



## **EAST CENTRAL PA REGIONAL TASK FORCE (ECTF)**

Press Release

### East Central PA Regional Task Force Assets

Bomb squads, Crime Scene Investigation Units, and Total Station GPS tracking devices all sound like the stuff of TV dramas, but for first responders in the East Central PA Regional Task Force they are the daily tools-of-the-trade that help to ensure the safety and security of the region. The Task Force Assets run the gamut from cutting-edge computerized equipment to highly-trained experts serving on HazMat Teams, Bomb Squads and SWAT Teams, and are housed at various Emergency Management Agencies across the region. Funding for these resources is provided in large part through the Department of Homeland Security, and all assets are available for use by the seven counties that comprise the Task Force.

Several recent events highlight the importance of these specialized Task Force Assets, and demonstrate the collaboration among all first responders in the 7-county region, encompassing Berks, Columbia, Montour, Luzerne, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Wyoming counties.

Paul Frouz, Director of the Northumberland County Department of Public Safety, shared examples of two such recent events. “Following a recent deadly vehicular accident in Northumberland County, the Police Department requested the Crime Scene Investigation Unit, housed at the Emergency Operations Center in Sunbury, to assist in the investigation. The trailer was deployed and equipment within the trailer, such as the Total Station GPS, was utilized to plot coordinates in the re-creation of the accident. In another recent event, the Reading Bomb Squad was called to assist in the investigation of a WW II bomb found in the basement of a Mt. Carmel home. The undetonated bomb was ultimately removed by the Bomb Squad for analysis and returned to the federal government.”

“Examples such as these point to the critical nature of the vital networking and resource-sharing among ECTF counties,” said Walter Peters III, Task Force Chair. “The Mission of the Task Force is to support the efforts of our member counties to effectively prepare, plan, respond and recover from actual or anticipated events for the more than one million citizens in our region. Task Force Assets such as state-of-the-art equipment and highly specialized teams allow our first-responders to avail themselves of the highest caliber capabilities and resources in responding to all types of emergent events. All of the Emergency Coordinators in our seven counties are aware of the various assets available for their use, and can request that these assets be deployed whenever the situation warrants their use. This regional collaboration is at the heart of our Task Force Mission of protecting our citizens.”

To learn more about the East Central PA Regional Task Force, please visit the website at [www.ectf.us](http://www.ectf.us).

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For Further Information Contact:

**Jan Kaskey**

East Central PA Regional Task Force

Public Information Officer

Phone: 570-963-0240

[jkaskey@cocciardi.com](mailto:jkaskey@cocciardi.com)