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Media Advisory

NATIONAL GUARD TEAMS STORM TERRORIST COMPOUND IN HAMMER TRAINING DRILL

RICHLAND, Wash. – April 7, 2005 – Next week, National Guard Civil Support Teams from Alaska, Idaho, and Washington will drill together for the first time as they respond to a situation that has escalated at a simulated terrorist compound at the Department of Energy’s HAMMER training center in southeast Washington State.

The 10th (Washington), 101st (Idaho), and 103rd (Alaska) National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams will enter a realistic life-sized “compound” at the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center and participate in a three-day exercise. The teams will be expected to deal with simulated injuries and explosives, as well as chemical, biological, and radiological weapons of mass destruction.

On April 13, unexpected events will be introduced to temporarily interrupt the response effort. While the events that unfold are expected to be dramatic and realistic, details on the specific scenario must be kept confidential—until the exercise—for the training to remain realistic to the participants.

You are invited to view the training during the unexpected turn of events, from 10 a.m. to noon, on Wednesday, April 13. Spokespeople from the National Guard Civil Support Teams, as well as the host organizations—HAMMER and the Department of Energy—will be available for interviews during your visit. **Plan to be at the lobby of the HAMMER Administration building at 9:45 a.m.** Please call Geoff Tyree, Fluor Hanford Communications, at (509) 372-1145, if you are planning to cover this event, and arrangements will be made to support your visit. For more information on HAMMER, visit the facility’s web site at <http://www.hammertraining.com/>.

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A prime contractor to the Department of Energy since 1996, Fluor Hanford has approximately 4,000 employees and manages several major activities at the Hanford Site, including dismantling former nuclear processing facilities, cleaning up the site's contaminated groundwater, retrieving and processing transuranic waste for off-site shipment, maintaining the site's infrastructure, and operating the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center. When the HAMMER campus isn't being used for Hanford training, the excess capacity is utilized for training by international, national, regional, and local agencies.

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Directions to the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center, located in southeast Washington State.

