



CDP Alumnus

CDP Mission

The CDP develops and delivers training for emergency response providers from state, local, and tribal governments and, when appropriate, the federal government, foreign governments, and private entities.

CDP Vision

An emergency response community prepared for and capable of responding to all-hazards events.

CDP Training Tally

641,032 as of April 16, 2011

Feedback

The CDP wants to hear from you. How we can make this newsletter better? Please e-mail suggestions to: newsletter_feedback@cdpemail.dhs.gov

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Officer Wayne Rhatigan, of the New York City Police Department, and his horse Miggs, on routine patrol in New York City's Times Square.

The Relevance and Payoff of CDP Preparedness Training

By Dr. Christopher T. Jones, Superintendent, Center for Domestic Preparedness

Here at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) we focus on delivering all-hazard preparedness training for local, tribal and state first responders. This training is timely, skill-based, and a critical investment in more resilient communities. Time and time again, we have seen cases of CDP alumni putting what they have learned with us to work – saving lives, protecting property and making our country safer for all Americans.

A great example is what happened last

spring in the attempted Times Square car bombing in New York City, NY. On May 1, 2010 a local vendor noticed smoke seeping from the rear of a parked vehicle and alerted a nearby officer, Wayne Rhatigan.

Officer Rhatigan, who attended CDP training at New York City's Training Center, quickly enlisted the help of two other officers

patrolling the area to create a perimeter, to prevent casualties in case the car exploded. They also alerted the bomb squad, who

Have you used your CDP training in a real-world event? E-mail your story and it might be featured in an upcoming issue. Send e-mail to: pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov

Training Spotlight

Toxic Environment Validates Response Skills: Training for Today's Response Force



Graduates of the COBRA proudly display their COBRA pin following toxic agent training.

The man-made threat facing America and the international community is real. Reports indicate terrorists are seeking opportunities to use Chemical, Biological and Radiological methods that could result in death and disrupt daily operations.

Preparing emergency response personnel to meet the threat head-on starts at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological training facility in Anniston, Ala. For responders who have trained there, it's simply the COBRA.

The COBRA is managed by skilled employees of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). The CDP is operated by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

What makes the COBRA unique? It is the only facility in the nation that allows civilian emergency responders an opportunity to safely train in an environment using the nerve agents GB and VX. According to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, the measures of confidence are clearly higher for personnel who train with genuine toxic agents than for those who train with

a simulated agent.

Upon completion of construction in March 1987, the COBRA was operated by the U.S. Army Chemical School. The facility was transferred following the 1998 closure of Fort McClellan. Had the transfer not been granted, the building would have been vacated and a significant monetary investment wasted. Since 1998, more than 43,500 emergency responders throughout the nation and its U.S. territories have trained at the COBRA, one of the signature training facilities at the CDP.

The COBRA consists of a specially-designed indoor environment where responders participate in hands-on detection exercises. Using specialized equipment and proper protocols, responder students detect WMD threats, as well as recognize and treat symptoms of toxic agent poisoning.



COBRA Training (5 Courses)

Length: 1-4 day course

Possible CEUs: 4.0

Target Audience:

- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Management Agency
- Fire Service
- Public Works
- Governmental Administrative
- Public Safety Communications
- Health Care
- Public Health

<http://cdp.dhs.gov/resident/>

Responders participating in COBRA courses include nearly a dozen disciplines. Traditional emergency responders such as HazMat technicians, firefighters, and law enforcement may train beside healthcare providers, public health officials, or 911 dispatchers, to name a few.

Emergency responders attending a COBRA course leave the CDP confident they have the ability to perform in situations requiring emergency response, should it happen where they live and work. Responders who successfully complete the course are presented the coveted COBRA pin—a King Cobra in a hooded threat display, a recognizable warning posture—

signifying their successful entry and execution of tasks in a toxic environment.

Not yet an alumnus of the CDP? Sign up for training and come take a class.

<http://cdp.dhs.gov>

Introducing...

Spotlight on CDP Instructional Staff



Gary Pippin **Lead Instructor, Law Enforcement (LE)**

Experience: 18 years (Law Enforcement)

20 years (U.S. Air Force)

- **Commander of a Drug and Violent Crime Task Force**
- **Instructor for all LE classes at the CDP**
- **Subject Matter Expert for the development of LE curriculum at the CDP**

CDP Instructor Uses Training, Experience, Knowledge in Law Enforcement Programs

Gary Pippin is the Lead Instructor for the Law Enforcement program at the CDP. Pippin has been working for the CDP for more than eight years instructing courses such as Law Enforcement Protective Measures for CBRNE Incidents (LEPM), Field Force Extrication Tactics (FFE), and Initial Law Enforcement Response to Suicide Bomb Attacks (ILERSBA). He also played an important role in the development and revision of the LEPM, FFE, and Field Force Operations (FFO) courses, providing his expertise in the field of law enforcement and his

experience as an instructor.

Before coming on board at the CDP, Pippin worked as the Commander for the Calhoun/Cleburne County Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force in Anniston, Ala. While working for the task force, he supervised all investigations of narcotics and violent crimes for a tri-county area. Prior to that, he served 20 years in the United States Air Force.

Pippin's favorite part of his job at the CDP is interacting with students from across the United States. As he puts it, "(Law en-

forcement personnel) all have the same problems; the only thing that changes are the accents." At the end of the day, he feels there are three key components for a successful career in law enforcement: training, knowledge, and experience.

During his down time, Pippin maintains a small farm that, in his words, he tries to "keep afloat." He is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge in Anniston. "Most importantly though," he says, "I'm proud to be a cop!"

Times Square
Continued from Page 1

was on scene within minutes to help diffuse the situation.

The vehicle was carrying a large amount of accelerants and explosives that could have killed hundreds, not only from the blast, but from the collateral damage of buildings. The quick thinking by Officer Rhatigan, who acknowledged his CDP training resulted in his decisive response to evacuate, rather than investigate the smoking car a little closer, helped thwart the attempted attack.

NYPD academy instructors and CDP Instructor Rich Teemsma (a former NYPD Bomb Squad Detective) taught Rhatigan's classes, which trained officers in the RAIN (Recognize, Avoid, Isolate, Notify) concept related to protection from improvised explosive devices. Rich commonly tells his students if they find a suspicious package they should "RAIN on it."

So when I think about how our training can benefit all communities, I look at the actions of Officer Rhatigan as a great example. His CDP training helped protect citizens in Times Square that day. CDP alumni leave our training better equipped to protect their hometowns from very real hazards, and we are honored to play a part in that investment.

- Dr. Jones

Note

The man responsible for the attempted attack, Faisal Shahzad, was sentenced to life in prison October 5, 2010.

CDP News

CDP, AFC Offer Pro Board Certification

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) recently teamed with the Alabama Fire College (AFC) to offer Pro Board certifications to eligible first responders attending the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE (ERHM) incidents course. The Pro Board certification for the CDP curriculum, under the umbrella of the AFC program, provides an opportunity for graduates to receive a nationally recognized certificate for hazardous materials emergency response.

According to Rick Dickson, CDP assistant director for training delivery, Alabama Fire College's cooperation was instrumental in the partnership that will benefit graduates of the CDP's ERHM course and emergency response agencies nationwide.

"Pro Board certification is a major credential to a large majority of first responders," said Dickson. "This accreditation is available because of the partnership between the CDP and AFC, and the ability of the CDP to offer this under the umbrella of AFC. It is a significant success story for CDP training because it offers the emergency response community an opportunity, through education, that impacts their professional career."



First responders attending the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE (ERHM) incidents course now have the opportunity to receive Pro Board certification through the Alabama Fire College.

"Pro Board accreditation ensures both the student and the employer that the training and evaluation processes have met internationally-accepted benchmarks of quality," said Allan Rice, executive director, AFC and Personnel Standards Commission. "AFC is very proud to have CDP operating within our state, and we are even more proud of the partnership that has been forged between us. By working together, we are meeting the needs of America's first responders."

The fire college has only designated ERHM as the current CDP training program for Pro Board certification. Among the many courses offered at the CDP for emergency response personnel, ERHM is a five-day class providing responders with a combination of lectures and advanced hands-on practical exercises.

The course introduces response personnel to the terrorist threat, the hazardous materials management system, responder health and safety, the Incident Command System (ICS), site management, information management, response objectives, and terminating the incident. The responder receives hands-on training, using advanced surveying and monitoring equipment, selecting and using the appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and performing decontamination procedures.

CDP Recognizes Achievement of Nearly 100 Authorized Trainers

Nearly 100 Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) graduates are being recognized for training responders in their own communities.

The CDP's Indirect Authorized Training Program (IATP) prepares CDP graduates to train these responders using authorized Train-the-Trainer programs in their home jurisdictions.

The CDP recognizes three levels of indirect trainers for each fiscal year (Oct. 1- Sept. 30). The Bronze level is recognized for instructing 100 or more students or 10 classes, Silver level is 200 or more students or 15 classes, and Gold level is 300 or more students or 20 classes.

This year the CDP will recognize two trainers who have been gold level trainers for five years in a row

(since the inception of the program in 2006).

CDP awarded 72 Bronze, 17 Silver, and 9 Gold trainers. CDP graduates accomplishing this training excellence are issued certificates along with an item (personalized with a COBRA emblem) as recognition for their proficiency level.

Commitment to preparedness training not only improves a responder's ability to perform, but improves the performance ability of others on the receiving end of training. The CDP recognizes that the overwhelming majority of these Authorized Trainers are full-time members of the local response community and that delivering this training is demanding and time-consuming. Communities affected by this training are better prepared for a disaster response.

Did you know? During an average week, CDP food services cooks 4,800 slices of bacon, 1,000 homemade biscuits, 8,000 eggs, 423 pounds of chicken, and serves 4,900 bottles of water.

Out and About

Below is an abbreviated schedule of conferences the CDP will attend from April to June 2011. Please stop by and see us if you are attending one of these conferences. And don't forget to bring a friend!

| Conference | Dates | Location |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2011 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference | April 28-29, 2011 | Augusta, Maine |
| Disaster Response and Recovery Expo | May 3-4, 2011 | Grapevine, Texas |
| Missouri Emergency Management Conference | May 4, 2011 | Branson, Mo. |
| Fire Expo 2011 | May 20-22, 2011 | Harrisburg, Penn. |
| South Carolina Fire Rescue Conference | June 9-11, 2011 | Myrtle Beach, S.C. |
| Rocky Mountain Trauma and Emergency Medicine Conf. | June 21-24, 2011 | Breckenridge, Colo. |

On the Horizon

Indoor Facelift Highlights CDP's Training of Responders Nationwide



If it's been a while since you've walked the halls of the CDP, you'll notice a facelift in our Main Complex. Students in the Main Complex will notice hallway entrances welcoming them to Cobra Alley, Operations Alley, Responder Alley, Command Alley, and Technician Alley. These passageways are just a few of the recent cosmetic changes that represent the diverse emergency responders from across the nation who train at the CDP.

"Our initial plan was to provide an atmosphere conducive to adult learning," said Rick Dickson, assistant director of training delivery. "The CDP's adult learners

come from specialized response fields that relate to our training environment. The desire was to capture and label our training venues to represent the response community and stimulate learning at the same time."

In addition to wall hangings and passageway titles, the new decor features flags representing all 50 states and U.S. territories, and updated photos of emergency responders training at the CDP.

"We want our facility to represent response training that reflects the CDP all hazards approach" said Chuck Medley, training manager for SAIC and contract supervisor for the project. "Emergency responders will immediately connect with the imagery and relate to the titles we have given the various CDP corridors. It is simply a better training environment that emphasizes the mission of the CDP and the response environment we strive to perfect."

Soup & Salad

In an effort to offer CDP students and employees more variety during lunch, a soup and salad bar has opened at the Noble Training Facility (NTF). The bar features a soup of the day and offers more than 20 salad items. "The salad and soup bar are a nice addition to the choices that individuals have when dining at the NTF," said Bernice Zaidel, assistant director for curriculum development and evaluation. A daily soup bar is also available at Building 61, our Main Training Facility.



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