



# Homeland Defense

Edgewood Area—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command



## Weapons of Mass Destruction Installation Preparedness

The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Installation Preparedness (IP) Program is a field-tested and proven process for preparing military installations to respond to asymmetric attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons. Through baseline assessment, response planning, training and exercises, and other technical assistance, the WMD Installation Preparedness Program provides a systematic crawl, walk, run approach toward preparedness. The program can be delivered in its entirety or in a modular fashion depending on each installation's unique requirements.

Offered by the Homeland Defense Unit of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM), the Installation Preparedness Program combines the technical expertise of the Army's premier chemical and biological research facility—the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center—with the operational know how of emergency responders to deliver a common sense approach to WMD preparedness.

The WMD IP Program, or portions thereof, has been successfully conducted for a variety of military clients including the Southern Command, U.S. Army Europe, U.S. Navy Forces Japan, U.S. Navy EUROPE, U.S. Navy Southeast and Northeast Regions, U.S. Coast Guard, the Pentagon Health Clinic and the Joint Task Force-West.

### Process

The IP process consists of separate and distinct components that encompass assessment, training, planning, exercising and sustainment.



The program is conducted with mobile teams that provide on-site support, thus promoting synergy and interoperability among the military and civilian responders on the installation, as well as the mutual aid counterparts in the local, state, federal and host nation communities.

### Components

#### *Command and Staff Workshop*

The Command and Staff Workshop provides installation commanders and their staff with an awareness of the implications of a WMD incident on the installation and its mission. The workshop provides useful, practical guidance in steps that commanders and their staff can implement to effectively prepare their installations to respond to WMD incidents.

## **Baseline Assessment**

The Baseline Assessment offers the installation an opportunity to determine what basic strengths and weaknesses exist within their emergency response system for dealing with a WMD incident. It also provides a built-in mechanism for measuring improvement throughout the process.

## **Training Program**

Installation emergency responders receive up to six courses that provide comprehensive instruction on the WMD threat, recognizing signs and symptoms of CBRN materials, proper detection and identification, protection and decontamination techniques for handling CBRN materials, evidence collection and preservation, and medical management of casualties.

## **Response Planning Workshop**

The planning component involves refinement of existing installation response plans by SBCCOM WMD experts or joint development of response plans, if plans do not currently exist. WMD response planning assistance is conducted during a facilitated workshop.

## **Chemical/Biological Tabletop Exercises**

SBCCOM provides tabletop exercises that will assist installation responders, local government officials, and mutual aid partners in gaining an understanding of the complications and unpredictability of an emergency response to a WMD incident and specifically, their role in the response. The realistic tabletop exercises are used to validate and refine WMD response plans.

## **Chemical Weapons Field Exercise**

The capstone effort, a chemical weapons field exercise, is conducted to test all or some aspects of the installation's WMD response plan to the maximum extent possible. This exercise is tailored to meet the specific objectives of the installation. It provides a practical means to assess whether an installation's WMD response plan is executable in an effective and timely manner. It will also provide insight into required changes to response plans.



## **Sustainment**

SBCCOM's goal is to provide the installations with the planning, training and exercise tools to become both proficient and self-sufficient in WMD response. This is accomplished by conducting train-the-trainer courses and leaving behind all preparedness materials used throughout the process.

## **The Best Defense**

The WMD Installation Preparedness Program offered by SBCCOM combines over 80 years of the U.S. Army's best chemical and biological research and development assets with practical, real-world knowledge and experience from emergency responders. Presented in a groundbreaking format by world renowned WMD subject matter experts, the WMD Installation Preparedness Program will ensure the safety of our military and civilian personnel at home and overseas. Preparation is the best defense, and the WMD Installation Preparedness Program is the most comprehensive and mature program for strengthening responses to CBRN weapons of mass destruction 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](mailto:homeland.defense@sbccom.apgea.army.mil).