

# **Bomb Incident Management**

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**Don Williams CPP, MIExpE**

# **AIM**

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**Improved ability to manage  
bomb incidents.**

**As per:**

**Protection of Assets Manual**

**Vol 2 Chap 1 Part II**

**"Assessment: Bomb Incident  
Management"**

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# Don Williams CPP

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- ❑ **Qualifications in security, risk, resource management,**
  - ❑ **25 years consulting experience to public and private sectors,**
  - ❑ **Bomb Technician,**
  - ❑ **Bomb Risk Manager for the 2000 Olympics,**
  - ❑ **MIExpE, IABTI, SPAAL, VMA/IAAM**
  - ❑ **Author of bomb incident chapter in Protection of Assets Manual and main contributing on bomb risks to SRMBOK.**
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# Bomb Incidents

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## Incident

- Unattended Items
- Threats
- Bombs
  - hoax devices,
  - mail bombs,
  - suicide bombs,
  - vehicle bombs, etc
- Post Blast

## Likelihood



# Difficult decision

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- ❑ **A bomb incident is not a fire.**
  - ❑ **It is a managerial decision based on the best information available in the time available** (little information + little time).
  - ❑ **Balancing known costs and possible costs.**
  - ❑ **What are the questions /decisions?**
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# Ability to Bomb/Threaten

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- Motive**  
to kill or scare
  - Material**  
to cause an explosion or threat
  - Knowledge**  
to make and deploy
  - Opportunity**  
to attack or threaten
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# Motive

CANBERRA TIMES 19/03/2009

## G-G bomb hoaxer obeying 'voice'

By Noel Towell  
Legal Affairs Reporter

A Canberra woman was obeying a voice in her head when she made a bomb threat that forced the evacuation of the governor-general's residence, a court heard yesterday.

Major-General Michael Jeffery and 80 members of the Cavalier Musical Society were enjoying a Sunday afternoon musical recital at Government House in August 2007 when they were forced to flee the Yarralumla mansion.

The woman who made the call, 35-year-old Tamara Mary Batterham, went on trial yesterday accused of the three bomb hoaxes against Government House and other bomb threats to Parliament House, the Prime Minister's residence the Lodge, and the US Embassy.

The ACT Supreme Court heard



**SAFETY FIRST:**  
Former governor-general Michael Jeffery had to evacuate his residence.

yesterday that the mentally disturbed woman called the governor-general's Yarralumla residence just before 5pm on Sunday, August 26, and told a protective services officer that there was a bomb in the grounds that was set to explode two hours later.

After Major-General Jeffery and his guests were evacuated, Australian Federal Police spent three hours combing the house and grounds using explosives sniffer dogs before declaring the area safe about 7.30pm.

In court yesterday, Chief Justice Terence Higgins told the jury of 10 women and two men that the main issue of the trial was to determine the mental capacity of Batterham, who is facing seven charges of phoning bomb threats to the five buildings between March 2007 and March 2008.

Batterham was arrested five hours after she made the call by officers who arrived at her Holt unit after tracing her number through Telstra.

The court was played a video of the subsequent interview with police, conducted in the presence of Batterham's carer, in which she told detectives that a voice in her head told her to make the calls.

Batterham told her interrogators that she had long been tormented by a persistent and hostile male voice in her head that she called George.

"He often cranks up and tells

me to do this and do that," Batterham told police.

"He said 'why don't you do something exciting with your life, threaten someone?'"

Batterham told the detectives that George initially suggested hoaxing Parliament House but she told him that it was closed before the voice told her to call Major-General Jeffery's house.

"Why would I do that?" she said she replied.

"I don't even know the governor-general."

She told detectives that she meant no harm to Major-General Jeffery and wanted to apologise to the governor-general.

"I didn't want to upset or scare anyone, it was just so George would shut up," she said.

"I'm sorry that it happened but I just couldn't fight George any more."

The trial continues today.

# Prevention

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- Good Security - keep public to public areas.**
  - Keep areas tidy so that you can see what belongs there.**
  - Be aware of changing situations and threats.**
  - Make staff aware of evacuation routes, etc.**
  - Maintain a level of bomb awareness.**
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# The 5 R's

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- Receive**
  - Record**
  - Report**
  - Review**
  - Respond**
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# Review

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- Who has the responsibility?**
  - Assess hazard posed by incident?**
  - What information is available?**
  - What more is needed?**
  - When to communicate with staff? (Particularly those that know about incident)**
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# Review of an Unidentified Item

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- **What information is available?**
    - **Witnesses for the item and related activity**
    - **CCTV**
    - **Access Control records**
    - **FoH staff and contractors**
    - **Internal reports, Media, police links, etc i.e. what is happening?**
    - **?**
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# Decision:

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- Does item pose a hazard?**
  - If hazardous = evacuate.**
    - Distance and shelter!**
    - How, where, when?**
    - Children, infirm, etc?**
    - Not the same as a fire!**
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# Review of a Threat

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- What information to work on?**
    - Bomb threat check list?**
    - Witness who took the call?**
    - Search of the area?**
    - CCTV, access control records?**
    - Other?**
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# Question

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- Not: “Is the threat real”, it is a real threat.**
  - Rather: “Can the perpetrator have done that which they claim?”**
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# Credibility?

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- Is there any information that may be true in the threat?**
  - How much knowledge of the site does the threat exhibit?**
  - Is it possible for the bomb to be where stated?**
  
  - When to make decision = time calculation.**
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# Factors

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- Security status of site?**
  - General housekeeping and tidying?**
  - Accuracy of information on threat or found item?**
  - Time of day and current activities?**
  - Other factors relevant to the site?**
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# Decision:

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- If possible = evacuate.**
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# Evacuation Considerations

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- Alternate routes and sites?**
  - Full or Partial?**
  - Shut-down considerations?**
  - Secondary hazards?**
  - Security during evacuation?**
  - Reoccupation?**
  - Hold in place option?**
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# **Related disciplines:**

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- Emergency Management**
  - Facility management**
  - Business continuity**
  - Environmental management**
  - OH&S**
  - HR management/Legal**
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# **Bomb Incident Management**

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- ❑ Management problem;**
- ❑ Limited information and limited time;**
- ❑ Sensible and relevant procedures to inform the decisions.**

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# Panel discussion

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