



Homeland Defense

Edgewood Area—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

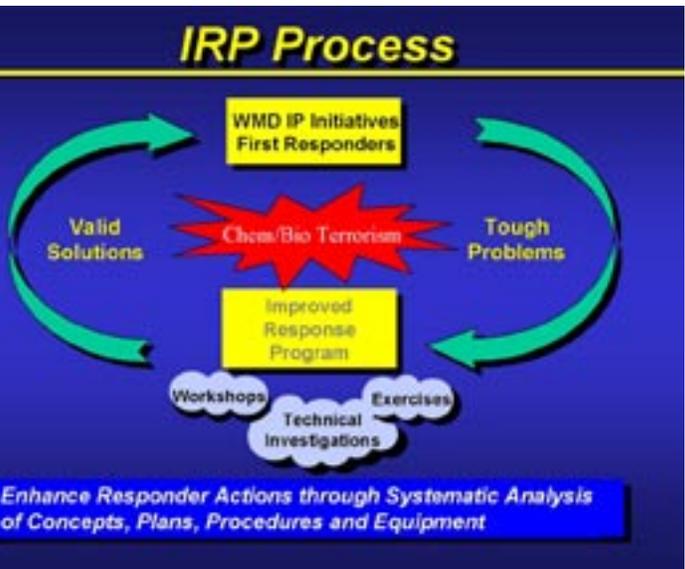


Military Improved Response Program (MIRP)

The Military Improved Response Program (MIRP) is part of the Homeland Defense Program at the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the center of the Department of Defense's (DoD) chemical and biological expertise. Under the Domestic Preparedness Program, the Improved Response Program conducted scientific research, workshops, and technical investigations centering on enhancing and improving the capability of civilian emergency responders to safely and effectively respond to a potential terrorist incident that involves the use of chemical and/or biological warfare agents. Improved Response Program efforts have produced valuable products addressing the needs of first responders in the areas of:

- Mass casualty decontamination,
- Chemical detection,
- Firefighter clothing protection assessments,
- Positive pressure ventilation as a mitigation tool,
- Personal protective equipment for law enforcement and emergency medical personnel,
- A generic medical response concept to handle the massive number of chemical casualties,
- A generic response template for an incident involving biological weapons.

The MIRP, by building on the expertise and knowledge acquired through the Domestic Preparedness Program, will help to enhance the DoD community's response to a terrorist use of



biological or chemical weapons.

The MIRP's approach, with the involvement of representatives from the response community of the various services (fire and emergency services, law enforcement and security, base operations, medical and health, mortuary affairs, and the civilian communities surrounding partnering installations) is to conduct information sharing and functional workshops that address integrated response to chemical/biological (CB) incidents.

The objectives of these workshops are to:

- Identify, assess, and prioritize areas with potential for improvement,
- Develop, test, and evaluate response improvement concepts,
- Enhance cooperation between military and civilian communities; consider the overlapping response.

Using the results of the workshops, and with the continued assistance of the services, the MIRP will develop guidance, procedures, and best practices and suggested equipment. Additionally, through technical initiatives and exercises, the Program will meld the results into a coherent improved response for CB incidents.

For more information, contact the Homeland Defense Business Unit via mail to Commander, U.S. Army SBCCOM, ATTN: AMSSB-REN-HD (E3331/117), 5183 Blackhawk Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424, via telephone at (410) 436-3674, or via e-mail to homeland.defense@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.