



Weapons of Mass Destruction Preparedness

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 is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

Overview

ECBC's Homeland Defense Business Unit (HLDBU) offers a comprehensive process for planning, training, and exercising to enhance a community or organization's response to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents. The community preparedness (CP) process consists of eight separate and distinct components that encompass a Senior Leaders' Workshop, a Baseline Assessment, a Training Program, a Planning Workshop, Technical Assistance, Chemical/Biological Tabletop Exercises, a Chemical Weapons Functional Exercise, and Sustainment. The program can be customized for a specific community or organization and delivered in its entirety or in a modular fashion, depending on the community or organization's needs.

The CP Program leverages the expertise of ECBC and the experience that was gained under the highly successful Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness program, which was executed in 120 cities. These resources, combined with the practical experience and knowledge of both civilian and military chemical and biological (CB) agent experts, allows CP program leaders to constantly assess and refine their processes and curriculum to include the latest developments from the field.

Program Components

Senior Leaders' Workshop

The Senior Leaders' Workshop is a training course designed to familiarize the senior leaders of a community or organization with the goals and



capabilities of the CP program and to develop an awareness of the implications of a WMD incident.

Baseline Assessment

The Baseline Assessment component consists of a one-day facilitated chemical weapons tabletop exercise that offers the community or organization an opportunity to determine strengths and weaknesses that exist within their emergency response system for dealing with a WMD incident. It also provides a built-in mechanism for measuring improvement.

Training Program

The community's or organization's emergency responders are offered up to six courses that provide instruction on WMD threats; recognizing signs and symptoms of chemical, biological, or radiological/nuclear material exposure; proper detection and identification, protection, and decontamination techniques for handling WMD materials; and medical management of casualties. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for these response courses. In addition, the HLDBU offers an employee awareness video that is intended to provide WMD awareness training to large audiences of people who work in high profile, enclosed spaces—the perfect target for a terrorist incident. This video is also offered as a self-paced interactive compact disc.

Planning Workshop

The Planning Workshop component involves either a review and refinement of existing response plans by ECBC WMD experts or joint development of

response plans, if plans do not exist. WMD planning assistance is conducted during a facilitated one to two-day workshop.

Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance component compliments the planning, training, and exercise modules in the WMD CP process by filling in any technical voids that may exist. Technical assistance provides expertise through CB equipment testing, evaluation, and assessment of CB matters to evaluate WMD protective equipment, develop unique hardware solutions, and protect buildings or fixed sites against WMD.

Chemical/Biological Tabletop Exercises

The Chemical/Biological Tabletop Exercises component offers two one-day tabletop exercises that will assist community or organization responders in gaining an understanding of the complexity and unpredictability of an emergency response to a WMD incident. The tabletop exercises also serve to validate planning efforts and reinforce the training.

Chemical Weapons Functional Exercise

The capstone effort is a one-day chemical weapons field exercise, which is conducted to test all or some aspects of the community or organization's WMD response plan to the maximum extent possible. The exercise is tailored to meet the specific requirements of the community or organization. It provides a practical means to assess whether

their WMD response plan is executable in an effective and timely manner, and it provides insight into required changes to the plan.

Sustainment

The HLDBU's goal is to provide the community or organization with the planning, training, and exercise tools to become both proficient and self-sufficient in WMD incident response. This is accomplished through completing train-the-trainer courses and leaving behind all the materials used in the training process.

The Best Defense

The Community Preparedness program offered by the HLDBU combines over 85 years of the U.S. Army's best CB research and development assets with the practical, real-world knowledge of emergency responders. Presented in a groundbreaking format that combines modularity, portability, and repeatability, the CP program helps to ensure the safety of both the emergency responders and the entire community or organization. Preparation is the best defense, and the CP program is the tool of choice for strengthening responses to chemical, biological, and radiological/ nuclear WMD incidents.

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>.