FORCE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION

DEMONSTRATING COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PHYSICAL SECURITY/FORCE PROTECTION SOLUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

GENESIS

The bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia on 25 June 1996 revealed the need for continual vigilance and protection against terrorist forces intent on harming US personnel and interests. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the Services to investigate COTS equipment solutions for physical security/force protection needs. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (OUSD {AT&L}) tasked the Office of the US Army Product Manager, Force Protection Systems (PM-FPS), to coordinate and facilitate a Force Protection Equipment Demonstration (FPED) to showcase and demonstrate available equipment.

During the period 15--18 September 1997, the PM-FPS conducted the first FPED. Building on the success of the first demonstration, five additional demonstrations have been conducted every two years with the last demonstration, FPED VI, taking place 14--16 August 2007 at the Stafford County Regional Airport, Stafford, VA. Over 8,300 participants from the Department of Defense (DOD), Federal, state, local, and foreign governments attended FPED VI. More than 570 equipment vendors and manufacturers displayed more than 3,000 pieces of physical security/force protection equipment at the event. Due to continuing concern over terrorist activity; constant advancements in technology to reduce vulnerabilities to terrorism; the continuing need for enhanced physical security/force protection equipment; and the success of the past demonstrations, FPED VII is planned for 19--21 May 2009.

THE FPED VII OBJECTIVE

The primary goal of the FPED has not changed. It is held to provide leaders and decision-makers from DOD, Federal departments and agencies, and selected state/local law enforcement and corrections agencies the opportunity to observe, and become familiar with, COTS physical security/force protection equipment available for procurement and testing within 90 days of the demonstration.

The FPED brings together knowledgeable leaders from around the world and puts them in contact with manufacturers who may have equipment solutions for physical security/force protection needs. Its most important function is to provide leaders the opportunity to view available equipment and future equipment possibilities. A valuable synergy also results when vendors discover what users need and develop better product solutions by working with other manufacturers.

VENDORS

The first FPED drew 184 vendors with 404 items of physical security/force protection equipment. As mentioned above, the last FPED involved nearly 600 vendors demonstrating almost 3,100 products. Vendors came from around the world--Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, Korea, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

ATTENDEES

The unclassified demonstration is **NOT** open to the public, and is intended for personnel 18 years of age or older employed by DOD, Federal departments and agencies, and state/local law enforcement and corrections agencies. DOD, the Joint Staff, the military Services, and other sponsoring and participating organizations conduct an active publicity campaign to attract those attendees concerned with their physical security/force protection needs. Foreign personnel also are in attendance.

LOCATION

The next demonstration will again be conducted at the Stafford County Regional Airport, Stafford, Virginia, 19--21 May 2009. The facility's proximity to the Washington, DC, metropolitan area assists in ensuring the attendance of DOD and Federal department and agency personnel.

Stafford County Regional Airport, Stafford, Virginia

EQUIPMENT CATEGORIES

- Automated entry control systems/equipment
- Armored and utility vehicles
- Biometrics
- Blast protection/mitigation (including structural building materials, new or retrofit)
- Cargo inspection devices (including undervehicle inspection devices)
- Chemical and biological detection, mitigation, and protective equipment
- Communications equipment (including personnel alerting systems)
- Delay and denial technology (including fences, barriers [active, passive, portable, and fixed], and locks)
- Explosives detection (including hand-held, static, and underwater)
- Explosive ordnance disposal equipment
- Fence sensor systems
- Individual protective equipment
- Night-vision and optics devices
- Non-lethal weapons and technology
- Physical security equipment sensor and surveillance systems (interior, exterior, perimeter, and tactical)
- Robotic vehicles and systems
- Unattended ground sensors
- Unmanned aerial vehicles
- Vulnerability assessment/analysis software tools
- Waterside security equipment

The equipment categories are based on identified needs and what is under development by DOD, the Services, and other governmental/intergovernmental agencies working towards physical security/force protection solutions.

CONDUCT OF THE DEMONSTRATION

The FPED differs from a static exhibit. Vendors are provided the space for equipment demonstrations, many of which will take place adjacent to where the vendor is situated. As with previous FPEDs, demonstrations using explosives and live ball ammunition will be conducted at the Quantico Marine Corps Base ranges, Quantico, VA. Night-vision equipment demonstrations are accomplished after dark. Attendees can expect to see K9 demonstrations, robotic displays, in-flight unmanned aerial vehicles, seismic and infrared sensors being activated by foot and moving vehicle patrols, and a host of products evaluated against both blast and ballistics munitions.

INFORMATION PRODUCTS

A compact disc (CD) will be published after the event with a comprehensive listing of all vendors and their products. The FPED is the only event which produces a tool that captures product technical information and images on every item brought to the demonstration. The CD provides physical security/force protection practitioners a source guide to assist with their needs. It is distributed throughout DOD, Federal departments and agencies, state/local law enforcement and corrections agencies, as well as foreign distribution. More than 5,000 copies of the FPED VI CD have been distributed and one will be produced for FPED VII.

SPONSORS

The sponsors are DOD, the Joint Staff, and the Technical Support Working Group.

For FPED VII, additional sponsors are being sought to further expand the breadth of the demonstration to ensure as many persons as possible are exposed to the COTS solutions offered at the demonstration.

DOD PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT ACTION GROUP (PSEAG)

Mr. Michael Toscano, Chairman

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Product Manager (PM)

LTC James K. Choung--PM-FPS

Deputy Product Manager/FPED Lead Project Officer

Mr. Jon C. Moneyhun--PM-FPS

Project Leader

Mr. James A. Suarez--Computer Sciences Corporation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional program, technical, and cost information on FPED VII, write to:

Product Manager, Force Protection Systems
5900 Putman Road, Suite 1
Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-5420

WEB SITE

www.fped7.org

Vendor applications are available on the web site. Registration for attendees can be accomplished online through the web site starting in mid December 2008.

PM-FPS
Product Manager, Force Protection Systems