

Major equipment used by the SRG Bomb Response Team

The dangerous nature of explosive ordnance demands the very best in equipment and technology. The SRG Bomb Response Team deploys a range of state-of-the-art equipment.

Bomb response robots

The SRG Bomb Response Team has six robotic platforms, each with a specific task. The different capabilities cover off on the range of possible tasks that may be encountered. Some are suited to different terrains, from the urban environment to the jungle. Others are suited to traverse through houses, while some are ideally suited to confined spaces such as ducts or sewer drains and aircraft, buses and trains.

The robots are highly innovative in their response to a task. That could be supporting a negotiator with a stronghold food drop or providing communications. The on-board communications systems on each platform allow operators to speak through the robots and to hear back through them.

Operators can use robots to carry things forward like mobile phones. The robots can sit on task for many hours and conduct static surveillance of a stronghold. They can be situated forward of where a human would normally be to avoid endangering human life. The largest SRG robot, the tEODor, has a range of



The tEODor bomb response robot is the largest of the AFP's six platforms.

A tEODor bomb response robot changes tools by remote control.





The trailer-mounted total containment chamber can safely confine a detonation of hazardous explosive materials.

electrical tools such as a drill or grinder that can be changed remotely by an operator.

The robots assist other specialist capabilities to gather intelligence and feed it back to the forward commander to make assessments. They have a chemical-biological role where they can move into areas that don't support human life. They can also act as extraction tools if a person is injured inside an inner cordon. The robot can be deployed forward and drag a person out.

Explosives containment chamber

The total containment chamber provides the SRG Bomb Response Team with a mobile blast container that can withstand multiple detonations of several kilograms.

It can be operated from a remote distance when used in conjunction with robotic platforms, providing an added layer of protection to operators, first responders and infrastructure.

It is completely mobile and can be towed to remove devices to safe areas for detonation. It is gas-tight and provides protection against lethal toxicity. Gases can be sampled remotely after a detonation to ensure they can be safely released into the environment.

The unit has a number of operating mechanisms, providing the police bomb technician with options on deployment and risk mitigation for the human controller. These include large external switches on the external casing of the container that allow for complete automation by robotic vehicle use only.

The containment chamber can be controlled remotely by wireless control systems to provide standoff distance and safety when robotics can't be used. The containment chamber can also be operated through

fibre-optic systems. This allows continued use where the wireless signal is not sufficient to maintain operation due to the surrounding environment or through the use of other specialist equipment.

The specialised features of the total containment chamber ensure a multi-faceted response capability, suitable for chemical, biological, radiological and explosive incidents.

Explosive ordnance disposal suits

The SRG Bomb Response Team has two types of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) suits in service. The EOD9 ballistic suit is the tried-and-true suit used by bomb response technicians for render-safe operations. The AFP recently purchased a number of lightweight EODTac-6 ballistic suits for use by Bomb Appraisal Officers. The AFP is the first police service in the world to deploy this particular suit and helmet configuration.

The lightweight EODTac-6 is ideally suited to Bomb Appraisal Officer operations inside confined spaces such as aircraft where the bulkier EOD9 suit is less suited to the role. This particular suit-helmet configuration was developed in the last two years.

The suit is modular in design and the arm, elbow and leg components can be swapped to better suit an individual operator. The AFP therefore only needed to buy a certain number of suits with additional componentry to fit out the entire team.

Acting Officer in Charge of SRG Specialist Response Disciplines Mark Holmes says while the EODTac-6 is ideally suited to aviation policing, it potentially has many other uses. These include home-made explosive labs, chemical, biological and radiological operations, and search activities in a possible IED threat environment.