

WNYF

**ICE Drill-
Dealing with a
New Reality-Terrorism**

The Whizzer Saw

**In-House Training
Forcible Entry**

**Risk Management and
Lightweight
Truss Construction**

Runs & Workers

**Special Apparatus
De-Watering Unit**

1st/98



WITH NEW YORK FIREFIGHTERS

Our Expanding Role

The role of firefighters in protecting lives and property in New York City continually is expanding and ever-changing. Our primary mission remains fire suppression, in conjunction with our efforts in fire prevention and fire safety education. But as emergency workers, our mandate is to offer our help to the city's residents whenever and wherever they need it: at building and scaffolding collapses, medical and utility emergencies, vehicular accidents and even terrorist attacks, such as the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993. Members of the Department provided an incredible level of service during that critically trying time for thousands of New Yorkers trapped inside the World Trade Center.

Although we hope never to have another such disaster here in New York City, there is no disputing the fact that the threat is real, evidenced by several recent domestic and international incidents (Oklahoma City and Tokyo). The fact is that we must be prepared for such an event.

To address these concerns, we sought and recently were awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of Justice to develop and implement a training program for first responders to incidents of terrorism featuring weapons of mass destruction, including chemical, biological, nuclear or explosive devices. This training, which currently is under way, was developed to coincide with nationwide training being conducted with fire and police departments by the Department of Defense.

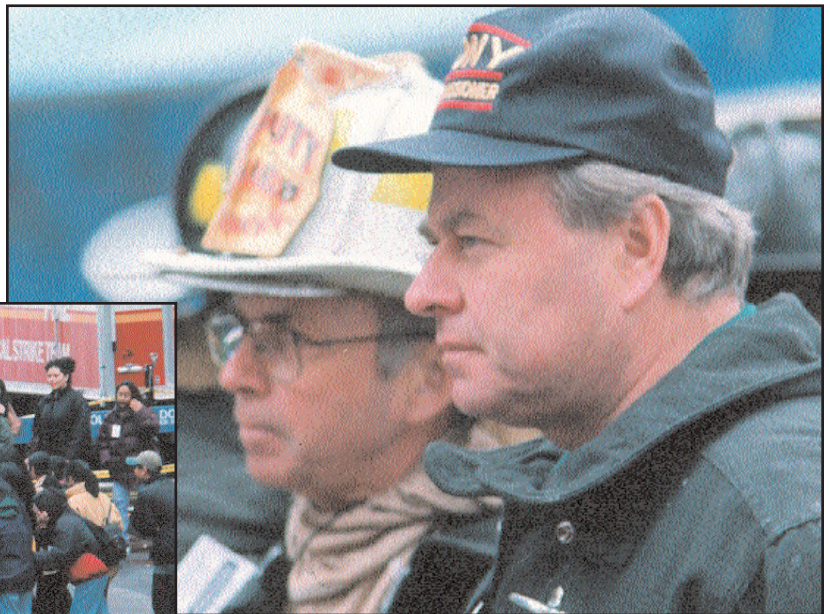
The primary objectives are to heighten the awareness of first responders to the possibility of various kinds of terrorist incidents and simultaneously train members in the proper response. Our members have built a reputation for their aggressive actions at fires and emergencies, which have resulted in saving

countless lives. But now we are dealing with a totally different situation, where rushing in to render immediate assistance may not be the most appropriate--or safest--response. This heightened awareness of evident and potential dangers is a central goal of the training, along with increasing the level of confidence members have in their training, specialized equipment and the command structure.

The training is being conducted by our Hazardous Materials personnel, under the supervision of Battalion Chief Jack Fanning. All members will receive training to various levels, with everyone receiving awareness training. A select group will receive training in donning and use of chemical protective clothing. A smaller group will receive training to the technician level and a specific group of Haz Mat members will be trained to the specialist level.

This is actually part of a growing consciousness throughout the job of the dangers associated with hazardous materials, which has been the focus of department training efforts in the past few years. The key to this program is *training*, which will keep us prepared and ready in the event of any emergency where we are called upon to save the lives of those we are committed to serve and protect.


Thomas Von Essen



Deputy Chief Stephen Hession and Commissioner Thomas Von Essen keep watchful eyes on the ICE drill activities of November 1997. See featured article that begins on page 2.

Photos by FF Tom McNulty

