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

Attendees: Mr. Alan Brosnan, CEO/ IBG Board of Directors
Mr. Trent O'Brien, International Breachers Group (TSAC Secretary)
Mr. Jim Clements, Cranfield University (TSAC Member)
Dr. Rebecca Ivory DNP, Tactical Psychiatry (TSAC Member)
Mr. John Cook, International Breachers Group (TSAC Observer)

Apologies: Mr. Jeremy Borchardt, Dallas Police Department – SWAT (TSAC Chairperson)
Mr. Jan Hoffman, Federal Border Police of Germany – GSG9 (TSAC Member)
Mr. Chris Grace, Queensland Police Service – SERT (TSAC Member)

Absent: Mr. Jason Follett, Little Rock Police Department – SWAT (TSAC Member)

Time: 2000h UTC

Agenda (distributed 02Sep2025)

- Review of the IBG Survey Results
- -Discuss nominations for IBG/TSAC vacancies
- Symposium Cancellation
- TSAC Breacher Competencies/Programs

1. Opening by IBG Director Mr. Alan Brosnan

Meeting was opened by the IBG Director in the absence of the TSAC Chair.

2. Apologies and Attendance

Mr. Trent O'BRIEN informed the committee that several members of the committee apologies due to work and personal commitments they could not attend.

3. Acceptance of previous Meeting Minutes (14May2025)

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

4. TSAC Task-01 Presentation of results from International Breachers Census 2024

Mr. OBrien presented the findings of the Census 2024 with the following notable statistics:

- Recognizing the support of the NTOA in distributing the Census 2024; 758 teams responded in total.
- 82% from State and Local Law Enforcement/less than 10% Coalition Military and govt contractors.
- US Mid-West, South-East and North-East represent 2/3rds of all respondent teams.
- Explosive Breachers are a specialty skill within the Breaching cell in 60% of respondent teams; while only 3% of respondent teams allow some explosive breaching capability to all team members.
- 30% of respondent teams maintain only two or less Explosive Breachers while Unit size is largely between 10-30 entry personnel (75% of respondents globally)
- 15% of US respondent teams comprise less than 10 entry personnel, compared to other European teams which all exceed 40 entry personnel. This highlights the significant responsibility that is often placed on a single Breacher for many operational call outs.
- Only 20% of teams are authorized to conduct an explosive breach based on the Breachers decision (in time-critical circumstances); while a tactical commander or senior leaders approval is required in over 75% of circumstances throughout the US.

    - Approximately 40% of respondent teams have not conducted an operational explosive breach within the three year operational period surveyed, while less than 5% of teams use it on a regular basis (over 12 events per year)
    - The overwhelming majority of teams do not routinely use multiple breach points when employing eMOE.
- Approximately 16% of respondent teams globally have no current pre-made charges ready for deployment, with conversely approx. 20% of teams across all regions, possessing charges ready to deploy in 'on duty' patrol vehicles.
- Almost 30% of operationally fired charges globally comprising of firehose and linear blast charges followed by hockey puck and water tamped linear charges as less than 10% each.
- 2/3rds of respondent teams have access to and use sheet explosives with less than 1/3 having access to water frames for solid/filled wall shots; while 20% of teams responded that they have electric detonators in their inventory.
- 30-40% of teams by region currently have a capacity to place breaching charges using autonomous vehicles.
- 50% of respondent teams globally do not have full face respiratory protection currently.
- 50% of respondent teams do not wear blast gauges nor record blast overpressure exposures of their personnel.
- Approx. 15-20% of teams train only 2-3 times per year, or less
- Alan identifies an emerging interest in Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for carrying breaching charges in circumstances where approaching the strong hold presents too significant a risk.
- Alan identifies several recent potential hostage rescue case studies from SAPOL, Australia and reiterated the importance of using multiple breach points on hostage rescue operations.
- Dr. Ivory advised that she is currently involved in development of a 1-page 'over-pressure estimator' process for recording BOP exposure in routine training, and further suggests using the IBG Chat as a means of providing 'hip pocket' training and tutorials on key topics like this, within the breaching community.

Action Points

- **TSAC Secretary to reshare the link to the CENSUS 2024 to all committee members**
- **TSAC Secretary to reach out and request SAPOL to provide a case study presentation**
- **Dr. Ivory to present at the next TSAC Meeting on blast over pressure management, for the purpose of recording and presenting in the IBG Signal Chat soon after.**
- **Secretary to draw out contact information where possible for those organizations reporting a major injury, and those reporting the use of eMOE due to suspicion of booby traps or IEDs at the breach point.**
- **Secretary to submit an article publishing findings of the Census 2024, to the NTOA magazine and for more detailed presentation at the Symposium**

5. Task-03 – Mapping Tactical Breacher Competencies and training programs globally

Mr. OBRIEN presents a draft template for mapping competencies in the various breaching qualification programs throughout the world. **All committee members are requested to complete the spreadsheet adding any additional necessary competencies for discussion at the next TSAC meeting. These submissions can be emailed to IBG-TSAC@proton.me and will be stored for access by committee members on the designated encrypted cloud drive (Sync).**

6. TSAC-02 – Developing a TSAC Position Paper on common Tactical Breaching Considerations

Dr. Ivory provided information that there will be some emerging research in the coming months regarding new BOP guidance from research by US special operations forces. **Dr. Ivory to present these findings in the next meeting. TSAC Secretary to distribute a draft position paper for further discussion at the next meeting. Mr. CLEMENTS to provide brief outline of sound monitoring guidelines in UK, driven by UK law.**

8. AOB

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. Brosnan explained the decision to cancel the 2025 International Breaching Symposium due to low confirmed attendance and other commitments. IBG Symposium 2026 to be conducted at Polk County, Florida with dates adjusted to better reflect US domestic public sector budget cycles.

9. Outstanding Tasks:

a) TSAC Members are requested to provide one each of a case study, a charge calculation and an equipment item review to the Secretary as soon as possible for inclusion in the IBG quarterly newsletter.
b) Mr. Grace to explore options for a recorded interview with 'Wim Hoff research' and breathing techniques that may provide protective barriers to blast exposure.
c) 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.

7. Chairperson to set next meeting and Adjourn

The meeting was closed by Mr. Alan Brosnan (chairperson a.i.) at 2125h, 10Sep2025-UTC.