

Q1. What is Vibrant Response 15 and what training objectives does it hope to achieve?

A1. The exercise includes a field training exercise and command post exercise for elements of DOD's CBRN Response Enterprise (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear). It features realistic venues and civilian role-players, as well as sophisticated computer simulations, to replicate a demanding disaster environment. It is intended to exercise the ability to deploy, employ, and sustain specialized military response forces upon the request of civilian authorities to save lives and relieve human suffering following a catastrophic CBRN incident.

Q2. Where will the exercise be held?

A2. The exercise will take place at various locations, including Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Q3. How many military members are participating?

A3. About 3,500 personnel will train in aviation, medical, engineering, logistics, and other life-saving tasks.

Q4. What units are participating?

A4. Units from 28 U.S. states and territories will be participating. Major headquarters elements include U.S. Army North, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Joint Task Force Civil Support, Fort Eustis, Va.; 38th Infantry Division, Indiana National Guard, Indianapolis; and 76th Operational Response Command, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Q5. Why exercise to a catastrophic CBRN scenario?

A5. The Department Of Defense has long had the mission of supporting civilian agencies in responding to disasters. The Vibrant Response scenario is based on a national planning scenarios developed by the Department of Homeland Security. DHS has developed a series of national planning scenarios for a variety of hazards that provide a baseline of assumptions to be used by agencies at all levels to develop and assess their readiness and response plans.

Q6. What capabilities do the specialized response forces have?

A6. They bring a range of life-saving capabilities such as medical response, decontamination, technical rescue, patient evacuation, communications and logistics support (moving people, equipment and supplies by land and air).

Q7. Is this a new capability within DOD?

A7. DOD has a long history of supporting civil authorities during disaster. The current structure of the tiered CBRN Response Enterprise was developed and built over the last five years (2010-2015).

Q8. What are the response timelines for the specialized response forces?

A8. We don't discuss specific response times for security reasons. But the units have aggressive response timelines and are capable of deploying by air or land.

Q9. Who would be in charge of the response?

A9. When an incident occurs, a local civilian incident command is established to lead the response. After state capabilities have been exhausted, the state may request federal assistance. The military specialized response forces would be employed as part

of the overall federal response requested by a state to assist the local incident commander in accomplishing his or her mission. Federal personnel act in support of the local incident commander.

Q10: Why conduct this exercise in Indiana?

A10: Camp Atterbury provides support for training by military and law enforcement agencies, first responders and a variety of civilian educational and civic organizations. It provides sophisticated mobilization, reception, staging and onward integration capabilities, as well as airfield operations and extensive training areas. This integration allows us to conduct specialized training within given fiscal constraints.

Q11: What civilian agencies are participating in the exercise?

A11: A number of state and federal agencies are participating, including teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the various National Guard units.

Q12: is this exercise in response to real-world events that have recently occurred or been threatened?

A12: No. This exercise has been scheduled for some time. It is one of a series of exercises designed to test and evaluate DOD emergency response. These activities are not in response to any specific event or perceived threat.

Q13: Will the exercise affect the daily routine of local and base residents?

A13: The exercise will be held at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center. Local residents may see increased road traffic and activity in and around the installation.