

## Resume for Wendell Hissrich:

### FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / HAZMAT / FIRE RESCUE

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Career FBI supervisory special agent and unit chief with a quarter century experience in successful development and implementation of law enforcement services. Strategic management of the FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) program for field coordination in the 56 field divisions with a focus on WMD operational response and investigations, both domestically and internationally. Previously served as the Acting Unit Chief of the Training Unit in the WMD Directorate (WMDD). Maintains numerous top secret security clearances.

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### EXPERIENCE

#### Federal Bureau of Investigation

1990-present

#### **Chief of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate (WMDD) Operations Response Unit (ORU)** FBI Headquarters Washington

WMDD ORU consists of eight supervisory special agents, four management and program analysts, one office service specialist, contract support personnel and interagency detailees from the U.S. Capitol Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, United States Secret Service and National Guard Civil Support Team located at FBI Headquarters. Additionally, responsible for 90 FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Coordinators (WMDC) and Assistant WMDCs located within the 56 FBI field offices. Oversee WMD threat and incident response; evidence collection and community relations with local law enforcement and intelligence community. Responsible for providing strategic management and oversight of FBI WMD programs for field coordination, funding, equipment, training and response. Coordinate and plan operational response to WMD investigations, threats and incidents with the FBI Laboratory Division and the Critical Incident Response Group (CIRG) Technical Operations Branch. Coordinate FBI and interagency response to WMD incidents, including the deployment requests and integration of FBI and interagency national response assets. Other responsibilities include the following:

- Provide recommendations for national policy to include current Presidential Policy Directives (PPDs) to respond to potential WMD incidents. Attend numerous meetings at various interagency headquarters and the White House to provide input.
- Manage the Threat Credibility Evaluation (TCE) Process.
- Review the Unit's annual program goals and objectives to align with the WMDD's Strategic Plan.
- Develop a strategic plan at the unit level to address the WMDCs' requirement for funding, equipment, training and supplies.
- Manage multimillion budget to fund equipment and supplies to support the FBI's response to a WMD incident.
- Provide oversight of the ORU's on-call schedule to ensure appropriate personnel are maintained within National Capital Region (NCR).
- Prioritize requests for ORU personnel to provide briefings, attend planning conferences, support both sophisticated interagency table top and field training exercises.
- Provide management oversight to both the Foreign and Domestic Emergency Support Teams.
- Routinely fulfills the position of Section Chief within the WMDD.

**Supervisory Special Agent/Program Manager** – FBIHQ Laboratory Division, Operational Response Section, Hazardous Material Response Unit (HMRU). Responsible for the management of the FBI's Regional Hazardous Material Response Teams (HMRTs) to include staffing, budget, training, and equipment.

**Supervisory Special Agent/Program Manager** – FBIHQ Counterterrorism Division, Domestic Terrorism, Operations Section, Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations Unit (WMDOU). Management of numerous WMD criminal investigations. Supported the FBI's response to the September 11, 2001 attacks by screening and monitoring numerous threats throughout the world. Provided guidance and case management to the anthrax attacks domestically.

**Special Agent** – Los Angeles Field Division, Long Beach Resident Agency, Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Squad. Handled matters including fugitives, bank robberies, kidnappings and crimes on the high seas. Served as Relief Supervisor, Evidence Response Team (ERT) Assistant Team Leader and HMRT member. Assisted in evidence recovery of Alaska Air crash.

**Special Agent** – Los Angeles Field Division, Long Beach Resident Agency, Public Corruption and Drug Investigations Squad. Served as Relief Supervisor, Assistant ERT Team Leader and HMRT member.

**Special Agent/Program Manager** – Cleveland Field Division, Toledo Resident Agency. Handled white-collar crimes, violent crimes, bank robberies, fugitives and civil rights investigations. Served as the Northwest Ohio Violent Crimes/Fugitive Task Force (Safe Streets) Coordinator, a Relief Supervisor, and an ERT member, responding to the Oklahoma City bombing and the crash of TWA Flight 800. Organized and coordinated members of the Northwest Ohio Arson Task Force.

**Special Agent** – New Agents Training, FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia

**Member, Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department** **1985-present**  
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania

Received extensive training in fire operations to include prevention, rescue, suppression, investigation and incident command. Served as charter member of the Allegheny County Hazardous Material Team formed in 1986. Received more than 500 hours of training in firefighting, rescue and hazmat incidents.

**Chief, Wilkins-Churchill Rescue One EMS** **1988-1990**  
Wilkins, Pennsylvania

Provided advanced life support services to residents of Wilkins Township and Churchill Borough. Oversaw operational and administrative management of five career employees and 50 volunteers. Coordinated with police, fire personnel and local officials.

**Paramedic/Crew Chief, City of Pittsburgh Bureau of EMS** **1985-1990**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Managed medic or rescue unit. Responded to and handled rescue services and advanced life support.

## **SKILLS**

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### **Management**

More than 30 years of management/team lead experience.

Served as the coordinator for the FBI's Laboratory Division, Operational Response Section for threat assessments, to include chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear matters. Served as a subject matter expert providing comprehensive guidance and assistance to FBI responders and others in the law enforcement community regarding documentation, field screening, evidence collection and threat credibility evaluation of potential WMD crisis. Facilitated the deployment of 45 operational missions to support the field efforts, managed up to 36 HMRU/HMRT personnel, as well as multiple interagency resources from state and local jurisdictions. Received numerous awards for these efforts.

Planned and coordinated the annual WMDC's Conference utilizing secure teleconference methods to provide substantial cost savings during contingent budgetary times. Oversaw creation and development of WMDC newsletter; standard report and website.

Served as the Acting Unit Chief for WMD Training Unit for four months. Strategically developed and implemented a WMDD training initiative ensuring the FBI and partner agencies were prepared to execute WMDD-related missions to include counterterrorism, counterintelligence and counter proliferation.

Provided training to 50 high-level first responder and military personnel of five Central American countries regarding the utilization of the Incident Command System during a five-day seminar conducted in San Salvador.

Credited with the development and organization of the Northwest Ohio Violent Crimes/Fugitive Task Force (Safe Streets) while in the Cleveland Division, Toledo Resident Agency. Liaised with 15 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Established relationships with U.S. Attorney's office and Lucas County, Ohio Prosecutors office, which facilitated the coordination, supervision and the execution of federal and state fugitive warrants. These solid relationships assisted in the quick apprehension of various criminals – in particular the ability to arrest a subject and recover a murder weapon within 24 hours of warrant issuance, a case chronicled in the book "What Happened to Jonnie Jordan?; The Story of a Child Turning Violent." The task force was credited with arresting more than 300 felony fugitives during the five year assignment.

### **Operations / Logistics**

Helped coordinated and participated in the FBI's National Special Security Event handling of Pope Francis's visit to Philadelphia.

Oversaw and coordinated the FBI's response to four cases of Ricin being sent via the mail to recipients including the president, various members of Congress and a Mississippi judge.

Provided FBI assistance to various state and local officials in response to the Ebola case at a Dallas hospital and the arrival of potential Ebola patients from Africa.

Coordinated the FBI's response to the discovery of smallpox and other biological agents at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Served as the FBI's HMRU's supervisor for six different searches related to the Amerithrax Investigation. This investigation involved the deaths of five individuals exposed to anthrax disseminated through the U.S. Postal System. Each search involved extensive coordination with case agents, the Inspector-In-Charge, various FBI HMRT personnel and the first responder community. Responsible for the execution of long-range investigations and application of evidentiary operations to ensure proper and careful collection, preservation, documentation, storage, transportation and presentation of evidence. One search involved the exploitation of a medical facility in Kandahar, Afghanistan involving more than 100 personnel from the FBI and Department of Defense.

Led the FBI's HMRU team for a train derailment in Graniteville, South Carolina, which resulted in the release of chlorine gas and the deaths of nine local citizens. Coordinated with the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) in conducting forensic examination of the railroad lines, switch and associated evidentiary items. The command post consisted of the NTSB chief investigator, local sheriff and the fire chief. Devised a plan for documenting, removing and packaging of on-scene items to be transported to the FBI Laboratory for examination. Letter of commendation was submitted to the FBI Director from the NTSB chairman outlining the success of the operation and the team's effort.

Was the FBI's supervisor for the FBI's HMRU Joint Hazardous Assessment Teams (JHATs) and provided liaison with all emergency response organizations and agencies for two NFL Super Bowls. Organized and coordinated with the WMDCs, HMRT leaders, local fire departments, National Guard Civil Support

teams and bomb technicians to devise plans for the FBI assets to integrate into the local enforcement agencies' response plan. Developed policies and procedures to meet all types of emergency situations, created scenarios to facilitate training exercises for the team, and ensured that all federal jurisdiction thresholds were observed and maintained. Facilitated meetings with both FBI field offices and the local first responders over several months that addressed all required issues and potential threats with a WMD nexus that could occur during the Super Bowl. Professional background and training in firefighting, hazmat, law enforcement and emergency management provided a solid foundation to support the success of both events. After both of the Super Bowls, formally recognized by the Special Agent in Charge for innovative thinking and organizational abilities.

Supervised the FBI's Hazmat Response Assets at the Pittsburgh All Star Game, the G20 Summit held in Pittsburgh in 2009, and numerous National Special Security Events which included several presidential inaugurations, the Democratic National Conventions in Boston (2004) and Denver (2008), and the G8 Summit held in Sea Island, Georgia in 2004. Additionally, provided management and oversight of FBI Laboratory assets to numerous chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear investigations throughout the ten year assignment to the FBI's Laboratory Division.

## **EDUCATION**

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Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management

Certified FBI Adjunct Professor for WMD Matters

### Emergency Management Training

- Allegheny County Fire Academy
  - Hazardous Materials Technician
  - Fire Science/Firefighting
  - Essentials of Fire Fighting
  - Advanced Firefighting
  - Structural Collapse I and II
  - Trench Rescue
- Forbes Hospital System
  - Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic
- Community College of Allegheny County
  - Emergency Medical Technician
- National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualification
  - Fire Fighting I and II
  - Hazardous Materials Technician
  - Management of Hazardous Material Incidents
- National Fire Academy
  - Management of Special and Complex Operations
- Department of Homeland Security
  - Incident Command System
  - Courses 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800
- Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Instructor
  - Vehicle Rescue
  - Rescue Practices
  - Specialized Vehicle Rescue
  - Incident Command System

### FBI In-Service Training

- Radiological Worker II Certification
- Chemistry of Hazardous Materials
- WMDD Coordinator's Conferences
- Leadership Development Institute

- Supervisor Development Institute
- Radiological Dispersal Device Training
- Radiological Crime Scene
- Biology of Hazardous Materials
- WMD Operations and Crime Scene Management International Course
- Safe Streets Task Force Survival
- Diversity Training
- Ethics Training
- Confined Space Training
- Hazardous Material Technician
- Post Blast Investigator
- Death Investigation
- Law Enforcement Instructor Development
- Evidence Response Team 80 hour Basic In-Service
- WMD Crime Scene Operations
- Department of Energy Key Leader Training
- Arson Investigation
- Environmental Crime Scene Investigations
- Personnel Recovery Training
- Information Security Training
- Quarterly Firearms Training

#### Non-FBI Training / Certifications

- FEMA: An Introduction to Exercises
- FEMA: Incident Command System Instructor Development Course
- Pennsylvania State Fire/Rescue Instructor Methodology of Instruction
- Hazmat Incident Management
- Cold Water Rescue and Survival
- Pennsylvania Safe Boating