

## TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS

## FDNY Develops Counter-Terrorism Initiative with West Point

*By Assistant Chief Peter Hayden*

In our continuing effort to build a strategic base to bring this department into the 21st century, we have started a training initiative that will partner FDNY with the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. A group of senior operations and management staff, led by Commissioner Scoppetta, recently visited the West Point campus and met with the heads of the Academy's counter-terrorism program to begin developing this initiative.

The initiative will bring together our best and brightest members with those of USMA for a series of seminars conducted here at FDNY Headquarters on the current state of terrorism – both worldwide and domestic. The seminars will also focus on alternatives to respond to and manage such events.

We will be recruiting captains and battalion chiefs to become part of this exciting new team, which will be central in developing strategies in training, planning, vulnerabilities assessments

and exercises development.

The course is scheduled to begin in January 2004. It will include several three-hour seminars, which convene once a week and are attended by experts in the field of terrorism, most notably Maj. Reid Sawyer, a career Military Intelligence officer and instructor of political science and director of terrorism studies at USMA. He is also the co-editor, along with Col. Russ Howard, of the premier text on the subject, *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment*.

Information on this course and how to schedule an interview to be part of



**Col. Russ Howard briefs Chief of Department Frank Cruthers, Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano, and Chief of SOC Michael Weinlein on the terrorism and terrorism training protocols that will be established between the USMA and FDNY.**

this team was published in Department Order #103 on November 13. We encourage those who wish to be part of the future of FDNY to consider taking a place at this esteemed table.

## Terrorism Preparedness Drill: Operation SafeROCK II



**On the day following the briefing of senior Staff Chiefs at West Point, FDNY members participate in an interagency terrorism response drill at Randall's Island between FDNY and CBIRF (Chemical, Biological Incident Response Team), the US Marine Corps' elite unit for handling chemical and biological incidents.**

