



## Weapons of Mass Destruction Installation Preparedness Exercises

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.

Exercises focusing on simulated weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are essential to enhancing any installation's ability to respond to a WMD incident. ECBC's Homeland Defense Business Unit (HLDBU) Installation Preparedness (IP) team offers exercises that focus on each installation's unique requirements and objectives. Our professional and experienced team of WMD subject matter experts provides unmatched skill and expertise in conducting both chemical and biological tabletop and field exercises to test an installation's WMD response capabilities. These strategically designed exercises allow military commanders, planners, and emergency responders to assess current preparedness levels and attempt to resolve problems stemming from shortfalls in current concepts, plans, policies, procedures, and resources.



### WMD IP Exercises

#### **Baseline Assessment**

The baseline assessment exercise is a weighted, quantitative tool presented in a one-day facilitated tabletop exercise format. Using a chemical warfare agent scenario, this tool determines your installation's current preparedness in response to a no-notice WMD incident. Pre-scripted questionnaires designed to cover the key elements of a response provide ratings of green, amber, or red for each area of the response as well as an overall rating.

The baseline ratings provide a focused and targeted strategy for future preparedness efforts. The assessments cover a wide range of elements including WMD training and equipment, existing disaster preparedness plans, and standard operating procedures (SOPs). An after action report is provided after completion of the exercise, which delineates ratings for each functional area, provides a summarization of major strengths and concerns expressed during the exercise, assigns an overall rating for your installation, and provides our subject matter expert's recommendations for improving the installation's response posture.

#### **Chemical and Biological Tabletop Exercises (TTXs)**

TTXs are player driven, time phased exercises conducted in a free-play environment. Each exercise simulates a chemical or biological WMD incident designed to provoke responses necessary to

evaluate the effectiveness of current resources, plans, and SOPs. The focus is on the command, control, and communication aspects of the response, and how various response functions (both owned by your installation and obtained through mutual aid assistance from the community, state, host nation, and commander in chief) combine into a total integrated system. The TTXs will assist installation participants and mutual aid partners in gaining a comprehensive understanding of an emergency response to a WMD incident, and specifically their role in that response. Comprehensive after action reports capture critical discussions for each functional area and provide necessary recommendations for changes.

### ***Chemical Field Training Exercises***

The HLDBU WMD IP team designs field training exercises that simulate a chemical WMD incident to test all or selected aspects of your installation's WMD response plan. This exercise is a hands-on event requiring responders to assess the situation and develop an appropriate response, based upon expert knowledge of procedures, current plans and



protocols, and WMD training. The field exercise provides a practical means to assess the ability of the installation's WMD response plan to be executed in an effective and timely manner. It provides insight into required changes to your WMD plans, as well as areas of the response requiring additional work. The after action report for the field exercise captures detailed subject matter expert analysis of each functional area's response actions in relationship to the WMD plan and the effectiveness and efficiency of both the overall response and critical components of it. The after action report also provides comments and recommendations on ways to enhance the installation's overall WMD incident response and captures positive areas for sustainment.

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>.