**Multiple drills wrapped up first week of Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain**

By Donna Cipolloni  
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NAS Patuxent River security forces and first responders were kept hopping last week as they responded to numerous drills designed to test their training and readiness during the Navy's annual two-week Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain antiterrorism/force protection exercise, underway through Feb. 15.

On Feb. 4, first responders and medical corpsmen from Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River were on site at a simulated aircraft mishap with six injured crew members. On Feb. 5, security dealt with unauthorized drone surveillance at Gate 3 and the driver of an automobile who had breached the installation's airfield.

Another drill Feb. 6 involved a disgruntled Pax River employee in the lobby of Center Stage Theater carrying an improvised explosive device bio-weapon.

"He had the device strapped to his chest," said Eric Schotter, installation training officer at Pax River. "He contacted the [command duty office] and local news agencies and announced his plan to explode the bomb, stating that it had a 'special twist' that would have lingering effects."

The scenario called for the bomber to eventually detonate the device, releasing a weaponized bio-agent and injuring multiple personnel. After a bomb-sniffing Military Working Dog swept the theater's perimeter and parking lot, emergency services vehicles and the hazmat unit arrived to deal with the casualties on scene.

While that scenario played out, installation and department leaders also participated in the exercise by convening in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where, during a real-life incident, the command decisions would be made that affect Pax River's operations and personnel.

"In the EOC are representatives from various departments around the base, such as administration, logistics, air operations, fire and emergency, and security," explained Pat Gordon, NAS public affairs officer. "They're receiving information from the field and reporting it to the Pax River commanding officer, who serves as the incident commander. He then directs what happens next, such as releasing AdHoc emergency messages to personnel, gate closures, increased force protection conditions, building lockdowns, whether aircraft fly in or out, etc."

This particular drill called for the CO, whose response was also being evaluated, to be called into a mock press conference to answer tough questions from role players acting as reporters.

"He's as much a part of the team being evaluated as anyone else because this is his installation," Gordon noted.

Citadel Shield – that portion of the exercise which focuses entirely on activity within the fence line – wrapped up with a final drill Feb. 7 when a call came in reporting a man with a rifle inside the River's Edge Catering and Conference Center. That exercise included one casualty near the front of the building and a brief hostage situation before the attacker was neutralized by responding police officers.

Ever-present during all of the drills is a small cadre of safety observers and evaluators in brightly colored vests surveying the situation, asking questions and writing down their observations.

After each exercise, all groups involved share their reactions to the event and provide feedback on what they saw happen, what went well, and what can be improved upon.

Ongoing this week is Solid Curtain, consisting of national-level exercises centered on command, control and communications between all echelons Navy-wide.

At the end of both weeks, a more in-depth briefing will occur within each agency to review the individual drills and discuss what went right or wrong, followed by a detailed After-Action Report created for all of the events that is then sent to the region.

See MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 6 & 7

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**Former astronaut, NFL player shares importance of mentoring**

By Emily Funderburk  
NAVAIR Total Force (AIR 7.3)  
Communications Coordinator  

From a football star to flying among the stars, Leland Melvin shared his story of perseverance, grit and determination with NAVAIR employees at NAVAIR's National Mentoring Month event here Jan. 31.

Melvin is the only person drafted to the NFL from Naval Academy. He played in the 1995 Super Bowl with the Kansas City Chiefs, and became the first African-American astronaut when he joined the space corpsmen from Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River employee in the lobby of Center Stage Theater carrying an improvised explosive device bio-weapon.

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