



## Weapons of Mass Destruction Installation 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.

Offered by ECBC's Homeland Defense Business Unit (HLDBU), the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) Installation Preparedness (IP) Program combines the technical expertise of the Army's premier CB research facility, ECBC, with the knowledge of emergency responders, to deliver a common sense approach to WMD preparedness. The HLDBU creates and implements 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 WMD IP Program is a field-tested and proven process for preparing military installation emergency response personnel to respond to asymmetric attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) weapons. Through baseline assessment, response planning, training and exercises, and other technical assistance, the WMD IP Program provides a systematic crawl, walk, run approach toward preparedness. The program can be delivered in its entirety or in a modular fashion, depending on each installation's unique requirements.

The WMD IP Program, or portions thereof, has been successfully conducted for a variety of clients including: U.S. Navy worldwide, U.S. Army EUROPE, U.S. Coast Guard, SOUTHCOM, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, Federal Highway Administration, Defense Logistics Agency,



and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

### Process

The IP process consists of separate and distinct components that encompass assessment, training, planning, exercising, and sustainment. The program is conducted with mobile teams that provide on-site support, thus promoting synergy and interoperability among the military and civilian responders at the installation, as well as the mutual aid counterparts in the local, state, federal, and host nation communities.

### Components

#### **Command and Staff Workshop**

The Command and Staff Workshop provides installation commanders and their staff with an awareness of the implications of a WMD incident on the installation and its mission. The workshop provides useful, practical guidance in steps that commanders and their staff can implement to prepare their installations effectively to respond to WMD incidents.

#### **Baseline Assessment**

The Baseline Assessment offers the installation an opportunity to determine the basic strengths and weaknesses of their emergency response system for dealing with WMD incidents. It also provides a built-in mechanism for measuring improvement throughout the process.

### ***Training Program***

Installation emergency responders receive up to six courses that provide comprehensive instruction on the WMD threat; recognizing signs and symptoms of CBRNE materials; proper detection and identification; protection and decontamination techniques for handling CBRNE materials; and medical management of casualties.

### ***Response Planning Workshop***

The planning component involves refinement of existing installation response plans by ECBC WMD experts or joint development of response plans, if plans do not currently exist. WMD response planning assistance is conducted during a facilitated workshop.

### ***Chemical/Biological Tabletop Exercises***

ECBC provides tabletop exercises that will assist installation responders, local government officials, and mutual aid partners in gaining an understanding of the complications and unpredictability of an emergency response to a WMD incident and specifically, their role in the response. The realistic tabletop exercises are used to validate and refine response plans.

### ***Chemical Weapons Field Exercise***

The capstone effort, a chemical weapons field exercise, is conducted to test all or some aspects of the installation's WMD response plan to the maximum extent possible. This exercise is tailored to meet the specific objectives of the installation. It provides a practical means to assess whether an

installation's WMD response plan is executable in an effective and timely manner. It will also provide insight into required changes to response plans.

### ***Sustainment***

ECBC's goal is to provide the installations with the planning, training, and exercise tools to become both proficient and self-sufficient in WMD response. This is accomplished through completing train-the-trainer courses and leaving behind all the materials used in the training process. In addition, we can return on a selected timeframe to offer sustainment training.

### ***The Best Defense***

The WMD Installation 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 and experience of emergency responders. Presented in a groundbreaking format by world-renowned WMD subject matter experts, the WMD Installation Preparedness Program is the most comprehensive and mature program for strengthening responses to CBRNE weapons of mass destruction 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>.