IMSH ATTENDEES GOT A TASTE OF “hyper-realistic” training on Saturday afternoon during a pre-conference workshop designed to address the growing need for simulation teams to provide “active shooter” simulation training across multiple levels of care. The event, which was conducted at the Strategic Operations facility on the back lot of Stu Segall Productions television / film studio, was directed by the Navy Medical Center San Diego, Bioskills and Simulation Training Center and Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and featured the use of “Cut Suit” human-worn surgical simulators as well as multiple state-of-the-art manikin simulators.

Prior to the actual simulations, attendees explored multiple aspects of the exercise they were about to witness, including the emergency room set-up and manikin simulators’ capabilities, the moulage process and the movie-lot facilities where the simulated action would soon take place. Two separate scenarios involving active shooter situations were conducted twice, allowing attendees to observe the entire process from law enforcement personnel entering and controlling the situation, transporting the “victims” to the ER and the chaotic scene that ensued with the simultaneous entrance of multiple trauma patients.

In addition to providing IMSH attendees with key lessons regarding replicating these types of complicated exercises at their own facilities, the scenario provided parallel training benefits to a broad spectrum of multi-agency first responders, including police SWAT team members, California Highway Patrol representatives, sheriffs, military personnel and a group of student paramedics halfway through their initial course of instruction.

Several IMSH participants noted that the hyper-realistic aspects and multi-disciplinary approach of the scenario were valuable to them in planning their own simulation events, with one expressing appreciation to the planners for the “awesome” experience, and another asserting that what she had just participated in was by far the best simulation exercise of its kind she had ever seen.