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NDPC News

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Letter from the Chairman

New York Police Department Emergency Service Unit members secure a bomb device releasing simulated sarin gas during an exercise of NCBRT's Weapons of Mass Destruction Advanced Tactical Operations course. The class is one of NCBRT's most popular courses.

CTOS presents radiological hands-on prevention training at its best

National Security Technologies' Counter Terrorism Operations Support Program (CTOS) located at Nevada Test Site has completed the addition of two new courses to its current training program: the Personal Radiation Detector course (PRD) and the Detection Equipment for Law Enforcement course (DELE). These courses focus on capabilities that help detect and interdict radiological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

Until recently CTOS training focused on the "response" to a rad/nuc WMD event. In 2006, the Department of Homeland Security

Since the events of 9/11, a large percentage of homeland security expenditures have been for emergency response equipment. From detection devices to hazmat suits and interoperable communications to mobile command centers, many jurisdictions across America are now equipped for an initial response to a weapons of mass destruction incident or natural disaster.

But one key question remains - can our country's emergency responders effectively deploy and use this equipment in response to a real-world, large-scale incident? This is a question that can be answered only through in-depth training and exercises.

Experts agree that relevant training and exercising of the personnel who will be using the equipment in a WMD incident or natural disaster is as essential as the equipment itself.

Providing such homeland security training and exercises for emergency responders is what the members of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) do on a daily basis. Consider that since its founding in 1998 - three years prior to 9/11 - the NDPC has trained more than 700,000 emergency responders from all 50 states, the five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

Ask any professional athlete and they will tell you that training is a continual process that must be sustained. Homeland security is no different. The United States must continually train and exercise our emergency responders to enhance their abilities to protect our citizens.

The NDPC stands ready to assist jurisdictions large and small in achieving their desired goal of protecting their citizens, property, and economic livelihood.

John W. (Bill) May, Jr.

established "strengthening Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) detection capability" as a national priority. CTOS responded by developing these two courses that target the law enforcement community's "prevent" mission.

PRD training teaches law enforcement officers to detect possible illicit sources of radiation emitting material using their PRDs (also known as "radiation pagers"). During the one-day course, the students learn how to use their instrument to separate "innocent" alarms from those that could potentially indicate the presence of a rad/nuc WMD.

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Students walk in a calm and orderly line as they participate in a practice evacuation as part of a crisis response plan.

New Mexico Tech Answers a Need for America's Schools: Online School Safety Training

In the wake of the recent school tragedies, much has been written and said about what it takes to create a safe school. Whether the expert was a top level school administrator, a first responder, or a safety expert from the private sector, they all had nearly the same advice: School safety requires that schools practice their crisis response plans, take action against bullies, and communicate with their communities on what they are doing to safeguard the students.

Two years ago, New Mexico Tech's Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center designed and developed an online course that addresses those same concepts. Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents, a Department of Homeland Security-sponsored and certified course has experienced a positive reaction from both the first responder and educational communities.

In the face of a threat, violence, or a crisis at a school, everyone involved must know what to do immediately. Any emergency incident unfolds so quickly that it is critical that all school staff—from the

secretary to the custodian to the classroom teacher to the superintendent—is appropriately trained and alert to handle a crisis situation before it becomes a tragedy. As an online course, Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents makes it possible for every school staff member to complete the training and share a common understanding of preparedness and critical response actions.

The course takes a proactive stance toward student violence and crisis planning by developing an understanding of warning signs of aggressive student behavior; threat assessment; critical response actions; and school-wide practice and training plans. Participants can use the information in the course, including many additional resources such as Early Warning, Timely Advice which describes warning signs of aggressive student behavior, and the FBI Guide to Threat Assessment, to effectively assess current response plans and guide recommendations.

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NCBRT

NERRTC course focuses on critical infrastructure

From airports to refineries and waterways to commercial centers, assessing and securing critical infrastructure is a key component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Security Strategy. In fact, critical infrastructure is now being used to prioritize homeland security funding requests.

The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), a division of The Texas A&M University System's Texas Engineering Extension Service, helps jurisdictions across the country

develop action plans to reduce or mitigate identified vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure through its Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment course, which is funded through DHS's Office of Grants & Training. Participants build on NERRTC's Threat and Risk Assessment course to conduct a more detailed assessment of the methods for delivery of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive devices against the jurisdiction's potential targets. Additionally, participants apply a systematic process to assess selected infrastructure, facilities, systems and special events



The NERRTC course covers homeland security issues in regards to planes, waterways, refineries and more.

for methods and measures to prevent, reduce and/or mitigate vulnerabilities. The two-day course combines lectures, small group discussions, multimedia

scenarios and actual inspections of facilities and infrastructure selected by the jurisdiction.

NCBRT teams up with Kentucky's Homeland Security: Offering counter-terrorism training to large numbers

This January, the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) will teach its *Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents* (ERDBI) course simultaneously to five locations around the state of Kentucky. In a joint effort with the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security and The Center for Rural Development, the NCBRT will teach the popular course through interactive television reaching large numbers of emergency responders.

Individuals in Kentucky will have the opportunity to take part in the course at locations in Florence, Hazard, Louisville, and Hopkinsville, KY. A fifth location in Somerset, KY will host the course's three lead Office of Grants and Training certified instructors who will interact with course attendees there as well as attendees at the four remote locations.

Although this is not the NCBRT's first time to teach one of their courses via distance learning, it is Kentucky's first time trying out this learning method with a course of this nature. NCBRT Training Program Manager Richard Palmisano thinks Kentucky will be pleased with the results however. "We have held courses like this in New York, Connecticut and other areas with great success. This type of teaching

situation is just a great opportunity to train a large number of people in a short amount of time," said Palmisano. If all goes well with this course, Kentucky will teach more NCBRT courses in this manner.

Personnel from various law enforcement agencies, fire agencies, EMS, emergency management and public health will all benefit from the ERDBI course. Attendees will learn how to responsibly plan for, respond to, and manage a biological incident.

When asked what NCBRT hoped to accomplish with this course, NCBRT Assistant Director Steve Williams responded, "The course allows the participants to gain a better understanding of the responses and actions of the emergency response community in various areas of their state. This will provide a greater understanding of the capabilities of the different areas of the state, and if an agency is required to provide mutual aid to these areas, the responders will already have an increased level of knowledge of the system and the agencies."

CTOS presents...

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The second new course is the Detection Equipment for Law Enforcement course, or DELE, which consists of three training days and teaches students to use Radiation Isotope Identifier Devices (RIIDs) to identify suspect radiation emitting material. Those who have completed this training would be called out after officers who have received an alert on their PRDs have already ruled out the possibility

of an innocent alarm. At this point, the potential of an actual rad/nuc WMD would be quite real, so the officer must know how to operate the RIID quickly and accurately under difficult conditions.

A main aspect of CTOS training has always been the amount of hands-on training each student receives. Of the six courses currently offered, four allow students to spend almost half of

their training time using detection equipment under the watch of qualified instructors. Students operate detection equipment while maneuvering around numerous live radiation sources which provide an elevated yet safe level of radiation for training. The use of live sources eliminates the need for simulation and adds extra intensity to the exercises. The new PRD and DELE courses have added significant capabilities for our

nation's defenders. The unique knowledge students' gain and the skills they acquire from hands-on training increases their confidence and their abilities to detect and interdict rad/nuc WMDs thus contributing to the overall security of our homeland.

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