



# The NDPC News

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NCBRT Director Tom Tucker presents LTC Steve Russell with a gift in appreciation for speaking at the NCBRT's fifth annual instructor development conference. Russell closed the conference with a moving speech about the hunt and capture of Saddam Hussein and the need for continued support for the Iraq war and American troops.

## NCBRT celebrates five years of instructor development

This June marked the fifth anniversary of the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) Instructor Professional Development Conference. From June 19-21, guests, exhibitors, NCBRT instructors, and staff gathered in Baton Rouge, LA. The theme of this year's conference was "Strengthening America Through Collaboration." The theme reflected the importance of building and strengthening strategic partnerships between the nation's first preventers, responders, and receivers; local, state, and federal entities; and the private sector.

"The conference becomes more of a success every year," said Jill

## Letter from the Chairman

Shortly after the tragedy at Virginia Tech, members of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium began discussing ways we could help colleges and universities plan for and respond to potential violence or natural disasters on their campuses. Grief and anger turned into an action plan.

Conference calls and on-site working groups soon led to the development of the "NDPC Strategy for Campus Emergency Preparedness." This all-hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery was unveiled at the HSPD-19 Implementation Conference on May 24 in Washington, D.C. Consortium members briefed representatives of the law enforcement community, including members of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Sheriffs' Association, seeking feedback and endorsement.

A copy of the "NDPC Strategy for Campus Emergency Preparedness" has been provided to DHS/FEMA leadership. We not only want to make these individuals aware of this proactive and collaborative approach to a national security concern, but we are also seeking their support in identifying funding for this initiative outside the current training grant.

Phase one of the three-phase plan will roll out currently developed NDPC curriculum that addresses campus security issues. Phases two and three will focus on creating a university emergency operations planning software tool and expanding and enhancing current K-12 products to address the college environment.

This initiative is just another example of what the NDPC can accomplish when its members work together to tackle a problem, and our nation will continue to benefit from our collaborative efforts.

John W. (Bill) May, Jr.

Maraist, conference committee chair. "Each year we have more attendees, more exhibitors, and more positive feedback."

The first conference occurred in August 2003 and became a great opportunity for NCBRT instructors to stay updated on current issues affecting the nation's security. Through showcasing keynote speakers of national prominence, top experts in their field, and the exchange of information, research, and ideas, the NCBRT annual instructor conference continues to improve upon the excellence of its instructors.

More than 200 attendees were present at this year's annual  
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## New Mexico Tech is ensuring relevant and current course content

The Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center of New Mexico Tech (EMRTC/New Mexico Tech) is the lead partner for the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium's training in energetic materials. These materials include explosives such as live explosives and incendiary devices training. EMRTC/New Mexico Tech delivers energetic materials related training to emergency responders in multiple disciplines, through training at the awareness, performance, and planning/management levels.

Resident training includes *Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing* and *Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents*. Rapidly emerging and new threats require these courses have an on-going quality assurance process to guarantee all course content and materials reflect the dynamic environment of these new threats. Every six months all course content and material is reviewed by subject matter experts for timeliness, relevancy, and accuracy. Many of these subject matter experts have first-hand experience at recent WMD events. The subject matter experts then determine the specific addition to the course content and how the course content will be modified. In some cases, information may be added to a class lecture. Many times a case study is created to present information on recent incidents such as the London mass transit bombings or emerging threats such as the attempt to smuggle liquid explosives aboard a jet.

Each case study involves an in-depth examination of an incident or event. This is a valuable teaching tool as a case study reflects the contextual, situational, and complex nature of an incident. In addition, case studies raise the class participant's critical thinking skills to the application/synthesis/evaluation level. Every case study is related to key concepts of the course curriculum. For example, when examining the tactics of Eric Robert Rudolph, a domestic terrorist, the case study emphasizes his targeting of first responders with secondary devices, a key course concept.

Class participants analyze each case study with a particular focus on prevention and response issues. As a result, course participants, who are all responders, gain a sharpened understanding of how the incident unfolded, and what might become important to look at more extensively in the future.



Students in resident courses learn first hand about explosives used in recent threats.



Resident training allows students to observe explosive materials prior to and after detonation.



# NCBRT

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## NERRTC programs help refine community disaster response plans

In times of crisis, preparation and leadership are critical elements of effective response. The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), a division of The Texas A&M University System's Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), offers opportunities for leaders at the local and regional level to assess and improve current disaster response programs.

Two NERRTC courses: *Senior Officials Workshop for All-Hazards Preparedness (SOW)* and *The Mayoral Institute* are designed to enhance community response efforts by providing a facilitated workshop in which participants integrate their own experiences and perspectives.

*SOW* brings together senior officials to discuss disaster preparedness strategies, coordinate response plans, share best practices, and streamline communication between agencies.

*The Mayoral Institute* is designed for the nation's mayors, county executive officers, and other elected officials to identify roles, responsibilities and vul-



NERRTC's new courses bring together senior officials (such as those shown above) who learn to work together to handle possible disastrous occurrences.

nerabilities, review emergency operations plans, and explore domestic preparedness resources.

"We walk communities through each phase of their Emergency Operations Plan," says NERRTC Program Coordinator Lori Cameron. "The participants know their issues and challenges. They bring knowledge of their emergency management plan and then we tailor the workshop to meet jurisdictional needs."

Each course is delivered

on-site, and costs are funded by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants & Training through the NDPC.

"I can't think of a better way to have spent my time," noted Mayor Kristen Umstadd of Leesburg, VA, course participant. "It was eye-opening and extremely thought-provoking; the advice on communications was extremely valuable."

## CTOS increasing prevention capabilities

National Security Technologies Counter Terrorism Operations Support Program (CTOS) is in the final development stage for an *Advanced Radiation Detection (ARD)* training course. The five day course will focus on the Homeland Security prevent mission and will provide attendees with the skills needed to detect radioactive material and assess detection instrument alarms to determine whether radioactive material is legitimate or illicit.

The *ARD* course is designed primarily for state and local special law enforcement units and other personnel tasked with the mission of detecting and identifying illicit radiological/nuclear material. This course will cover the operation and deployment of advanced radiation isotope identification devices (RIID) and other mobile instruments, detection mission operations and activities, team organization, reporting protocols, and other federal assets available for assistance.

The DHS Target Capabilities List was used in the development of

tasks taught in this advanced course. The equipment that attendees will learn to use includes backpack detectors, vehicle-mounted mobile detection systems, and an advanced spectroscopic systems. Students will learn to use these advanced detection instruments in conjunction with personal radiation detectors and hand-held RIIDs, with which they have prerequisite skills.

The *ARD* pilot presentation is scheduled for June/July and a high demand for the advanced training is already being expressed by numerous municipalities and other agencies in need of this type of progressive education. The delivery of the training will be done using CTOS's Mobile Training Teams which will allow agencies greater flexibility when scheduling courses to meet their individual jurisdiction's training requirements.

The prevent mission focus of the *ARD* course provides graduates with the skills needed to detect radioactive material and properly utilize the capabilities of their detection instruments. Each student will obtain the knowledge to better prepare themselves to complete their mission of keeping the nation safe and secure.

# NCBRT celebrates...

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conference. Guests could view displays and gather information at one of 22 exhibit areas, including exhibits from each member of the NDPC. Current issues impacting first responders' state of readiness were discussed in speeches given by DHS and FEMA representatives. Conference attendees also had the opportunity to sit in special breakout sessions that ranged

from topics such as: *Terrorism: Past, Present, and Future to Incorporating Special Needs into Instructional Techniques.*

The highlight of the conference arrived at its end, however, when retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Steve Russell addressed the attendees. LTC Russell played a vital part in the hunt and capture of Saddam Hussein. He relayed his

historic experience to the attentive crowd. LTC Russell told how his battalion diligently searched for the dictator, narrowly missing him once and finally, capturing Hussein on that fateful day.

LTC Russell also delivered an important message about the war in Iraq. He urged Americans to be more supportive of the war and troops. "I truly believe we can win this," said LTC Russell,

"There are things still worth fighting for."

The conference was a great setting for NCBRT instructors to network with each other, as well as conference attendees and NCBRT staff. Conference attendees not only sharpened their skills and knowledge, but also caught up with good friends and enjoyed the company of their peers.

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