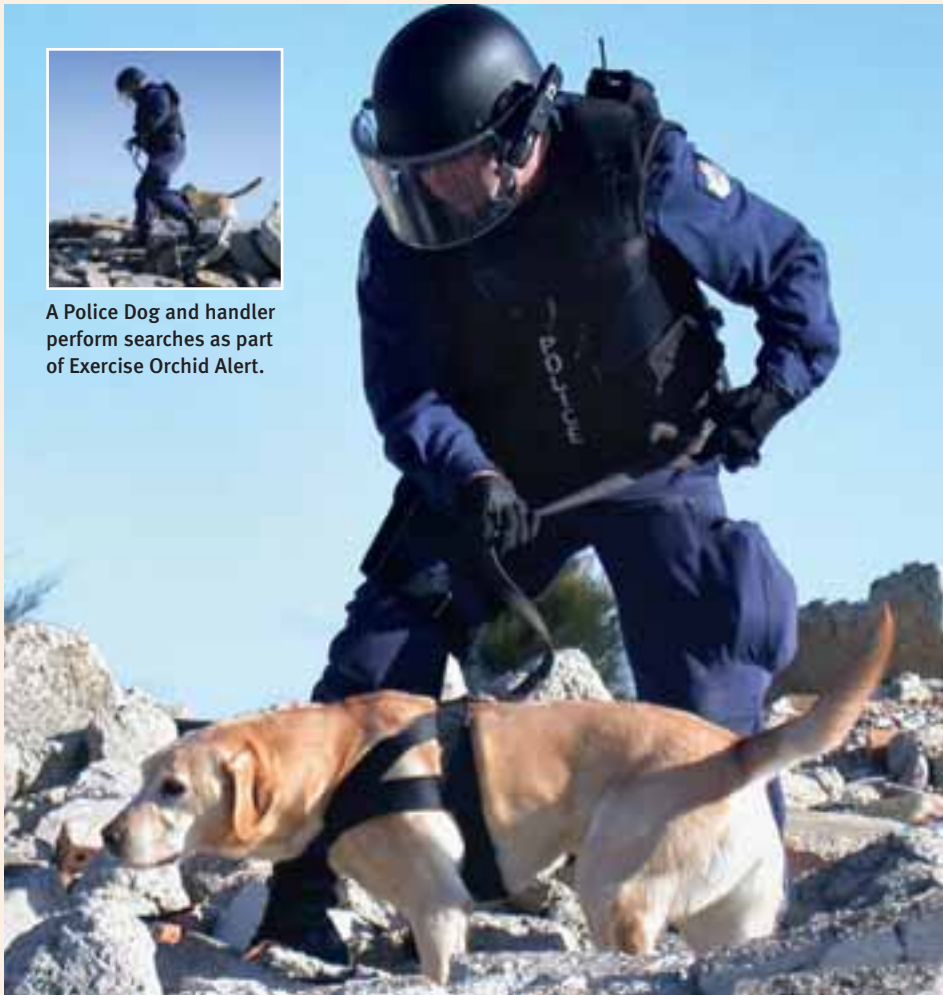


# STATE READY TO COUNTER TERRORISM

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A Police Dog and handler perform searches as part of Exercise Orchid Alert.

management arrangements during an incident that was clearly orchestrated through an act of terrorism.

Inspector Greg Carnes, Queensland Police Service Counter Terrorism Coordination Unit said the lessons learned from Orchid Alert would be identified through a series of exercise de-briefs.

"However, the exercise highlighted that Queensland was in a strong position to respond to and manage terrorist incidents.

"Each agency will report on their involvement during Orchid Alert through their respective chains of command. These reports along with umpire reports and de-brief points will form the basis of a jurisdictional report to the NCTC during December 2005," Inspector Carnes said.

The Federal Attorney-General's Department of Protective Security Coordination Centre managed Exercise Orchid Alert, which had an allocated budget of \$500,000.

Local, District and State Disaster Management arrangements were tested along with command, control, coordination and release of public information through the QPS and State Crisis Centre.

Commissioner Bob Atkinson said the exercise tested command and control aspects of dealing with a major incident, the investigative response, coordination and inter-operability between agencies at state and commonwealth levels, management of the disaster, the recovery process of returning evacuated members of the community and returning services to normal.

The next exercise in Queensland will be held during December 2006. ■

A hypothetical bombing attack on Brisbane's CBD has shown Queensland is in a strong position to respond to and manage terrorist incidents.

Just days after London's July 7 Underground bombings, Queensland authorities faced a similar simulated scenario with a major building destroyed, communication lines severed and a climbing death toll.

In a picture reminiscent of the London attacks, the scenario was written six

months earlier and was played out in July as part of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee's (NCTC) ongoing training, development and exercise program.

Exercise Orchid Alert was held in Brisbane and surrounding areas and incorporated desktop exercises, supporting activities and a major deployment exercise over three weeks in Brisbane and surrounding areas.

It offered a unique opportunity to test Queensland's crisis and consequence