

## **National Guard CERFP Teams**

### **What is it?**

**C**hemical, **B**iological, **R**adiological, and **N**uclear (CBRN) **E**nhanced **R**esponse **F**orce **P**ackages (or CERFP teams) consist of approximately 186 Soldiers and Airmen. Each team has a Command and Control (C2) section, a decontamination element, a medical element, a casualty search and extraction element, and a fatalities search and recovery element.

The following States and Region One (15) have CERFP teams: California, Colorado, Florida, Alabama, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Indiana, Virginia, and West Virginia. Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire share CERFP response for Region One. CERFPs are strategically based with at least one CERFP in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions. Three CERFPs are in Region IV (IL, IN, MN) two in Region III (VA, WV), two in Region IV (AL, FL), and two in Region IX (HI, NV). By the end of FY12 we will have 17 CERFPs along with 10 HRFs validated.

National Guard CERFPs operate under the authority of the Governors and TAGs in each State to mitigate risks associated with collapsed structure (confined space) rescue, medical triage and stabilization, mass decontamination, and the recovery of fatalities resulting from a CBRN incident.

### **What can they do?**

CERFPs respond to CBRN incidents and assist local, state, and federal agencies in conducting consequence management by providing capabilities to conduct patient /mass casualty decontamination, emergency medical services, and casualty search and extraction. CERFPs are specially trained to integrate into the National Incident Command System to conduct life saving actions within a contaminated environment.

CERFPs provide a phased capability that can detect and identify CBRN agents/substances, assess the effects and advise the local authorities on managing the effects of the incident. CERFPs may provide emergency treatment as necessary to stabilize patients for evacuation. CERFPs are comprised of existing National Guard units in traditional reserve status and can be mobilized in State Active Duty, Title 32, or Title 10 status. These organizations must maintain their NIOSH/OSHA compliance and maintain their original mission. Each CERFP is ready to deploy to an incident site within 6 hours of notification of a CBRN or WMD incident.

In addition to their normal military equipment, CERFPs are issued state-of-the-art specialized commercial equipment that meets National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)/Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

### **What continued efforts does the National Guard have planned for the future?**

This on-going program of preparedness requires that each CERFP maintain current OSHA/NFPA certifications, and monthly readiness levels required for a quick and effective

response to any catastrophic event. The National Guard will continue to standardize the CERFP program through External Evaluations (ExEvals) and the Standardization, Evaluation, and Assistance Team (SEAT) program. The SEAT will conduct field evaluations for the CERFPs, which provides program oversight to ensure compliance with laws and policies and audit the disposition of allocated resources. NGB has partnered with the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE) in developing written doctrine for CERFPs.

**Why is this important to the Nation?**

CERFPs are a key element of the Department of Defense's overall program to provide military support to civil authorities in the event of an intentional or accidental incident involving CBRN or WMD on or in the United States. Within the national response continuum; CERFP teams are designed to fill the 6- to 72-hour gap in our Nation's ability to mitigate hazards and save lives. The CERFP program will continue to be the lead in providing a lifesaving capability for DoD's response to a CBRN incident.