



Invitation and Registration Information

THE CONCEPT

The increased coordination of Bomb Squads, Explosive Detection Canine (EDC) Teams, and Tactical Teams is critical, given the complexity of recent events in New York State, across the United States, and throughout the world.

To continue to foster these partnerships, the NYS Division of Homeland Security is hosting the 2024 Excelsior Challenge, a training event for Bomb Technicians, EDC Handlers, and Tactical Team Operators at the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC).

Attendees will participate in a series of scenario-based activities to enhance operational coordination, communication, and integration among these three law enforcement specialty disciplines. These scenarios will be based on the current threat environment and will leverage the entire grounds of the SPTC.

THE BASICS

- **When: September 30-October 4, 2024**
 - Check-in at the SPTC will occur the morning of September 30.
 - The event will conclude mid-day on October 4.
- **Where: State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany, New York**
 - The SPTC is located at 5900 Airport Road, Oriskany, NY 13424.
- **Who: Bomb Technicians, EDC Handlers, and Tactical Team Operators from New York State**
 - **Bomb Technicians:** 3 per FBI-accredited Bomb Squad
 - **EDC Handlers:** Up to 2 per Law Enforcement Agency with EDC capabilities
 - **Note:** Given the advanced nature of this training, Law Enforcement Agencies are encouraged to consider sending experienced EDC Handlers to participate. EDC handlers that have participated in the 2024 Canine Week and/or previous Excelsior Challenge events may be prioritized during the registration process.
 - **Tactical Team Operators:** 3-4 per Law Enforcement Agency with a Tactical Team
- **Costs: No costs for New York State Participants.**
 - Meals and lodging (if qualified) will be provided.
 - Overtime/Backfill costs and other expenses may be allowable under federal homeland security grants provided by DHSSES. Please contact your DHSSES Grants Contracts Representative if you are interested in using funds for this purpose.
- **Questions:**
Please contact Meghan Dudley (meghan.dudley@dhSES.ny.gov), Katie Joel (katie.joel@dhSES.ny.gov), or Robert DellaRocco (robert.dellarocco@dhSES.ny.gov).

REGISTRATION

- Please register online via Survey Monkey using the following link:
<https://www.research.net/r/2024ExcelsiorChallengeParticipantRegistration>
- Registrations must be submitted by **September 9, 2024**. All participants should register using the link above.
- DHSES will select participants for this event and notifications will be made on (or about) September 12. A waitlist will be established after initial selections are made.

LODGING

- You are eligible for lodging through the SPTC if your residence and official work station are more than 50 miles from the SPTC and you are a State or local agency first responder.
- Lodging will be offered the nights of **September 30, October 1, October 2, and October 3**.
- **Important Note:** DHSES will reach out to approved participants under separate cover and provide you instructions on how to make your hotel reservations. Please wait for receipt of your confirmation email from DHSES (on/about September 12) before making your hotel reservations.

MEALS

- DHSES will cover lunch at the Center on September 30, October 1, October 2, and October 3. No dinners will be provided.

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- Participants will rotate through cutting-edge, contemporary training scenarios at this event, including:
 - Weaponized small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS)
 - Ambush at a Traffic Stop with Weapons and Explosives with a Secondary Response
 - Remoted-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (RCIED) Response
 - Tripwire Devices at a Camp Site
 - Response to a High-Speed Vehicle Crash with Explosive Elements
 - Election Day Security Preparations
 - Discipline-Specific Scenarios for Bomb Squads, EDC Teams, and Tactical Teams

Each scenario will have associated discipline-specific skills lanes to reinforce core scenario activities.

- The Excelsior Challenge will reinforce training objectives highlighted during other major training events, including Canine Week, Tactical Week, and the Raven's Challenge. It will also address key themes and issues discussed during the annual Bomb Squad Symposium, Explosive Detection Canine Handlers Conference, and Tactical Team Leadership Forum hosted by DHSES in Saratoga Springs.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE 2024 EXCELSIOR CHALLENGE!