



The University of Southern Mississippi SERRI



Enhancing the Effectiveness of Local and Regional Communities in Planning and Training for Improvised Explosive Device Threats and Attacks on Sports Venues

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Prevent, Protect, Respond, Recover

Homeland Security Challenge:

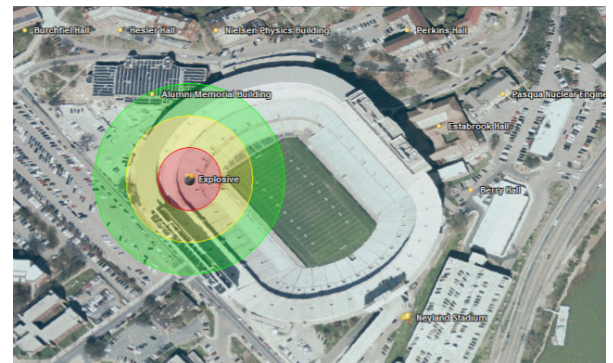
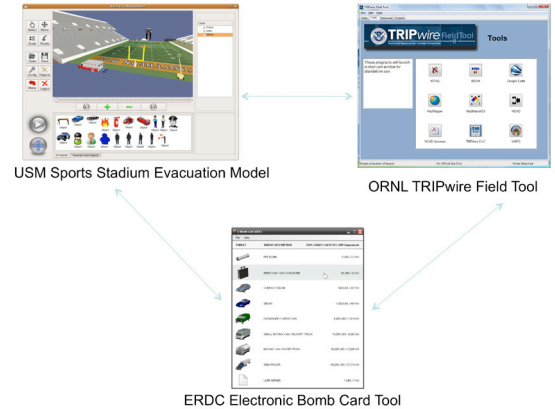
Sports stadiums, arenas, and entertainment centers are potential targets of terrorist attacks. These venues provide opportunities for mass casualties, economic disruption and global news media coverage. DHS has identified sport stadiums/arenas as a key asset in the critical infrastructure/key resource sector (Office of Domestic Preparedness Information Bulletin, 2003). Key assets are defined as individual targets whose destruction "could create local disaster or profoundly damage our Nation's morale or confidence" (CRS Report for Congress, 2004). Blasting and destroying key assets is an established terrorist objective. An attack on an occupied stadium or arena via suicide bombers, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), vehicle borne IEDs (VBIEDs), or a remote-controlled IED (RCIED) could inflict immediate casualties and destruction, create fear and panic among survivors, and paralyze nearby businesses.

Research Project Solution:

The objective of this research project is to address the needs for the development of affordable and advanced technological tools and methodologies to assist local and regional planners in preparing and responding to IED threats and attacks, especially on sports venues. The goal of this project is to set the foundation to enhance and integrate complementing but individual technologies and methodologies that have been successfully developed at University of Southern Mississippi (USM), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in order to establish an environment of rapid and efficient local and regional preparedness through planning and training to respond to IED threats and incidents in sports venues.

National Implications:

Effective planning and training for IED attacks on sport venues is imperative at large scale spectator sport events due to the potential for mass casualties and catastrophic social and economic impacts. Research indicates there are gaps related to effective command control, emergency response preparedness, and evacuation capabilities at high consequence sport events due to lack of team training for those responsible for game day operations. In order to mitigate gaps and deficiencies in preparedness for potential explosive incidents, especially at the previously emphasized local and regional levels, novel approaches and solutions need to be presented. All of these reinforce the case for the development and usage of advanced technological tools that are required to assist planners to prepare for scenarios that usually cannot be rehearsed in real life and are often dismissed as unthinkable. The tools developed through this research project should increase the readiness of local and regional level planners and first responders in preparing for and responding to IED threats and attacks, especially those at sports venues.



Projects combine multi-source data on a user-customized map with animation

www.serri.org

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SERRI is managed by the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security