



## Overview of Homeland Defense Program

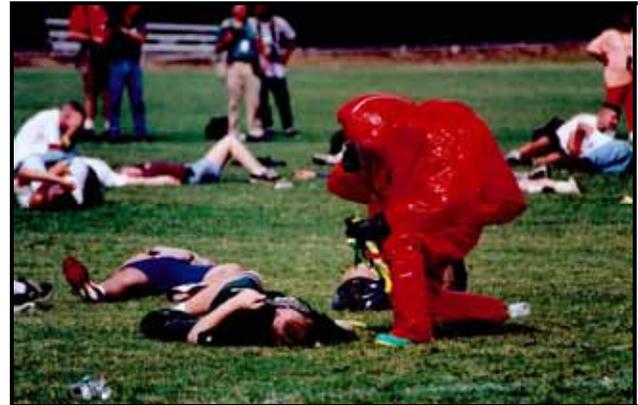
The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) is the U.S. Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering, and services. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs, and industrial competitiveness, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC offers a full array of material management assistance ranging from risk management to CB agent protection, detection, and decontamination. By partnering with industry, academia, and the first responder community, ECBC leverages this expertise to protect U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. interests. ECBC is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

### Homeland Defense Business Unit

ECBC's Homeland Defense Business Unit (HLDBU) applies the knowledge and experience of ECBC to improving weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incident preparedness and response capabilities. The HLDBU specializes in creating and implementing integrated programs that address WMD installation preparedness, improve response to WMD incidents, and provide technical assistance for preparing for and protecting against such threats.

The HLDBU traces its background in homeland security to the national Domestic Preparedness Program, a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative aimed at enhancing federal, state, and local emergency response capabilities during incidents involving nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) terrorism through an innovative train-the-trainer and terrorism exercise campaign. ECBC effectively spearheaded this initiative, ultimately enhancing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear preparedness throughout the United States and its territories.

The HLDBU continues to reduce the consequences of WMD incidents by enhancing the preparedness, protection, and response capabilities of local, state,



and federal agencies including military, police, fire, Hazmat, bomb squad and emergency medical services. Integrating the elements of WMD installation preparedness, technical assistance, and military improved response, the HLDBU builds upon the solidly proven foundation and lessons learned of the Domestic Preparedness Program.

### Domestic Preparedness: The Proven Foundation

The Domestic Preparedness initiative was formed under the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici legislation, which provided funding for the DoD to enhance the capability of federal, state and local emergency responders in incidents involving NBC terrorism. ECBC was the lead DoD agency charged with implementing this objective through training, exercises, expert assistance, and an improved response program. Since ECBC began executing the Domestic Preparedness Program in 1997, the Center has trained over 28,000 first responders in the 50 states and 5 U.S. territories, effectively enhancing their WMD preparedness. While implementing this effort, it became clear to ECBC that as the country moved toward WMD preparedness, the response capabilities of key military bases and special facilities also needed to be addressed.

### Installation Preparedness: Preparing Your Site

The WMD Installation Preparedness Program provides a comprehensive process for preparing U.S. military installation emergency response

personnel to respond to asymmetric attacks involving WMD, mitigating the impact of the attack on the continuity of operations, and restoring vital mission capabilities. This program, successfully piloted at Ft. Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, significantly increases an installation's WMD terrorism awareness and preparedness, resulting in the likely reduction of casualties and deployment delays caused by a WMD attack.

### **Homeland Protection Team: Supporting You with Expertise**

The Homeland Protection Team (HPT) is a part of the Individual and Collective Protection Business Unit at ECBC. The HPT provides building protection services to various government, military, and commercial agencies, focusing on internal, external, and remote attacks by WMD materials. The overarching goal of the HPT in this area is to tailor a range of building and fixed site protection products and services to meet the variety of needs created by today's WMD threats. The following services are available from the HPT:

- Vulnerability Assessments
- Collective Protection Application Assessments
- Design Services
- Protective Solutions Lifecycle Services
- Partnership Services

### **Military Improved Response Program: Enhancing Your Response**

Military bases and their surrounding communities have emerged as areas where WMD response training and coordination planning are especially important. The Military Improved Response Program (MIRP) builds on the Domestic Preparedness Program and aids in enhancing DoD's response to a WMD terrorist incident in a military community. The MIRP's approach, with the involvement of representatives from the various Military response communities and the civilian communities surrounding the partnering installations, is to conduct information sharing and workshops that address WMD incident response. Military response

enforcement and security; base operations; disaster management; and medical and public health. With the results of the workshops and continued assistance from the Services, the MIRP will develop best practices and suggest equipment lists, and through technical initiatives and exercises, meld the results into a coherent improved response template for WMD incidents. The MIRP is also available to help solve problems in the civilian sector upon execution of a support agreement and the provision of funding.

### **Summary**

The Domestic Preparedness Program has demonstrated the HLDBU's effectiveness in enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capability of civilian and military communities for WMD terrorist incidents. A history of research and development dating back over 85 years gives credence to ECBC's wealth of CB defense knowledge. The HLDBU taps into all of ECBC's resources including the areas of CB detection, decontamination, and installation preparedness. By leveraging the experience gained through the Domestic Preparedness program and ECBC's decades of expertise, the products and services provided by ECBC are now combined and easily accessible to civilian and military communities across the nation and abroad.

At the customer's request, teams are assembled to tackle complex WMD challenges. For example, building protection capabilities have been developed to protect government agency buildings against specific types of attack. In addition, extensive CB knowledge is databased and readily available to suit each customer's needs.

For more information, contact the Homeland Defense Business Unit, U.S. Army ECBC at (410) 436-3674 or visit the web site at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/hld>.

communities include fire and Hazmat; law