

26 September 2006

NORTH SYDNEY SES SUPPORTS TERRORIST DRILL

North Sydney SES took part in a major anti-terrorism exercise in Sydney last week. Operation Blue Luminary was held at Sydney Airport on Wednesday (20 September) and Thursday (21 September) and involved more than 200 personnel from the NSW Police tactical operations unit and the Australian Defence Force.

The team from North Sydney SES used moulage on casualties that were put aboard a Qantas plane where a simulated terrorist raid and siege took place. Moulage is the art of applying specialised make-up to replicate a range of injuries and medical conditions. The North Sydney SES volunteers, Merrel Smith and Jacinta Gale, spent two evenings simulating injuries true to the scenario that unfolded over the 72 hours. The casualties stayed aboard HMAS Manoora, based at Garden Island, and were 'made-up' before being transported to the airport for the exercise.

"It was great for us to play a role in such a major exercise that involved hundreds of Police, Defence and Emergency personnel," said Merrel Smith. "With moulage we were able to contribute to the realism of the operation, by making up casualties with injuries ranging from facial lacerations and broken arms to gun shot wounds."

"We use moulage widely for exercises and rescue competitions and it was great to be able to support the anti-terrorism exercise. The injuries were even a focal point in some of the television news coverage of the operation."

SES recruits are highly trained professional volunteers. For emergency assistance during a storm or flood call the SES on 132 500.

For further information contact:

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