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**Montco Sheriff's Bomb Unit trains to prepare for Papal Visit**

**Norristown, Pa., (August 12, 2015)** – Montgomery County Sheriff Russell Bono is making sure that his Bomb Unit is well prepared for the Philadelphia Papal Visit in September, with the help of the District Attorney's Office Detective Bureau and Arcadia University. All three organizations collaborated on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 to run through likely scenarios that may be encountered during the international event.

Sheriff Bono emphasized that every threat and suspicious package will be taken seriously.

"Our Bomb Unit covers a large territory – Montgomery, Bucks and Chester Counties – so preparation is critical. If we make a mistake, we want to make it here," said Bono. "My job is to make sure they are well trained and are safe."

Bomb Unit Commander Lt. Allen Stewart led the teams through the training scenario that started with the discovery of a suspicious package in a crowd on the corner of City and Belmont Avenues in Philadelphia. Detectives were then called to investigate the scene. Evidence traced the "suspect" to the Crime Scene House where a search warrant was executed. Several booby traps had been set outside and inside the house, which included pipe bombs in an alcove and closet, an explosive unit hidden in a purse, and explosive activation devices hidden under a doormat and a pile of leaves. The Bomb Unit then went from room to room carefully disconnecting wires, slicing through layers of the purse and collecting pipe bombs.

Bomb Unit Dep. Andrew Noto, who helped set up the traps and observed the training said this is a great way to step back and review what was done, and to plan for improvements in preparation for real-life scenarios.

Megan Boll, a technician at NMS Labs was also on hand to explain research results from a prior pipe bomb experiment with the bomb unit, and how the results may help determine best practices for collection and investigation during events such as the Papal Visit.

The Bomb Unit training took place during National Forensic Science Week at Arcadia University, which was organized by forensic science instructor Kimberlee Moran, who also helps manage the Crime Scene House.

Learn more about the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office at [sheriff.montcopa.org](http://sheriff.montcopa.org) The MCSO is also on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/montcosheriff](http://www.facebook.com/montcosheriff) and **Twitter** @MontCoPASheriff.



PHOTO: (1) Bomb Unit technician slices through a purse containing an explosive device. (2) Detective collects blood samples from inside the house.

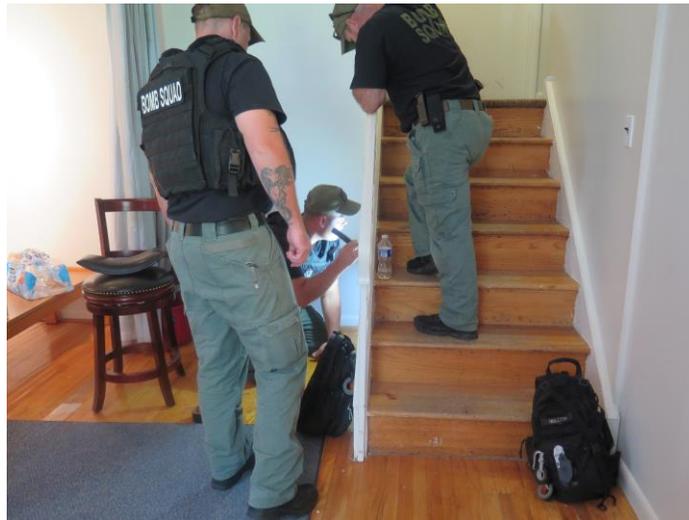


PHOTO: Bomb Unit technicians search an alcove for suspicious packages.

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