

Western National Robot Rodeo™ May 22-25, 2017



Description

Expert operators from both military and civilian bomb squads and other public safety organizations use advanced skills to maneuver Hazardous Duty Robots in challenging, real-world scenarios. In partnership, Los Alamos National Labs and Sandia National Labs are conducting the 11th Annual Western National Robot Rodeo™.

This WNRR™ allows active members of bomb squads and other public safety organizations to test new products and provide instant, on-site feedback (i.e., as part of an Operational Evaluation) to vendors, event facilitators, and sponsors. Participants and vendors alike have mentioned how useful this opportunity has been for them. Former TSWG representative Tony Detrick said, “*The WNRR is an excellent opportunity to ‘test drive’ new technology with existing capabilities in real world scenarios that help to identify current and new technology capability gaps.*” The event also provides an opportunity for participants to network with other bomb technicians and exchange information and techniques.

Scenarios

The events were designed to include the following major areas that contribute to real-world concerns:

- IED and VBIED Disablement
- CONOPS
- TTPs – Tools, Techniques, and Procedures
- Triage
- Transportation – Planes, Trains, and Automobiles
- Operator Proficiency

10th Anniversary Event

The 2016 Western National Robot Rodeo took place at Los Alamos National Lab. Eight teams attended, including two EOD teams, members of state and local police bomb squads from across the US. Dave Heaven, a former advisor to the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB) who spent time observing multiple WNRR™’s said, “*Participants at the Western National Robot Rodeo were very enthusiastic about getting to try out new robot technologies, and NBSCAB will benefit from this in their work to identify technology requirements across the spectrum of challenges being presented to bomb squads in the U.S.*”

Events

The Western National Robot Rodeo is a five-day, 10 event technical competition that includes scenarios like:

- Vehicle-Borne IED
- IED in a Culvert
- X-Ray ToolKit® (XTK) Scenarios
- Obstacle Course
- Airplane Search
- Field Diagnosis of a “Sick” Robot
- Mobile Drug Lab
- Smoke-filled Building and Night Ops
- Emergency Medical Triage
- Live-Fire Maneuvers
- Operator Proficiency



Benefits

- Provides challenging training environment
- Modeled after real-world events and scenarios
- Forces teams to push the boundaries of their comfort level with their tools and capabilities
- Allows teams to have fun event and fully engage all team members
- Offers exposure to new technologies and tools
- Provides camaraderie and networking opportunities
- Practice, practice, practice, ...



Contact Information

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Subject: Western National Robot Rodeo
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www.sandia.gov/robotrodeo