



Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) Overview

Mission:

Our mission is to develop and deliver the most realistic and highest quality training in support of homeland security and the global war on terrorism using the unique assets of the Nevada Test Site and our extensive radiological expertise.

Background:

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) NTS is a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC). NTS develops and conducts training courses for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) Training Exercise Integration and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO). Its continuing role is to provide expertise and training to the state and local emergency response community. This partnership of several nationally recognized public universities, the DHS, and NNSA are bound together into a single, well-coordinated and fully integrated training program of the highest caliber.

Operations:

The Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) Program at the NTS develops and delivers the training for emergency first responders. This training prepares the responders to take immediate, decisive action to prevent or mitigate terrorist use of radiological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction (WMD), such as Improvised Nuclear Devices (INDs) and Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDDs or "dirty bombs"). Training courses and exercises conducted at the NTS, municipality-hosted locations, and online, provide state and local first responders with the tools they need to protect their communities from these threats. The courses include:

- ◇ WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness (AWR-140 and AWR-140-W)
- ◇ WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness Train-the-Trainer (AWR-140-1)
- ◇ WMD Radiological/Nuclear Responder Operations (PER-240)
- ◇ WMD Radiological/Nuclear Course for Hazardous Material Technicians (PER-241)
- ◇ Personal Radiation Detector (PRD) (PER-243)
- ◇ Personal Radiation Detector (PRD) Train-the-Trainer (PER-243-1)
- ◇ Secondary Screener Radiation Isotope Identifier Device (SS/RIID)

This program trains approximately 10,000 first responders per year.

Nevada Test Site:

The NTS is a massive outdoor laboratory and national experimental center originally established for nuclear weapons testing. There are 1,375 square miles of secluded and secure land with guarded boundaries and security areas. Located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, the NTS is isolated from population centers and provides a safe environment to conduct training using realistic scenarios.



Responders measure real radiation and contamination levels at the scene of a simulated terrorist attack

Actual Radioactive Material:

With the exception of awareness-level and online courses, all courses are “live agent,” using radioactive material. These courses are designed and monitored so attendees receive only minor radiation dosages (lower than a chest X-ray or a typical round-trip airline flight across the U.S.); however, radiation levels are sufficient to practice techniques needed in a real incident involving much higher levels. Each attendee operates and employs radiation detection and measurement instruments throughout the course. Attendees practice with radioactive material in the classroom, and during drills and exercise scenarios. The NTS exercise areas can be configured in thousands of square feet at elevated radiation levels.



1. Ground Zero of Nuclear Detonations
2. RDD Downtown
3. RDD at Airport
4. RDD at Rail Station
5. Rail Station/Classroom
6. Industrial Site/Clandestine Lab
7. Attacks on Transport Vehicles
8. Airliner Debris Field
9. Attendee Staging Area
10. Contaminated Restaurant and Strip Mall
11. Residences/Safe-houses
12. Railroad Tunnel
13. Crashed/Damaged Vehicles

Layout of the Radiological/Nuclear WMD Incident Exercise Site (T-1 Site)

Radiological/Nuclear WMD Incident Exercise Site:

The Radiological/Nuclear WMD Incident Exercise Site at the NTS was constructed after 9/11/2001 at the T-1 Site, located at the ground zero of four nuclear detonations conducted between 1952 and 1957. The radioactive material remaining in the ground from the nuclear detonations produces safe radiation levels throughout the ten-acre exercise area, with higher than normal background radiation levels. Attendees train in an area with simulated widespread radiological contamination from an RDD or IND, without the risks of contaminating themselves. Additional radioactive material is also employed at each scenario site.

Capabilities:

The NTS infrastructure is an essential element in a global network of key locations used on the war against terrorism for training, test and evaluation, and demonstrations of specialized technologies. Training the nation's first responders in a realistic, operational environment prior to facing a real world WMD event is essential where minutes and actions are critical.

For More Information, Contact the Registration Desk at:
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