



# 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

666,960 as of July 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](mailto:newsletter_feedback@cdpemail.dhs.gov)

## In This Issue

- CDP News 2
- Training Spotlight 6
- Introducing... 7
- Worth Repeating 8
- Contact Us 8
- Out and About 9
- On the Horizon 9

## FEMA Administrator Visits CDP Observes Mass Casualty Response Training

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate visited the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), June 15. This was the administrator's first visit to the CDP, providing him an opportunity to observe responders from across the nation training in a realistic, mass-casualty environment.

Administrator Fugate visited each CDP training site and received a better understanding of how the specialized and realistic training delivered at the campus helps meet the needs of emergency responders in the United States and territories. His tour included stops at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility and the Noble Training Facility (NTF).

"I believe the big takeaway is that the COBRA Training Facility and the Noble Training Facility are unique assets in this nation that nobody else has," Administrator Fugate said. "Another benefit is bringing multi-disciplines together in an environment to do work that they hopefully will never face unless in a crisis—but give them a chance here to practice and literally risk failure."

The Administrator added, "The goal is to train realistically—the way we would operate in our communities during a real-world crisis. Not many places in the world offer this kind of training, but here at the CDP first responders, who do this every day, get a chance to practice before the next disaster."

The COBRA is the nation's only toxic chemical training facility for emergency responders. It features civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment using chemical agents, providing critical response knowledge and skills to first responders. In 2007, the CDP welcomed



FEMA Administrator Fugate is shown a positive reading for chemical agents at the CDP's COBRA Training Facility.

the NTF as an additional training venue for the campus. It serves as the only hospital in the U.S. dedicated solely to training.

During the administrator's day-long visit he took part in several informative briefings with CDP officials and also met local civic leaders to discuss the FEMA and CDP mission. Administrator Fugate stated before leaving that first responders are going to make the difference during a disaster response and CDP training is the most realistic in the United States.

"[The CDP] is one place you go to make your career in first response, because the training you get, you will not get anywhere else."



Photo By Phillip Hudgins, SAIC

A mock explosion at a high school football game kicks off the Integrated Exercise that combined three CDP courses.

## CDP Holds First Integrated Exercise

The unique hands-on training that responders receive at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) went a step further recently thanks to the center's first-ever integrated exercise. The June 15 scenario brought together three courses for a capstone exercise that combined mass casualty response with other components of an emergency. A total of 131 students participated in the course integration, creating the largest exercise since the CDP opened in 1998.

"We have never conducted an exercise of this magnitude," said Rick Dickson, assistant director for training delivery. "Timing of the courses plays a large role in the success and ability to perform an exercise like this. It was a change from the normal, not only for the students, but for the CDP's training department. We were able to bring three courses together in a final exercise, consisting of different responsibilities and multiple disciplines that provided a real-world response experience."

In the past individual courses were provided an exercise scenario specific to each class, while the additional emergency response components typically involved in a scenario were notionalized. The integrated exercise removed this artificiality.

The scenarios started with students from the Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) course responding to a simulated explosion at a high school football game. Students from the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) course decontaminated mock victims outside the hospital's emergency department after ambulances transported mock victims from the incident scene. The Healthcare Leadership (HCL) course activated the hospital command center and managed the surge of patients.

"It was great to see how EMO would interact with HERT, and how HERT communicated with the hospital (HCL)," said Chad Cossey, a disaster response coordinator from California attending HERT. "I gained a sense of what potential problems could occur and how the three groups could work together in the future, regardless of where we live. I got a good picture of how we can work together as a team and communicate."

Continued on Next Page

# CDP News

## Integration Exercise Continued from Previous Page

Photos By Phillip Hudgins, SAIC

“Three days earlier we were three separate courses, combined with different disciplines, and unfamiliar with everyone,” said Justin Jensen, a fire fighter and EMT from Idaho. “Three days later you put the same groups together and we communicate, and work together as a team.”

Caitlin Ahern said it is difficult to focus on training at her own hospital in Massachussets, where she works as the hazardous materials coordinator, because real patients must remain the priority for the staff. She enjoyed the CDP atmosphere, which provided a fully functional hospital dedicated solely to training.

“You can focus on the roles and response process,” said Ahern. “The integrated exercise stressed me out. In my opinion, it was effective and I feel I am taking back experience that will make a difference in my hospital. This was realistic and reflective of a true mass casualty incident involving multiple response agencies.”

The CDP hopes to combine end-of-course exercises once a quarter and ultimately include more courses, including a variety of disciplines other than healthcare. The current goal is to recog-



Role players added to the realistic response by first responders. Most CDP exercises incorporate role players into end-of-course exercises.



Students attending the Emergency Medical Operations course are first on the mock scene to treat the injured prior to hospital transport.



Students attending the Hospital Emergency Response Training course receive and decontaminate survivors before hospital admittance.

nize required planning, logistics, and manpower to fully provide a realistic training experience.

Current renovations to the CDP’s hospital training facility will put future exercises on hold until January. However, remodeling will focus on the Emergency Department and include the addition of a non-ambulatory patient entrance, two HazMat patient isolation rooms, nurse triage stations and vital signs collection points. The renovation will convert the existing ED into a modern, state-of-the-art treatment area, designed to enhance student’s experiences and add greater realism. Once renovations are complete a more consistent training schedule involving the integration of courses during the final exercises will be added to the calendar.

“Integrating our courses is another example of the CDP’s commitment to the first responder’s training experience,” Dickson said. “We strive to enhance our training environment and realistic training is common in student feedback. Combining these three courses in an end-of-course exercise demonstrates reality, strengthens student confidence, and most of all prepares them for what could happen when they return home.”



Hospital workers receive patients from emergency personnel during the CDP’s integrated exercise.

# CDP News

## Family Members Train Together at CDP

It is not unusual for sons or daughters to follow in their parents' footsteps when choosing a career path. But, finding the time to train and train together is a different story.

The Kevek family—fire fighters from Siletz, Oregon—and the Kinsey family—hazardous material technicians from State College, Penn.—attended a week of training at the CDP in response to potential hazardous threats.



Daughter and father team Kaitlin and Paul Kevek.

The Keveks, a father and daughter team, have found that training is a cornerstone to their individual preparedness.

“Training can relate to any hazardous event you face,” said Paul Kevek, age 51. “The

more emergency training we have, the more prepared we are, and the more likely we can apply that training to any event.”

“This was my second trip to the CDP so I asked dad to apply for the course as well,” said Kaitlin Kevek, age 21. “When we return to our fire department he can help me relate to the other fire fighters the information we have learned.”

Another family, the Kinseys, are father and son Pennsylvanians and actually work on the campus of Pennsylvania State University. These hazardous materials technicians have



Father and son team Hartley and Andrew Kinsey.

worked together for the past six years, and believe that training is essential to knowledge and preparedness.

“We do a lot together and even attended the same EMT class, to include Search and Rescue training,” said Hartley Kinsey, age 52. “My personal view is that my family’s safety, my friend’s safety, and community’s safety is up to me. The only way to do that is through training, I want to be prepared.”

“There are two types of people—people who are self reliant and people who rely on others,” said Andrew Kinsey, age 27. “If I can do anything to support my community so it can survive in the first 72 hours without outside help, then we have achieved self sustainment. The more we know, the more we are able to help the community get to that point. This was outstanding training.”



(Right to Left) Alabama Department of Homeland Security Director Spencer Collier observes a hazardous materials incident response and recovery demonstration at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). Rick Dickson, CDP assistant director for training delivery, explains how CDP training instills specific skills emergency responders can use to protect themselves and their communities.

## AL Homeland Security Director Visits CDP

The director of Alabama’s Department of Homeland Security visited the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) on June 1. This was Spencer Collier’s first visit to the CDP since he was appointed Alabama’s homeland security director in December 2010. Collier received a first-hand look at CDP operations and training venues during his visit.

“From what I’ve seen this is training that is unmatched anywhere and seems to be [front line] training at a time when all state, local, and tribal need this advanced preparation—I’m actually blown away by it,” Collier said. “It makes me proud to be the Homeland Security Advisor in Alabama, knowing that this is going on in our state.”

## CDP Blood Lab Represents Excellence in Audit

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) RBC-Cholinesterase Laboratory (blood lab) recently received an outstanding inspection during its annual audit. The CDP’s blood lab is responsible for testing all student blood samples who participate in nerve agent training at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility. Students and staff



Pictured Left to Right: Barbie Howard, Tina Northard, Marilyn Myles, and (center front) Jackie Morgan.

Continued on Next Page

# CDP News

## Gold Level Authorized Trainers Recognized

In April, the CDP recognized almost 100 Authorized Trainers for their efforts and success to provide critical instruction to emergency responders in their home jurisdictions. This year, the CDP also recognized Chicago police officers Manuel Mendoza and John Zadelek for achieving the Gold level standard for the past five consecutive years.

The CDP recognizes three levels of indirect trainers 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.

In 2010, Mendoza instructed more than 500 students, while Zadelek taught more than 300 students. Each of these authorized trainers has a similar passion for training and hopes their efforts save lives.

“In [a responder’s] career they can make thousands of correct decisions, but one wrong decision can cost you your life,” Mendoza said. “I value the CDP’s hands on training, and recognition techniques. These tools allow the officers I train to maximize their skills and prevent the loss of life.”

“The law enforcement community must stay prepared and understand the new tactics and techniques available to prevent and respond to incidents,” Zadelek said. “The number one reason I’m committed to training is officer safety. The basic skills of law enforcement are very valuable, but it is important to instruct new methods that may be useful to officers on the street.”

Altogether for 2010, the 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.

In addition to annual certificates for training accomplishments, Mendoza and Zadelek also received a plaque for their consistent training success. This local training not only ensures responders are receiving quality, up-to-date instruction, but saves money in manpower and overtime costs.

### What is IATP?

*The CDP’s Indirect Authorized Trainer Program (IATP) is designed to efficiently offer courses in responders’ home jurisdictions. Through qualified Train-the-Trainer (TtT) programs CDP graduates are able to deliver TtT courses to their home organization and neighboring response units.*

*Training provided within states and local jurisdictions by state and local trainers is a critical component of national preparedness. The CDP leverages the presence and expertise of these individuals by qualifying them to deliver specific CDP courses through attendance and graduation from certified CDP-delivered train-the-trainer programs. The IATP officially identifies members of the CDP Indirect Authorized Trainer community who acquire special training skills of direct benefit to the CDP mission and whose efforts enhance the local response capability through locally delivered training.*

*Once qualified by the CDP, and with approval of their State Administrative Agency (SAA) training point of contact, these trainers can deliver training in their jurisdictions and receive ongoing administrative support from the CDP.*

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**Blood Lab** attending a COBRA course have  
**Continued from Page 4** all participated in the early morning blood draw.

The lab collects blood samples as a safety precaution to ensure students and employees are never affected by GB or VX nerve agents. The lab employees conduct a thorough process to draw blood, and spend a significant amount of time testing the samples for any indication of nerve agent exposure. The lab averages between 7,700-8,000 collections and tests a year.

According to Jackie Morgan, laboratory supervisor, receiving these outstanding results speaks highly of the laboratory staff, and its error free efforts.

“Like every audit it helps you notice your weaknesses and your strengths,” Morgan said. “It makes you look at your work from another angle and helps you realize where you can improve your practices and where you need to continue doing things the way you have. We all work great together as a team and just try to do our job the best we can. We take a lot of pride in the work we perform here at the CDP.”

Did you know? The conception of the CDP can be traced back to the 1995 Sarin nerve agent attacks on the Tokyo subway system. As that event unfolded, public safety officials in New York City looked for ways to prepare civilian responders for such an event in the U.S.

# Training Spotlight

## Radiological Operations Training Improves Response For Local Agencies

The recent earthquakes and subsequent radiological impacts in Japan have increased the awareness and interest in how communities respond to radioactive incidents. Despite the recent increased attention on radiological hazards, training for such a potential incident has been happening at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) for the past four years.

The CDP, in coordination with the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), offers five courses focusing on radiological preparedness in communities across the United States.

The radiological courses prepare first responders to deal with all types of radiological incidents, according to Bernice Zaidel, CDP assistant director for curriculum development and evaluation. Depending on the course, students learn basic fundamentals to advanced techniques. Each course ties in the response to a potential mass casualty event involving radiological material.

“CDP radiological training provides a safe environment where first responders learn how to protect themselves, their equipment, and the general public if a radiological event were to occur in their community,” Zaidel said. “Our training is designed to advance what they already know, and provide solid guidance to improve current plans, processes, and practices.”

Denise White, senior health and safety specialist for the Bureau of Radiation Control, located in Orlando, Fla., recently completed the Radiological Emergency Response Operations (RERO) course at the CDP.

“There are so many reasons to take this training,” White said. “The training was as real as it gets. I feel better prepared, and confident in my ability to respond. A person in this field does not completely understand all the threats until they attend this training—a fantastic experience.”

Many first responders live in the vicinity, between 10 and 50 miles, of a nuclear power plant. Responders in these areas are required to remain current, rehearse emergency plans, and attend training and

exercises mandated by FEMA and REPP, Zaidel said.

“This training prepares emergency responders to know the radiological hazards that face their communities,” Zaidel said. “With training, responders know how best to protect themselves from the exposure and contamination risk of a radiological event.”

The radiological courses provided by the CDP are performance-based and students focus on the response and management of a radiological event. More advanced-level training is designed to improve skills and center on response plans and procedures for complex incidents such as a terrorist or mass casualty event.

“We try to make the scenarios and equipment available as realistic as possible for the students,” said Candice Gilliland, CDP radiological training course manager. “We utilize live radiation sources as well as electronic equipment to simulate radiation contamination and exposure. The CDP provides different types of

equipment from the most basic to cutting edge. It is important to vary the instruments students use, because not all jurisdictions are the same. Regardless of how small or large their jurisdiction is, they will find the instruments we provide suitable for their area of response.”

Indirect training courses are also offered through the Indirect Authorized Training Program (IATP). The IATP prepares CDP graduates to train first responders

using authorized Train-the-Trainer programs in their home jurisdiction. To find the CDP radiological curriculum tracks locate [Programs T, WW, and XX on the CDP web site <http://cdp.dhs.gov>](#).

The CDP develops and delivers advanced training for emergency response providers, emergency managers, and other government officials from state, local, and tribal governments. The CDP offers 55 training courses at its resident campus in Anniston, Ala. focusing on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. Training at the CDP campus is federally funded at no cost to state, local, and tribal emergency response professionals or their agency.



The entry team reads their electronic personal dosimeters to determine the current dose rate and the total exposure dose they have encountered.

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

**Connie Boatright-Royster, MSN, RN, Col., USAR (Ret.)**

–Instructor: Four years (health care)

–Experience: 30 years (health care emergency management), 27-plus years (U.S. Army Reserve)

–Former Deputy Chief/Acting Chief of the Department of Veteran Affairs National Emergency Management Strategic Health Care Group

–Instructor in the Health Care Leadership and Decision Making in Mass Casualty Incidents (HCL) and Framework for Health Care Emergency Management (FRAME) courses



### Q&A with Connie Boatright-Royster

**What is your favorite part of your job?** It is difficult to select just one favorite part. It is exciting to be part of the fantastic team that teaches/facilitates courses focused on emergency management in health care settings. When students return to their home facilities and apply knowledge and skills gained at CDP, their emergency management programs are tremendously enhanced. I believe that we are directly influencing the country's readiness, one student at a time! We often receive messages from CDP alumni who share how the knowledge and skills learned here have been put to the test in "real" disasters and incidents with successful results. They often share that, without the knowledge and skills learned here, there may not have been successful outcomes. We make a difference beyond just what happens in the classroom or exercise and that is very gratifying.

**What do you hope to accomplish in your position? What do you want students to walk away with at the end of the day?** It is important that we, as instructors, remain current and involved in emergency management activities and remain abreast of the latest doctrine, policy and best practices. We also owe it to participants to go the extra mile to provide a dynamic and worthwhile experience...through interesting and engaging lectures, as well as challenging exercises and discussions. The students also bring a wealth of experience and are encouraged to share. There is much to learn from one another. I want students to know that what they do matters. My hope and goal is that, through their experience at Noble Training Facility, they understand that emergency management is not a separate concept or field, but is an integral part of their daily roles. While here, they gain an appreciation of the world beyond their facility or profession and carry that into their roles at home. Finally, I want them to know that emergency management, particularly in healthcare, is constantly evolving. They need to continue to read, learn, be aware, and get involved and to share with and teach others.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I am involved in interests and activities surrounding veterans' issues, such as the Indy Mayor's Advisory Council on Veterans (MACV)...particularly in the areas of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and readjustment issues of returning service members. I like to write, mostly about emergency management issues. For fun, I love to hang out with family, like to cook and "create" new recipes, read (especially history, biographies). I am a "fan" of amusement parks and thrill rides...and an avid basketball and football fan (college and pro).

**What would you like students to know about you that we haven't already covered?** I am thrilled to meet and work with student participants and am always impressed with how a group of "strangers" so quickly comes together to accomplish so much, through discussion, exercise, etc. I just want to sincerely thank all who take time out of their demanding schedules and who contribute to the success of our offerings through their willingness to learn, sharing of ideas, and by always challenging us to do better.

Do you have a success story? The CDP would like to know how our training has made a difference where you live. E-mail: [pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov)

# Worth Repeating

## *Emergency Preparedness is a Priority*

“All of us here at Allen County Hospital want to thank the CDP for the time of our life. We learned soooo much and had a blast. Once I got home I started emailing the information to our hospital division group as well as corporate letting them know they needed to start sending people to attend. I received phenomenal response. I also sent the information and have had several meetings with our county and city folks and again received excellent response. I foresee you getting many applications from folks in our area wanting to attend. All of us that attended also want to come back when the new program for HERT is complete.”

Lisa Griffith, Registered Nurse, Emergency Department Manager, Kansas

## *Complacency Has No Place in Response, Teamwork Does*

“The largest challenges WE face as a nation of responders are to keep people engaged, not become lax, and work as ONE large team. Fire, police, EMS, CST and every other responding entity must take their respective position on the tip of the spear. We must work together as we all have a common goal and cannot realize that goal without each other’s expertise and support. [The CDP’s] staff and facilities encourage that to happen and I believe the CDP is having a large impact on responders’ combat readiness to adapt, overcome and survive as a team. The quality of instruction, facilities and hospitality are top notch, making them a credit to the CDP.”

Brian Kitchen, Hazardous Materials Specialist, Idaho

# Contact Us

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**Region Map**

The map shows the following state assignments:  
Western Region (Blue): AK, WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, NV, UT, AZ, CA, NM, TX.  
Central Region (Yellow): MN, WI, MI, IA, IL, IN, OH, MO, KY, TN, MS, AL, GA, FL, LA, AR, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND.  
Eastern Region (Green): ME, VT, NH, MA, NY, NJ, PA, WV, VA, NC, SC, MD, DE, DC, WV, VA, NC, SC, MD, DE, DC.  
Islands & Federal (Red): HI, Mariana Islands, American Samoa, PR, VIRGIN ISLANDS.



# Out and About

Below is an abbreviated schedule of conferences the CDP will attend through September 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
Firehouse Expo 2011	July 21-23, 2011	Baltimore, Md.
Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conf.	Aug. 16-17, 2011	Shelton, Wash.
Fire-Rescue International	Aug. 26-27, 2011	Atlanta, Ga.
Emergency Medical Services World Expo	Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Las Vegas, Nev.
22nd Annual Continuing Challenge	Sept. 7-8, 2011	Sacramento, Calif.
National Emergency Management Summit	Sept. 13-15, 2011	New York, N.Y.
Emergency Nurses Association 2011	Sept. 22-24, 2011	Tampa, Fla.

## On the Horizon

### Noble Training Facility Renovations To Offer Modern Emergency Department

In 2007, when the Noble Training Facility (NTF) joined the CDP's training venues, it was touted as the nation's only hospital dedicated solely to health care training. Now this unique training venue is about to get an upgrade.

Renovations will begin August 2011 to expand and update the existing Emergency Department (ED). The project is expected to be completed by late Fall. The renovations will make the ED more consistent with most modern-day emergency departments.

According to Mick Castillo, CDP technology integration coordinator, the upgrades will match NTF's ED with the nationally recognized training for which the CDP is known.

"Our health care training programs owe a good deal of their success to the realistic venues in which they operate," Castillo said. "Venue considerations are of great significance and not simply because of the obvious aesthetic improvements. We've grown to appreciate the weight our emergency



Health care professionals will notice dramatic changes to the NTF's Emergency Department (ED) by the end of 2011. Major renovations will provide a modern emergency room setting.

responder students place on realism in an advanced, hands-on training program."

Renovations include the addition of a non-ambulatory patient entrance, two HazMat patient isolation rooms, nurse triage stations and vital signs collection points. The renovation will convert the existing ED into a modern, state-of-the-art treatment area, designed to enhance student's experiences and add greater realism.

"The CDP's hospital emergency department will mirror real-world

emergency departments," said Rick Dickson, assistant director for training delivery. "This renovation demonstrates our commitment to the learner's training experience. These enhancements will better serve the health care community's educational needs. We are excited about the renovation; specifically the realism it will bring to our scenarios."

#### NTF Fact:

*The former U.S. Army Noble Hospital was converted into a training site for health and medical education in disasters and mass casualty events in 1999. Years later, and after several changes in operational responsibility, the full potential of this facility was realized and the official name changed from the Noble Training Center to the Noble Training Facility (NTF). The CDP has operated the NTF since 2007, and completely funds all training—to include travel, meals and lodging for state, local, and tribal emergency responders.*

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