



WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

Elements

- Identify Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with requests for additional support
- Operations mandated by law
- Receive more than 600 hours of high-tech training by agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency
- 57 CSTs are located in each state and U.S. territory and Washington D.C.; two in CA
- Alert and on standby 24/7/365
- Deployable within 90 minutes (advance team); main body deployable within three hours
- Operates specialized equipment including a specialized/secure communications vehicle (Unified Command Suite), and a mobile analytical laboratory system with a full suite of chemical, biological, and radiological analysis equipment

Example of CST Operations:

- 2001 World Trade Center response, Space Shuttle Columbia recovery, Vancouver Winter Olympics, Hurricane Katrina recovery, and various National and State Special Security events.

Funding:

- Federally resourced, trained, equipped, and sustained, yet state controlled

Broad range capabilities at a moment's notice



Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST) Mission: Assesses hazards, advises civil authorities, and facilitates military support during emergencies and incidents of suspected weapons of mass destruction or other disasters. In addition, the CST advises civilian responders on appropriate actions through on-site testing and expert consultation, and assists and facilitates in the arrival of follow-on state and federal military forces.

Overview: The Adjutant General either employs the WMD CST to support the state response under the direction of the governor or to support another state's response under a supported governor.

The WMD CST is comprised of 22 full-time, Title 32 AGR Army and Air National Guard personnel divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical/analytical, and survey. Each unit is staffed by 14 Army Military Occupational Skills and/or 57 Air Force Specialty Codes.

Units assigned transport includes a command vehicle, operations trailer, a communications vehicle called the Unified Command Suite (which provides a broad spectrum of secure communications capabilities), an Analytical Laboratory System vehicle (containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the characterization of the hazard) and general purpose vehicles. The WMD CST normally deploys using its assigned vehicles, or can be airlifted as required.

Learn More: <http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/HomelandDefense/cst/factsheet.html>

For more information contact NGB Public Affairs (Media Desk) 703-607-2584