerous times on operations. Equipment such as the Rifle Plates, Shields and Armored Rescue Vehicle (when available to our team) are crucial and used on every operation. Other equipment such as Night Vision and Thermal Imaging have been used during unusual occasions such was the case when a special needs child wander in the woods.

Without the Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force providing the resources they do our Department and Team would not be as well-equipped and trained as we are.

Currently, across the nation, assaults on Law Enforcement Officers are increasing rapidly. Active Shooter incidents have become common place with increasing casualties time and time again. Terrorism plots / attacks are a constant and primary concern at every level of Law Enforcement. The Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force affords our Department / Team the chance to be better prepared for these type of incidents.

Sincerely;

Sgt. Matt Karnish

Allentown Police Department

Emergency Response Team

Tactical Commander



