

New York State Preparedness Training Center:

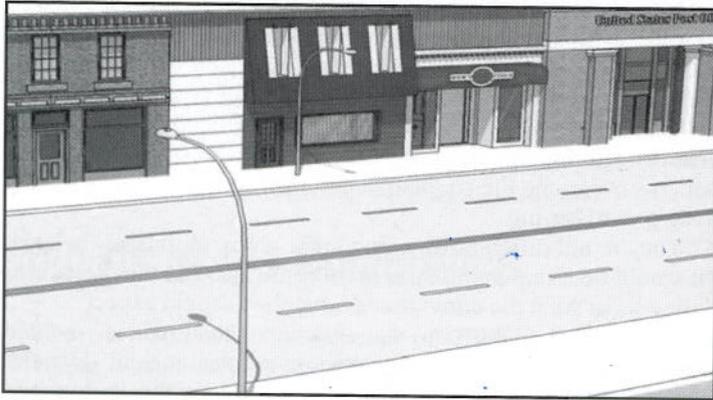
World-Class Training for New York State's Emergency Responders

BY JEROME M. HAUER, COMMISSIONER, NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The mission of the New York State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) is to deliver the best training for New York's emergency response community by delivering high-end, scenario-based courses, and designing and constructing unique, high-tech training venues and support structures. The SPTC, located in Oriskany, New York is operated by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Training courses are developed in collaboration with the State University of New York at Albany's National Center for Security and Preparedness.

In 2006, the Oneida County Airport was in the twilight of its existence; plans were to relocate airport operations to the decommissioned Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, NY. At the same time, the former NYS Office of Homeland Security (now DHSES – Office of Counter Terrorism) acknowledged the need to deliver critical training to New York's emergency response community in a central New York State location. Despite operations still being conducted at the airport, two training classrooms were quickly erected in the airport terminal and the SPTC was born.

In 2006, the SPTC only trained a small number of students.



Conceptual designs for the "CityScope" training facility with simulated businesses, residences and school.

However, once airport operations ceased and the State gained exclusive occupancy of approximately 723 acres of the former airport, student training began to "take off." Since then, the SPTC has seen significant growth with student utilization of the SPTC reaching an all-time high of more than 7,000 students in 2012.

"Training for Today...Building for Tomorrow"

The tagline for the State Preparedness Training Center – "Training for Today Building for Tomorrow" – sums up what has been going on at the SPTC since its inception in 2006. Guidance and support provided by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, as well as a State capital investment of \$42M, has resulted in a substantial increase in training projections and the development of a high-quality, robust training curriculum that addresses the most critical needs of New York's emergency responder communities in the most realistic of training venues.

This year, the SPTC is set to train 10,000 students either at the training center or via mobile delivery.

The most popular (and arguably best) programs delivered at the SPTC are a mix of functionally integrated, scenario-based training courses taught by subject matter experts and skilled instructors. Training courses use many different venues available at the SPTC and are

enhanced by professional Training Role Players that add to the realism that is the hallmark of SPTC-delivered training. By integrating various responder functional groups and regions, training at the SPTC supports the development of emergency response and preparedness capabilities for emergency responder agencies and communities across New York.

Recently, capital funding has been used for several site improvements:

- Infrastructure upgrades to the facility's main entrance (completed 2011)
- Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC) development, including runway and taxiway resurfacing and observation tower construction (completed 2011)
- Construction of a 10,000-square foot Field Operation Building to support EVOC training and other on-site training venues (completed 2013)
- "The Estates" residential trailer park, "The Village" post-disaster trailer park, and "The Camp Grounds" woodland training venues (completed 2012)

Currently under construction is one of the most exciting projects to be introduced at the SPTC – the "CityScope" project consists of constructing a state-of-the-art training venue, including simulated retail stores, businesses, a school, city-style apartments, a bank, courtroom, and interior shopping mall – much like a movie studio back lot. The project design also calls for camera systems, sound, lighting and other environmental special effects to create a realistic environment for use by traditional and non-traditional first responder communities.

Future plans call for the construction of a Weapons Training Complex, featuring an indoor tactical firing range and an indoor sniper range that provides training participants the ability to shoot up to .50 caliber weapons under various realistic training scenarios.

Visit the SPTC Today

First responders in New York State who are seeking to obtain the best training for various types of disasters and events need look no further than the New York State Preparedness Training Center. More information is available on the DHSES website at <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/training/#sptc> and on the SPTC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nysptc>. Call for more information at 315-768-5689 or send an email to SPTC@DHSES.NY.gov



Law enforcement officers train for room-clearing techniques at the SPTC's "Simunition" shoot-house.