MEETING MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL BREACHERS GROUP
TECHNICAL AND SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(IBG-TSAC)
14 MAY 2025

Attendees: Mr. Alan Brosnan, CEO/ IBG Board of Directors
Ms. Pam Vaughan, Secretary / IBG Board of Directors
Mr. Jeremy Borchardt, Dallas Police Department – SWAT (TSAC Chairperson)
Mr. Trent O'Brien, International Breachers Group (TSAC Secretary)
Mr. Jim Clements, Cranfield University (TSAC Member)
Dr. Rebecca Ivory Phd, Tactical Psychiatry (TSAC Member)
Mr. Jan Hoffman, Federal Border Police of Germany – GSG9 (TSAC Member)
Mr. Jason Follett, Little Rock Police Department – SWAT (TSAC Member)
Mr. Chris Grace, Queensland Police Service – SERT (TSAC Member)

Apologies: Mr. John Cook, International Breachers Group (TSAC Member)

Absent: None.

Time: 2030h UTC

Agenda (distributed at approximately on 17Apr2025)

1. Accepting the minutes
2. Accepting the ToRs
3. Confirming the Chair, Secretary and Members.
4. Defining the 2025 work plan.
5. AOB
6. Chairperson to set next meeting and Adjourn

1. Opening by IBG Director Mr. Alan Brosnan

IBG CEO Mr. Alan Brosnan opens the inaugural meeting of IBG Technical & Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), thanking attendees for the time and effort in contributing to the establishment of this committee and providing a history of the IBG and explaining the aim of the TSAC.

2. Introductions

Mr. Alan Brosnan opens the floor for introductions by all attendees and conveys an apology for the absence of Mr. John Cook, who is engaged in a training activity. Mr. Chris Grace provided his introduction and was accepted as a Committee Member.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Jason Follet provided his introduction and experience, and was accepted as a Committee Member.

3. Acceptance of previous Meeting Minutes (16 Apr 2025)

Mr. Jeremy Bourchardt proposed the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as distributed. Dr. Rebecca Ivory seconded the proposal with no objections.

4. Acceptance of the TSAC Terms of Reference

Mr. Trent O'Brien provided a summary of the TSAC ToRs and proposed that the TSAC ToRs be accepted as distributed. Mr. Alan Brosnan seconded the proposal with no objections.

5. Appointment of Executive Roles within the Committee – Secretary

Mr. Trent O'Brien provided an overview of the workload and roles of Chairperson and Secretary. Mr. Trent O'Brien proposed himself for the position of TSAC Secretary and called for other nominations. With no other nominations, Mr.

Bouchardt seconded the proposal with no objections. **Mr. Trent O'Brien is appointed as the *TSAC Secretary* by IBG Director, Mr. Alan Brosnan.**

6. Appointment of TSAC Chairperson

Mr. Trent O'Brien proposed Mr. Jeremy Bouchardt as TSAC Chairperson and called for other nominations. With no other nominations, Mr. Jim Clements seconded the proposal with no objections. **Mr. Jeremy Bouchardt is appointed as the TSAC Chairperson by IBG Director, Mr. Alan Brosnan.**

7. Define the TSAC Annual Workplan 2025

The TSAC Secretary outlined the task and provided examples, including Census review, endorsing TSAC safety standards for blast overpressure (BOP) exposure, or selecting priority briefings for the IBG Symposium.

Dr. Ivory proposed establishing best practices for monitoring BOP exposure, outlining her ability to draw on observations and experiences in monitoring various US military research projects.

Mr. Brosnan proposed a project to define the minimum requirements for a qualified or certified competent explosive breacher, defining minimum competencies.

Mr. OBrien provided an overview of the process for performance analysis in identifying those competencies (knowledge, skills & attitudes) that exist commonly among all programs, and to drive industry change, by adopting a '*Good, Better, Best*' approach to guidelines, and terminology of '*may, should*, or *shall*' as is commonly used by industry groups.

In answer to a query by Mr. Brosnan, Mr. Clements explained a 3-week requirement (120hrs) for law enforcement explosive breaching in the United Kingdom, assuming the participants possess prerequisite experience in other forms of mechanical and ballistic breaching at the team level.

Mr. Hoffman explains a 5-week "basic breachers course" in Germany, including a full range of breaching options from mechanical, ballistic, and power tools to hydraulic, thermal, and explosive.

Mr. Brosnan asks the group to be mindful that while our initial efforts may prioritize standards for explosive methods of entry, our ultimate goal should be to include all methods of entry, common to the industry personnel that we represent.

Mr. Hoffman asked which other groups could be included in the research to establish these guidelines. IBG discussed the possibility of inviting any and all other groups that we believe can contribute meaningfully to the efforts. One current example we can incorporate could include blast specialists from AirBoss Defense. AirBoss Defense maintains ongoing cooperation with the IBG and continues to work with SOCOM and NATO working groups, as well as the ANZCTC on blast overpressure monitoring.

Dr. Ivory explains projects she is currently monitoring, including tri-service EOD Schools, Navy, and Army SOF projects that drive broader DoD mandatory requirements.

Mr. OBrien proposes the Work Plan for 2025 of the IBG/TSAC to be:

Priority One – Review and discuss Census data

Priority Two – Establish best practice safety thresholds for Blast OverPressure (BOP)

Priority Three – Benchmarking minimum competencies for a tactical explosive breacher

Priority Four – Map minimum competencies for a tactical breaching in all methods of entry

TSAC Chairperson accepts the proposal and calls for a second. Mr. Hoffman seconded the proposal with no objections.

8. AOB

Secretary opens AOB with a request for the support of TSAC Members to provide some information to enable publication of a quarterly journal. The IBG Journal intends to publish an AAR/Case Study, a Charge Calculation challenge, and an equipment review in each edition. **TSAC Members are requested to provide one each of a case study, a charge calculation and an equipment item review to the Secretary before the next meeting in August. The Secretary will provide an example of each.**

The Secretary reminds the committee that there is currently an open position on the TSAC to bring the committee to full strength. In calling for nominations, the committee should consider the geographic and technical representation that is most needed within the committee. **TSAC Members are requested to propose candidates for nomination.**

Mr. Grace calls for interest in incorporating Human Behavior clinicians, in cooperation with 'Wim Hoff research' and breathing techniques that may provide protective barriers to blast exposure. Additionally, Mr. Grace is requesting

any updates on blast gauge technology, given a pending procurement of new equipment in Australia. **Dr. Ivory and Mr. OBrien provide Mr. Grace with additional information and POC at AirBoss Defense for emerging blast gauge technologies.**

Dr. Ivory just finalized a research study linking 4 PSI exposures to sleep apnea and suicide and will distribute the study to the committee for further reading ahead of pending discussions within the TSAC Workplan to develop best practices.

Dr. Ivory research group is calling for interested groups to trial the usefulness/applicability of a Blast Estimator Tool. This tool was developed by the research group in consultation with various US military SOF Units, as a field expedient estimator of pressure exposure requiring follow-on medical care.

7. Chairperson to set next meeting and Adjourn

The Chairperson closes with a word of caution to the group, emphasizing the second- and third-order effects that industry groups can have and the power that publishing guidelines can wield. The TSAC should be mindful that efforts to establish standards and guidelines should not limit the options of individual breachers; instead, they should focus on enhancing the safety of breaching personnel and enabling their mission success.

Mr. Bouchardt closed the meeting at 2108h, 14May2025-UTC.