



# The NDPC News

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## Letter from the Chairman

A SWAT team takes part in tactical training at New Mexico Tech's Playas Training and Research Center (PTRC). The center's unique setting allows for in-depth scenario based training. Read more about PTRC below.

### EMRTC/New Mexico Tech's training initiatives supports shared responsibility

The emphasis on a shared national responsibility for homeland security requires cooperation among all levels of government. Past experiences show the probability of a terrorist cell having capabilities that exceed a local law enforcement agency's is quite high. This situation requires training for responses that are regional and multi-jurisdictional. As one emergency manager stated, "Teamwork is essential. Every local jurisdiction must rely on many partners from public and private to state and federal." In other words, first responders must build relationships long before a disaster strikes.

The Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC)

For the third straight year, the President's initial budget request proposes significant cuts in the training of emergency responders through the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC). Only \$38 million has been budgeted for the NDPC's four training providers in FY2008, versus an appropriation of \$88 million in the current fiscal year.

While billions of dollars have been appropriated for homeland security equipment since the events of 9/11, training is the critical element that ensures the U.S. is ready to effectively respond to terrorist attacks or large-scale natural disasters.

The NDPC delivers nationally standardized, all-hazards training for emergency responders nationwide through the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants & Training. The NDPC is unique in that it:

- Offers specialized training in prevention, protection, response and recovery for more than 120,000 emergency responders annually.
- Delivers more than 1,400 courses that are not widely available and are in high demand.
- Sets the national standard for emergency responder training through a validated course certification process.
- Provides the highest quality instructors through a standardized instructor certification program.
- Constitutes the bulk of training scheduled by states, which traditionally prioritize equipment acquisition and planning in discretionary homeland security grant allocations.

While it is still early in the appropriations process, we must act now to protect the essential training provided for our country's emergency responders through the NDPC. We stand 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.

designs and delivers performance based, real time multi-jurisdictional training through New Mexico Tech Playas Training and Research Center (PTRC). Current and future training and exercising is scenario-based and joins agencies that have never worked together. Participants include teams from state and local response agencies such as hazmat units, local and regional SWAT teams, EOD units, and EMS managers; as well as teams from the federal level. *continued on page 4*



Regional response teams for CBRNE incidents typically involve the fire service and law enforcement disciplines, but many jurisdictions are also including public works and medical personnel.

## **NERRTC** assists in creating regional CBRNE response teams

## **NCBRT** creates courses on suspected WMD cargo and forensics investigations

The National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) at LSU fulfill's its mission by delivering courses that teach jurisdictions how to prevent and respond to terrorist incidents. Courses are focused "on the target," said NCBRT Director Tom Tucker, "We train in the state and local communities that have the most need." Two of NCBRT's new courses, *Integrated Response to Suspected WMD Cargo* and *Advanced*

*Forensic Investigations for High Consequence Events*, are prime examples of NCBRT's dedication to its mission.

*Integrated Response to Suspected WMD Cargo* is a unique course that utilizes a scope of leadership from leaders and managers all the way to responders and personnel on the street, concentrating on the decision-making actions of responders and a jurisdiction's leadership.

The three-day training event provides an opportunity for

jurisdictions to "self-assess" their capabilities in terms of information sharing. Also, assessments can be taken in the response and management of a rapidly evolving situation in which suspected WMD cargo is located in a transportation

One of the key priorities in the national preparedness goal is to expand regional collaboration, specifically by strengthening detection, response and decontamination capabilities for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) incidents.

The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), based within The Texas A&M University System's Texas Engineering Extension Service, has developed a new course, *Developing a State/Regional CBRNE Task Force*, on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security that addresses these priorities.

The management-level course exposes emergency responders to the challenges and considerations of forming a regional response task force. Key issues covered during the course include how the team should be organized, maintained, sustained, activated, mobilized and utilized in the event of a CBRNE incident.

The course does not require a certain organizational model or template for a regional task force, but instead uses facilitated discussions and group activities to determine what will work best for the respective region. Deliveries of the course, which are available to all jurisdictions in the 56 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, have lead to regional response teams being developed. Several task forces developed through the course have had broad cross-involvement of emergency responders, including public works hazmat teams, and mobile hospital care personnel.

The course requires a jurisdiction's leaders and responders to collaborate and effectively respond to scenarios involving realistic WMD devices.

The course involves three segments. In the first, the areas of

information sharing, intelligence fusion, WMD devices, cargo conveyances, and known terrorist tactics are discussed.

The second segment involves the jurisdictions's response to two separate problem-based scenarios. Each one involves suspected WMD devices found with a cargo in transit, as well as the presence of one or more individuals learned to be terrorist

The third day involves facilitated discussions intended to help a jurisdiction develop an



# **NCBRT**

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“after action report” as well as a “go forward” training improvement plan.

The second course under development, *continued on page 3 Advanced Forensic Investigations for Hazardous Environments*, addresses response to a crime scene involving WMD or a hazardous environment. This course, developed in collaboration with the FBI, will provide the participant's with an opportunity to develop their crime scene processing techniques.

The course encompasses five days and provides an opportuni-

ty for participants to work with advanced crime scene mapping techniques, hazardous material detection and monitoring systems, and the use of both “B” and “C” PPE levels. Participants also develop identification and sampling skills required for safe, forensically appropriate processing of suspected covert chemicals, biological agents, and explosive labs.

Both courses are in the final development and piloting stages and are expected for delivery in fall 2007.



Participants in the cargo course pilot approach a potential chlorine bomb.

## Nevada Test Site CTOS program responds to unique training requests



A participant at a course in South Carolina practice radiation detection and identification skills.

In August 2006, the Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement (KVE) Department experienced a situation at a weigh station that identified an operational problem. An analysis of the problem identified the need to train KVE officers in the employment of a radioactive isotopic identification device (RIID). Fortunately, the training they needed had already been developed through the concerted efforts of the Department of Homeland Security's Grants and Training Office, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and National Security Technologies' Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) team at the Nevada Test Site.

As CTOS has demonstrated throughout its tenure, “just in time” is often just what the customer needs. Following the pilot delivery in August 2006 of the *Detection Equipment for Law Enforcement (DELE)* course, it was determined that DELE could meet the specialized needs of the KVE. From the start, the concept for the DELE curriculum was to allow for tailoring the delivery to individual equipment and procedural needs. CTOS staff worked closely with the KVE officers responsible for employing a RIID and tailored the training to this customer's mission requirements.

In October 2006, CTOS delivered the training to the KVE officers, managers and support staff on the operation and employment of a RIID. The course was performance-based, “hands-on” training consisting of lectures, demonstrations, controlled practice, practical exercises, and drills. Highlights of the course included radiation fundamentals related to the KVE mission an alarm response guide discussion with practical exercise, data storage and transfer to reach-back-groups. The course also covered people (driver/passenger) alarms/surveys with practical exercise, and multiple trailer/container survey practical exercise.

National Security Technologies' CTOS program at the Nevada Test Site delivers high-quality and customer-oriented training. The training programs presented by CTOS continue to provide the nation timely, quality training in the prevention and response to terrorists use of a WMD using radiological or nuclear materials.

# EMRTC/New Mexico Tech's training...

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The purpose of this type of training is to allow jurisdictions to integrate their capabilities and skills into the training scenario.

The unique setting and resources at PTRC greatly facilitate scenario based training. PTRC is an actual town with buildings such as houses, apartments, a fire station, and a medical clinic that are used during training. Frequently, the training

scenario will require a multi-agency response to interdict a terrorist cell occupying several buildings.

Exercises include tactical training with explosive breaching on hollow and solid interior and exterior wood doors, metal security doors and shooting ports in walls. Additionally, all participants have an opportunity to participate in simunition training, a training weapons sys-

tem that shoots paint cartridges. When possible, training also utilizes air and ground operations.

A unified response to terrorism must ensure that the information flow about an incident is all-encompassing: neighboring jurisdictions, non-emergency response workers, the public and government officials require prompt and recurring information from authoritative sources. The Command and Control

Center at PTRC allows the staff to immediately bring appropriate expertise into any field situation by sharing video feeds with others at remote locations. Each training session concludes with an after action review of the training video whereby participants take a lessons-learned approach to assessing their training experience.

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