

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE RAPID DEPLOYMENT TEAMS BENEFIT FROM GROUNDTRUTH TRAINING

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The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working with consultancy firm GroundTruth to enhance the service it provides British nationals abroad in times of crisis. GroundTruth has developed uniquely experiential training courses around crisis management for the FCO's rapid deployment teams to help develop their skills, promote teamwork and ensure people manage and thrive in difficult situations abroad. GroundTruth, a pioneering UK-based organisation, offers consultancy and dedicated training to optimise human performance in hostile environments.

Helping and advising British nationals abroad is one of the FCO's key services. In emergency situations, rapid deployment teams of FCO volunteers will be drafted in from its three key offices in London, Washington and Hong Kong to support British nationals caught up in crises around the world, such as natural disasters, terrorism or plane crashes. In these circumstances, rapid deployment teams need to get on the ground quickly, assess the crisis and work with the local embassy to provide assistance to British nationals, and if necessary, support evacuation procedures.

Chris Wall, Rapid Deployment Team Manager said, "It is vital that our rapid deployment team volunteers are prepared for any situation when they are deployed abroad. The FCO has worked with GroundTruth over the last five years to create training courses that provide our volunteers with realistic exposure to crisis management scenarios and promote the development of practical skills to manage the people they come across in such situations."

GroundTruth worked closely with the FCO to develop courses that assimilate scenarios faced by the rapid deployment teams around the globe, ensuring that maximum training value is delivered. By placing teams in unfamiliar and difficult circumstances and providing pressure from several different sources such as immigration issues, lack of communications or violent confrontations, the course works to develop teamwork and mutual support strategies.

Chris Wall explained, "The benefit of the practical exposure offered by the GroundTruth courses is invaluable to our teams. The creativity and attention to detail helps develop realistic expectations about the challenges they face as volunteers and are better prepared for providing crisis management. In addition, we are providing duty of care to our employees by educating them in the pressures and potential hostilities they may face."

"We work closely with our clients to create and adapt courses for organisations that are passionately committed to their people. We devote our time and experience to building a relationship with our clients understanding their requirements and delivering against expectations," said Jon Goodwill of GroundTruth.