

National Guard Homeland Response Force (HRF)

What is it?

The Department of Defense (DoD), based on recommendations from the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), directs the National Guard to create 10 Homeland Response Forces (HRFs): two in FY11 and eight in FY12. Each HRF, composed of approximately 566 personnel, encapsulates lifesaving capabilities including Search and Extraction, Decontamination, Emergency Medical, Security, and Command and Control (C2). The 10 HRFs, along with 17 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRN) Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFPs) and 57 Civil Support Teams (CSTs), will provide the initial military response to a CBRN incident.

Each HRF will be staffed with National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. Regionally oriented, each of the 10 HRFs will be hosted by State(s) in each of the 10 FEMA regions. HRFs provide a scalable capability to bridge a gap between initial National Guard (NG) response and Title 10 capabilities. HRFs will improve Command and Control (C2) and Common Operating Pictures (COPs) of deployed National Guard CBRN forces. HRFs will create a mobile, flexible, and decentralized capability to respond to CBRN and additional hazards (HAZMAT).

What has the National Guard done?

The National Guard has planned the overall fielding of the 10 HRFs with many implementation details to be worked out by the individual HRFs. Eight HRFs will be sourced from single States, including the first two HRFs in Ohio and Washington. The other two HRFs located in FEMA Region One and Region Two will be sourced from multiple States within those regions. The State contributing the HRF C2 element will be considered the "host" State.

What continued efforts does the program have planned for the future?

As a key element of the new DoD CBRN Consequence Management Enterprise, HRFs complement existing forces of about 18,000 personnel. This includes:

- One Defense CBRN Response Force (DCRF), formerly CBRN Consequence Management Forces (CCMRFs)
- Two Consequence Management Command and Control Elements (C2CREs)
- 57 Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs)
- 17 CBRN Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFPs)

The HRFs operate alongside other National Guard-sourced CBRN Consequence Management forces including WMD-CSTs and CERFPs, as well as federal-controlled elements of the enterprise, including DCRF, C2CREs, and follow-on forces, when necessary.

Why is this important to the National Guard?

The 21st century tragedies of 9/11, the Katrina disaster, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and aftermath have highlighted the importance of being proactive in preparation and efficient and effective in response. National Guard mobilization methods are evolving and expanding as they relate to Homeland Defense. The entire enterprise of response is

critical to the nation's readiness as we enter the second decade of the 21st century and prepare for unknown but predictably challenging horizons.

National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs)

What is it? The Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) is a high-priority, rapid response, full time Title 32 AGR National Guard unit supporting civil authorities and specifically the local incident commander in responding to an actual or suspected terrorist WMD event/incident, intentional or non-intentional release of CBRN materials, natural or manmade disaster in the United States that has caused or could cause catastrophic loss of life or property damage. This unit is the lead element of the DoD response to a WMD attack and consists of six sections: command, operations, communications, administration / logistics, medical / analytical, and survey. The DoD directed WMD-CST mission is to support civil authorities at a domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support to facilitate additional resources. In the FY07 NDAA, Congress expanded the US Code governing WMD-CST operations to include response to both intentional and unintentional release of nuclear, biological, radiological, toxic or poisonous chemical materials, and natural or manmade disasters in the United States that results in, or could result in, catastrophic loss of life or property.

Each WMD-CST unit is comprised of 22 highly-skilled Army and Air National Guard Active Guard Reserve (AGR) personnel. The unit is federally funded, trained, equipped, and sustained. By statute, each WMD-CST operates in Title 32 AGR status, under control of the Governor. The Adjutant General either employs the WMD-CST to support a State response under the direction of the Governor or upon request, to support another State's response under a supported Governor. WMD-CSTs are equipped with a mobile analytical laboratory capable of providing complete characterization of chemical, biological or radiological materials and a sophisticated communications suite which provides "reach back" communications and information integration services with local, state, tribal and Federal agencies. The WMD-CST is designed to enhance support to local Incident Commanders and local emergency responders not to replace either the Incident Command System (ICS) or functions normally performed by the emergency first responder community.

What has the Army done? Currently, 57 WMD-CSTs, have been established, one in every State, territory and the District of Columbia with two in California, Florida, and New York. All WMD-CSTs have been certified by SECDEF to Congress as operationally ready to accomplish their designated mission. On 9 November 2011, the 48th WMD-CST (FL) was awarded SECDEF certification.

During FY11, TRADOC and the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE), Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri have continued to help National Guard Bureau (NGB) institutionalize the WMD-CST Program within Army processes. Specifically, MSCoE assists NGB in the development of Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel and Facilities (DOTMLPF) solutions to improve and sustain this critical program. Additionally, Army North (ARNORTH) and US Army Pacific (USARPAC) continue to conduct External Evaluations (EXEVALs) to assess the performance for all certified WMD-CSTs on an 18 month cycle. For Chemical, Biological detection and identification equipment and modernization NGB relies on the efforts of the Joint Program Executive Office – Chemical Biological Defense Program and the Joint Program Manager- Consequence Management to

provide complete lifecycle management of the Analytical Laboratory System and these other products. For the lifecycle management of the Unified Command System, the Department of the Army, G8, will take over program manager responsibilities for this system.

WMD-CSTs annually respond to a number of immediate responses, stand-by and assist missions. In FY10, units responded to 498 immediate response and Stand-by mission support requests nationwide. On the national scope, WMD-CSTs responded to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and were prepositioned in Washington State as part of the DOD and NORTHCOM contingent prepared to respond in a Title 10 status, to any CBRN incident in support of Canadian forces during the 2010 Winter Olympics in neighboring Vancouver, British Columbia. In FY11, units conducted 632 immediate response and Stand-by missions to include response to the American Samoa Tsunami, stand-by operations during the recent Super Bowl in Texas, and operations to protect the homeland in response to the recent Japan Tsunami and most recently the 2011 APEC conference in Hawaii.

Historically, WMD-CSTs have participated in operations during the World Trade Center recovery after 9-11, the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery operations, and numerous National Special Security Events (for example, RNC, DNC, G8 Summit, Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and other major sporting venues). CSTs were also employed effectively as part of the National Guard response to Hurricane Katrina recovery operations in both Louisiana and Mississippi. Although Katrina did not involve a WMD event, the devastation presented an opportunity to utilize the unique CST skills and operational capabilities to assist in the reestablishment of the local incident command network and to save and protect the lives and property of local residents. The Katrina operations led to the change to the mission areas noted in the FY07 revised Statute.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future? The WMD-CST program is on a continuous assessment cycle to evaluate and upgrade equipment, personnel, training, tactics, techniques, procedures and doctrine. The Congressional mandate to both DoD and DA is that these units must sustain leading edge technology and improve skill sets in order to maintain capabilities superiority over potential enemy threats. In order to meet this mandate, the WMD-CSTs must be prepared and able to mitigate the consequences of any catastrophic event, whether natural or man-made, and be experts in potential CBRNE effects and countermeasures.

Why is this important to the Army? WMD-CSTs are the lead element of the Army's immediate response force capabilities and these units are an integral element of the Army's and Department of Defense's CBRNE Enterprise strategy to support civil authorities, with initial and follow-on forces, in the event of an incident in the United States