103rd WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM-GENERAL FACT SHEET

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- ***What is the Civil Support Team?***

  The *Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team*, also known as a *CST*, is a full time, federally funded National Guard unit established under Presidential Decision Directive 39. Originally designated "*RAID*" for *Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection*, the teams were renamed Civil Support Teams, to emphasize their supporting role to civil authorities. There are a total of 32 active CST's in the nation, organized under the 10 FEMA regions. The 103rd CST is stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

- ***What is the mission of a CST?***

  The CST organization is designed to augment local and regional terrorism response capabilities in events known or suspected to involve Weapons of Mass Destruction. WMD events are incidents involving hostile use of chemicals (such as nerve or blister agents, or toxic industrial chemicals - TICs), biological (for example, anthrax or ricin), or radiological source. The CST deploys to an area of operations to:

  Assess a suspected chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high yield explosive (CBRNE) event in support of a local Incident Commander.

  Advise civilian responders regarding appropriate response actions, and;

  Assist in expediting arrival of additional state and federal assets to help save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate property damage.

- ***What capability does a CST bring to Emergency Responders?***

  The CST is not designed to replace the First Responder. The team integrates into the Incident Command System (ICS) in support of the local Incident Commander, providing a crucial capability between the initial local response and that of follow-on federal and state assets. Municipal Fire, HAZMAT, Police, and EMS agencies have a proven capability to deal with most emergencies. Larger incidents use mutual aid plans and the ICS to cope with the emergency. However, a WMD attack would present unique obstacles, such as identification of a military agent or spread of contamination, that could quickly overwhelm existing local and state resources. The CST provides rapid detection and analysis of chemical, biological, and radiological hazards agents at a WMD Incident scene. The team is trained for *CBRNE* (***C***hemical, ***B***iological, ***R***adiological, ***N***uclear, and

Explosive) response, and can provide advice on event mitigation, medical treatment, follow-on resources, and other response concerns to the Incident Commander.

- ***How does a CST operate at a WMD event?***

  Upon arrival at a WMD Incident, the CST Commander receives support objectives from the Incident Commander. Using specialized equipment and protective gear, the CST can verify the exclusion zone, and then send entry teams into the contaminated area or "hot zone" to conduct reconnaissance, survey, detection and sampling missions. Survey results are assessed, and the computer hazard modeler projects downwind contamination and if necessary, how large an area to evacuate. The Analytical Laboratory System (ALS) provides on-site analysis of suspected WMD agents, and prepares samples for further analysis by state and federal labs or law enforcement agencies. The Unified Command Suite (UCS) integrates CST radios with local responders, and facilitates wide-bandwidth data "reach back". Communications reach back relays expert assessment from expert state and federal agencies—such as the Centers for Disease Control—to the scene.

- ***What equipment does a CST use?*** A wide range of low and high-tech devices are used, including the latest military hardware and commercial equipment:

  - **Personal Protective Equipment**
    1. OSHA Level "A" through "C" protective clothing with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), closed-circuit breathing apparatus (Rebreather), or air purifying respirators (APR)
    2. Personal Decontamination Kits.

  - **Reconnaissance, Detection, Sampling Gear**
    1. Digital Still and Video Camera
    2. Commercial multi-gas monitor with Photo-Ionization Detector, Oxygen, LEL, and Toxic vapor sensors
    3. Improved Chemical Agent Monitor (ICAM) - point-detection of Nerve and Blister Agents
    4. M-22 Chemical Agent Detector and Alarm (ACADA)- remote detector of Nerve and Blister Agents
    5. M-8 Paper; M-9 Paper - detection of Nerve and Blister Agents in liquid
    6. M-256 Kit – "wet chemistry" detection of Nerve, Blister, Blood Agents
    7. Portable Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer– identification of over 150,000 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and most military chemical agent vapors

8. AN/UDR-13, AN/VDR-2, AN/UDR-77 Radiac Sets, Gamma Spectrometer – detection and measurement of Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and X-Ray radiation sources
9. Handheld Immunoassay tickets – presumptive identification of eight Biological Agents
10. Colorimetric Tubes and Draeger colorimetric "Chip Set" – detection of Toxic Industrial Chemicals
11. Sampling equipment with a capability for collecting viable liquid, powder and other samples in a wide variety of matrixes with a secure chain of custody.

- **Computer Modeling and Response Database Systems**
  1. Consequence Assessment Tool Set Joint Assessment of Catastrophic Events (CATS-JACE) – GIS-based hazard plume modeling.
  2. Hazard Prediction and Assessment Capability (HPAC) – simulate effects of customized NBC/R weapons.

- **Unified Command Suite (UCS) – Communications Van**
  1. 15 kW power supply and environmental control unit
  2. KU-Band SATCOM – wide-bandwidth for data and voice reach back; secure capable
  3. INMARSAT-B – portable data and voice SATCOM
  4. Motorola VHF/UHF AM/FM Transceiver – intra-team communications and Responder Communications.
  5. Military VHF/UHF/UHF SATCOM Radios
  6. Multilane Scanner
  7. Team Radios – Motorola XTS-3000
  8. Cellular Telephone and Local Area Network for Laptop Computers.

- **Analytical Laboratory System (ALS)**
  1. 6 kW power supply and bench workspace
  2. Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer with Headspace Sampler – identification of over 150,000 Volatile organic compounds and most chemical warfare agents, from solid, liquid, or vapor samples
  3. Handheld Immunoassay Tickets – presumptive detection of select Biological Agents
  4. Gamma Spectrometer – radioisotope Identification
  5. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) analysis – allows DNA identification of biological organisms
  6. Fourier Transform Infra Red Spectrometer – quick analysis of chemical makeup of substances
  7. HAZCAT and HEINZ 5-STEP hazard categorization kits – allow chemical reactivity – based identification of chemicals by hazard class.

- ***What special skills does CST offer?***

  The CST combines the skills of six sections: Command, Operations/Administration, Survey, Medical, Communications, and Logistics/Decontamination. Its 22 full-time Army and Air Guardsmen bring a wide range of career experience from the military and civilian sectors. Each team member completes over 850 hours of technical training by agencies including National Fire Academy (NFA), Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and EPA. Individuals are all trained to the NFPA 472 HAZMAT Technician level or above. The CST teams train collectively on WMD scenarios, and drill with local responders for coordinated response effort. Prior to certification, each team undergoes a Department of Defense external evaluation involving over 40 individual tasks of *CBRNE* operations that are unique to the CST mission. Standard Operating Guidelines are continually updated, using new WMD response methods aligned to standards set forth by OSHA and the NFA. Regular coordination is conducted with state emergency management, fire academies, law enforcement, and health departments—all partners in planning for WMD response.

- ***What specific medical capabilities does the Alaska Team have?***

Capabilities

1. Emergent care of Team members only
2. Medical surveillance (Occupational medicine) for team members
3. Advance trauma life support of team members
4. Treatment of critical incident stress or psychological effects of WMD events
5. Advise about agent treatment, medical mitigation and follow on resources.

Training

1. Medical section: NFPA 473, Level 2
2. 18 National Registry EMT-B's in the unit
3. 1 Licensed Physician Assistant
4. 1 Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic.

Constraints

1. No patient transportation assets
2. No patient holding capabilities.

- ***How is 103rd CST (WMD) notified?***

  The 103rd CST (WMD) can be notified by calling the Alaska State Emergency Coordination Center. Upon notification of a probable WMD event, the team will assemble for rapid deployment. Authority to deploy the team rests with the Governor, through the Adjutant General. Additionally, military support guidelines allow the CST Commander to respond immediately to valid civil requests that involve imminent threat to life and property. The team is on-call 24 hours, 7 days a week. The CST can be mobilized within 90 minutes of notification. Primary mode of transportation is 9 modified commercial vehicles and trailers. The unit is also air-transportable via cargo aircraft.

- ***Who manages the CST?***

  On-scene, the CST provides *support* to the Incident Commander. Team members work for the CST Commander, who is under *operational control* of The Adjutant General. The team will deploy in its normal USC Title 32 status as a state asset, remaining under operational control of the Governor. Deployments to a state not having a CST are facilitated by interstate compacts and arrangements between respective Governors and their Adjutants General and the National Guard Bureau. If federalized under USC Title 10, the CST will integrate into a federal chain of command, such as a Task Force Commander.