

**TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS INTO
THE NEXT CENTURY**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

THE TRAINING OF FIRST RESPONDERS SUCH AS POLICE, FIRE FIGHTERS,
EMERGENCY TECHNICIANS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS FOR
THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE

FORT MCCLELLAN, AL

JUNE 11, 1999

Serial No. J-106-601

Printed for the use of the Committee on the Judiciary



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

ORRIN G. HATCH, Utah, *Chairman*

STROM THURMOND, South Carolina	PATRICK J. LEAHY, Vermont
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Iowa	EDWARD M. KENNEDY, Massachusetts
ARLEN SPECTER, Pennsylvania	JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., Delaware
JON KYL, Arizona	HERBERT KOHL, Wisconsin
MIKE DEWINE, Ohio	DIANNE FEINSTEIN, California
JOHN ASHCROFT, Missouri	RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, Wisconsin
SPENCER ABRAHAM, Michigan	ROBERT G. TORRICELLI, New Jersey
JEFF SESSIONS, Alabama	CHARLES E. SCHUMER, New York
BOB SMITH, New Hampshire	

MANUS COONEY, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

BRUCE A. COHEN, *Minority Chief Counsel*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

JEFF SESSIONS, Alabama, *Chairman*

BOB SMITH, New Hampshire	JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., Delaware
JON KYL, Arizona	DIANNE FEINSTEIN, California
JOHN ASHCROFT, Missouri	HERBERT KOHL, Wisconsin

KRISTI LEE, *Chief Counsel*

SHERYL WALTER, *Minority Chief Counsel*

CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

	Page
Sessions, Hon. Jeff, U.S. Senator from the State of Alabama	2

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF WITNESSES

Panel consisting of Robert Knouss, Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health and Human Services; Michael A. Parker, Deputy Commander, Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, Department of Defense; and Curtis H. Straub, Director, Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice	8
Panel consisting of Darrell Huguchi, deputy fire chief, Los Angeles County, CA and Gary McConnell, director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency	42

ALPHABETICAL LIST AND MATERIAL SUBMITTED

Higuchi, Darrell: Testimony	42
Knouss, Robert: Testimony	8
McConnell, Gary: Testimony	44
Parker, Michael A.:	
Testimony	12
Prepared statement	16
Straub, Curtis H.:	
Testimony	22
Prepared statement	23
Various letters	27

A P P E N D I X

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION FOR THE RECORD

Nerve Gas Summary for GB/VX by Cliff Bourg, Anniston, AL, dated June 11, 1999	51
---	----

TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Friday, June 11, 1999

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Fort McClellan, AL.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:08 a.m., in the Cadwell Auditorium, Building 3181, Fort McClellan, AL, Hon. Jeff Sessions (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. JOHNSON. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the showplace of the south, Fort McClellan, and specifically the Center for Domestic Preparedness.

We are extremely pleased today to have Senator Sessions conducting a field hearing here at Fort McClellan and the Center for Domestic Preparedness and we are going to get to the hearing in just a moment, but first a couple of administrative announcements.

If you have a requirement for restroom facilities, they are out in the hallway to my right front as you go out the rear of the building. And also, as we leave this morning head out to the live agent facility for a visit with the first responders undergoing training; the panelists that are going to be testifying this morning and your support staff, please board the bus that will be parked outside and transportation will be provided to you for the rest of your stay here.

I need to introduce just for a second if I could—all media folks, if you would, please talk with Angie in the back of the room there. We have a room set aside for a media event shortly after the hearing concludes this morning.

I would like to recognize some community leaders and guest that we have in the audience this morning. First of all, on behalf of the Center for Domestic Preparedness, thanks very much for your interest and being here with us this morning at the hearing.

First, I would like to introduce to you Dr. Harold McGee, president of the Jacksonville State University. Also from Jacksonville State University is Dr. Barry Cox.

Would you please stand when I call your name? And then please be seated after that. Thank you very much, Dr. McGee and Dr. Cox.

Dr. Mike Moriarty from Auburn University.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not introduce his right arm and that is Maj. Gen. Ret. Jerry Watson, the former commander of Fort McClellan here, who is currently working with the Center for Do-

mestic Preparedness along with the Auburn Institute on development of a strategic plan.

Also, Mr. Tim Moore from Auburn University is the director of Auburn University's Biological Detection Institute—I think I got that right. Anyway, glad to have you here.

Also, I would like to introduce County Commission Chairman Dunn.

Also, I would like to introduce Mr. Roy Hanna, the chairman of the Joint Powers Authority and Mr. Kenny Whitley, the executive director of the Joint Powers Authority.

I also would like to introduce Brig. Gen. Ret. Tom Adams, Superintendent of Marion Military Institute.

Mr. Jerry Powell, a community leader. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Dwayne Higgins, the president of Anniston-Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. John Blue from Gadsden State Community College.

And Mr. Ed Miller from the Anniston Water and Sewer Board.

I tried to catch everyone as you came in and if I happened to overlook someone, please identify yourself to me so that we can make sure that a proper introduction is made.

Again, thank you very much for being here this morning and I am going to sit down now and Senator Sessions will conduct the hearing.

Again, those of you that are going to be joining us for lunch also have been informed, and the bus, once it leaves here, will go to the live agent facility and from there on over to the McClellan Club for lunch and then the bus will return here for you to pick up your vehicles.

Again, welcome and thank you very much for being here.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JEFF SESSIONS, A U.S.
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you very much, L.Z.

This is a little bit awkward kind of hearing room, but it works, I think.

I really appreciate having the opportunity to know you and work with you, our whole staff does and the whole leadership in this town, Mayor Stedham, Chairman Dunn and others at the Joint Powers Authority, all of you have worked together in a way that I think can lead to making Fort McClellan a center of excellence for training for the entire Nation for responders to chemical weapons attack. I think that is critical for us, I hope we can do that and I do not believe there is anyone in the country that has done a better job today in getting prepared to lead that effort than this center has, and I am real pleased with it.

I have just given a lot of thought and attention to this community, as has my staff. We believe it is a great community, a tremendous asset to Alabama. We are going to have some economic downturn from the closure of Fort McClellan, but there are going to be some good things that are coming in behind it. And the more we work at that intentionally and the community works together effectively, I believe we can continue to build the kind of community you cherish and desire.

I want to tell you how much I have appreciated the leadership of Senator Shelby in so many ways. We have been able to call on him, he is on the Appropriations Committee, which is key at a number of different points. And he has been a real asset in everything that we have done for Anniston and for me personally. And I want to say that.

As you know, you have no greater champion than Bob Riley. I talked to Bob yesterday, he and Robert Aderholt both hoped to come but they are having votes in the House today and they could not get out of town. I am very sorry that they could not be here, because I wanted them to participate in this. Bob just continues to press for the issues that you care about, whether it is the bypass or developing Fort McClellan, he is at the forefront in all those matters.

I would like to make a few opening remarks and then introduce the panel. We will have some questions and then we will have a second panel.

This is a field hearing of our subcommittee, which is the Subcommittee on Youth Violence, but it also has oversight over the Office of Justice Programs, and that, of course, is the entity within the Department of Justice that will be running the center here.

First responders have been estimated to number five million persons. These include police, fire, emergency technicians and other professionals. So I want to welcome today's panelists who hold key positions in our effort to train and prepare them for the challenges they will face.

The bomb that exploded outside the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City took 168 American lives. I am sure all of us remember the images of panic, shock, grief, and horror that were associated with that incident.

Elsewhere in the country, we still seek the individual responsible for the clinic bombing in Birmingham, which took the life of a police officer and permanently crippled a nurse.

Recently, we have been shocked again by the tragedies which occurred in Littleton, CO, and Conyers, GA.

The pictures of local emergency responders in each instance struggling diligently to save lives and protect property are vivid and poignant. The seriousness and consequence of these events cannot be overstated. We are witnessing massive damage and loss of life on a scale never before experienced before outside combat. These events, however horrific and unusual, were accomplished with so-called conventional weapons. It is hard to imagine, but had any of these events included a chemical, nuclear or biological weapon of mass destruction, each could have been even more catastrophic.

Chemical, nuclear or biological weapons are not beyond the capability of some of the world's terrorists or their sponsoring rogue states. It is clear America must be prepared to defend itself against such a threat when a weapon of mass destruction event occurs. They must respond efficiently and effectively with required resources.

One of the major difficulties faced by local jurisdictions is the large number of layered bureaucracies involved in responding to a crisis. What many people may not realize is that numerous Fed-

eral, State and local agencies will be called upon to perform individual functions in the aftermath of an incident. Accordingly, successful coordination and management is absolutely critical.

Several weeks ago, this subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Government Information held a joint hearing on domestic preparedness, the next millennium. This hearing, chaired by Senator John Kyl and myself, examined the Administration's plan to train and equip first responders. Most panelists on that day noted that America is vulnerable to attack and more than once they said the question is not whether it will occur, but when.

Barbara Martinez, an agent with the FBI now assigned to the National Domestic Preparedness Office stated in her testimony that over 40 agencies could have a role in the preparation and response to a true terrorist attack. Because of the number of agencies involved, Ms. Martinez described the coordinating role that the new National Domestic Preparedness Office, a new office that has been created, and I think probably necessarily, will play. It is unfortunate that the Director, Mr. Tom Kuker, whom we expected to be here today, is caught in a plane problem in Oklahoma and could not make it in today. So we will be missing him but we will continue to coordinate with him.

Witnesses representing National Associations for Fire Chiefs, Sheriffs and Emergency Technicians all testified that due to complex bureaucracy and the numerous agencies involved, a Federal agency which could provide fast and effective one-stop shopping would help fill a need that currently exists. Although the NDPO is new, I sincerely hope it has been adequately staffed and resourced to meet the needs of our local first responders.

During the last subcommittee hearing, it became clear America may be fooling herself that we are currently prepared to handle such an event. Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, Arapaho County, CO—and this was the day of the Columbine shooting—Sheriff Sullivan was testifying when we got the news. You did not see him on television, Columbine High School is the edge of his county. He testified that,

While others may be reluctant to say so, I will tell you that America is not ready to meet this challenge. As such, we are not prepared to handle the crisis and the mass casualties that would occur, God forbid, if there should ever be a chemical or biological release in a major American city.

Mr. Charles Cragin, Acting Secretary of Defense Reserve Affairs, last year before the House Committee said,

Should a weapon of mass destruction actually be used, responders, be they local, State or Federal, civilian or military, will confront unique and daunting challenges. These rescue and medical personnel will need to perform their mission without themselves becoming casualties.

This point, I might add, is of great concern to me. During Mr. Cragin's more recent testimony, he said,

As a Nation, we are also facing the fact that the front lines in the war against terrorism are no longer overseas,

they are right here at home. Hence, the challenges faced by communities and responders include an unknown danger in containing the impact of the attack, providing medical assistance throughout the system, investigating the nature of the attack while simultaneously protecting the evidence, and finally the restoration of normalcy to the community as quickly as possible.

A significant portion of the funding for domestic preparedness will pass through the OJP, Department of Justice. This year, our Youth Violence Committee's jurisdiction was expanded to include Office of Justice Programs and I expect that we will be spending a good bit of time exercising oversight responsibilities in attempting to help them as they develop this program.

Any effective national domestic preparedness policies, as I am sure the President and Attorney General Reno realize must fully integrate all aspects of response to a weapon of mass destruction attack to ensure interoperability. In addition, the national effort must provide guidance for planning, training, exercising and equipping the first responders. State and local officials must be provided with the best training, equipment and information so that if a crisis occurs, front line responders can assess the immediate needs, take action to protect themselves and the public from further harm.

Modeling done by a company outside of Washington suggests, for example, that anthrax aerosol spray released in and around Reagan National Airport might result in over 250,000 casualties with 10 percent of those fatal. This danger is real.

To prepare State and local communities for such an unfortunate incident, a heavy emphasis for preparation must be placed on preparing those communities. I would define first responders as local fire, law enforcement, medical workers, emergency management officials and public officials who will be the first on the scene. It will fall to these people to assess the damage, treat those injured, keep casualties to a minimum and stabilize the infrastructure.

Under the Federal response plan, the FBI, FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Association, and other Federal agencies will assume many duties to help. However, State and local officials will have the initial responsibility.

To this end, I might also point out that local medical facilities must also have a trained cadre who can function around contaminated casualties. And I think Dr. Knouss from the Public Health Service, who will be testifying here today, will be able to shed some light on that challenge and his plans.

We have seen through the implementation of Presidential Directive 62 the establishment of the National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection and Counter-Terrorism headed by Mr. Dick Clark, which will oversee the national counterterrorism effort. Mr. Clark, with whom I recently met in Washington, has now established a weapons of national destruction preparedness group. The only thing that is making me nervous in all this effort is how many groups and agencies we have got trying to coordinate. We need a coordinator and I was impressed with Mr. Clark and hope that he can make sure we are working together and not competing with one another, as we strive to build our proper response.

For too long, we have failed to begin to train and act. We have got to coordinate policy immediately to involve Federal assistance and local jurisdiction. We have got to have research and development. We have got to have equipment development—that is extremely important. We have got to know the equipment that we provide will work, that it is the best possible equipment and we have got to make sure that every agency that needs it, has it.

Any failure to integrate all our critical activities of research and development will cost us money and increase risk. We have got to protect those responders with the best possible clothing and diagnostic equipment we can provide.

A second area of concern is interoperability, which includes the need for compatible communication systems. We found in the Columbine High School incident that that was a serious problem for them and it undermined their ability to respond.

A third area of concern involves a need for timely information exchange. The National Preparedness Office in association with the FBI, has implemented a policy whereby communities and their responders may acquire information to assist in preparedness. For too long, agencies did not have or did not share information with the local communities to aid them in updating their threat and vulnerability assessments. In the current environment that we find ourselves, this is a must.

Civic leaders across Alabama, for instance, need access to pertinent information which aids them in their decisionmaking. Using Fort McClellan's teleconferencing center by DOJ personnel may be one resource, another possibility might include a special Center for Domestic Preparedness web page along with applicable hotlines and correspondence packages and the like.

A fourth area of concern involves the equipment. I am gravely concerned about the equipment. As I mentioned, we have got to make sure that we have the best equipment. The military has proven equipment, but we have got to go beyond that and make sure that the equipment is compatible and effective for local communication.

A fifth area of concern involves training. In response to the needs of State and local governments, President Clinton has stated that over 1.4 billion will be dedicated to this effort over a period of years. Domestic preparedness training, only if conducted properly and efficiently, will save lives in the event of a terrorist attack. The framework for training and equipping first responders is currently in place and while I share the fear of others who argue that it is not moving along fast enough, I do believe that Congress and the Administration has an obligation to examine our training capabilities to make sure that we are not just throwing money at the problem, that we are going to make it work, and that the training is quality training.

There presently exists some 140 domestic preparedness training courses in America. Some of these are done through DOD, FEMA, Department of Justice, Public Health Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy and other agencies, as well as State universities and colleges. As a result a lot has been said about integrating these programs with good national standards,

but we are not there yet—in my opinion we are far from where we ought to be.

Consequently, so the government needs to quit studying now—we have done that enough. We need to start producing effective training so that people in our communities are ready to respond.

A little closer to home, I want to mention the Department of Justice program at Fort McClellan and L.Z.'s efforts. Fort McClellan was designated as the Department of Justice's Federal Center for Domestic Preparedness and as such the center develops and delivers training under a tiered concept that offers basic through advanced courses. Each course includes a hands-on type exercise, requiring students to perform their duties in a weapons of mass destruction environment, including forcing them to face actual nerve agents.

During the August 1998 Attorney General Stakeholders' Forum, Attorney General Reno was told by first responders that live agent training at Fort McClellan, which I am going to invite our panelists to visit after the hearing, this facility with me was an absolute necessity. The Center has trained over 1000 responders and is capable of training up to 10,000 per year. This is the goal that we must attain. Their courses are currently full through September 30. I have learned that during this time the Department of Justice will train an additional 550 students. Demand is high. There are now waiting lists of 850 who would like to sign up for courses. The training conducted by the Center is a type and quality that we must provide—excellence in training will save lives.

L.Z. received this e-mail from Lieutenant Jake Shirt of the Arapaho, Colorado Police Department, who was involved in the Columbine shooting, after having been trained here. This is what he wrote,

I wanted to let you know that the advanced operations training I received in April at the CDP was of benefit. While not directly involved in the first day of the Columbine High School shooting, I was subsequently asked to set up large teams of officers to bomb sweep 12 schools. The ICS incident command training was of great benefit in assisting me to set up those events. Thank you again for the outstanding training program.

That is direct evidence that this kind of training is valuable. You have got to know how to respond under those circumstances.

I would also suggest that maybe we expand our thinking and consider training of this kind for schools, principals, superintendents and others because they are often even quicker to respond than others.

In conclusion, I believe that establishing the Center for Domestic Preparedness here at Fort McClellan has proved to be a great step in establishing a model for training. As our hearing established, it is important that all training for first responders has well defined standards and training plans. It would not serve any purpose to have several different training centers across the country offering incompatible instruction. We do not want our communities to *think* they are prepared, we want them to *be* prepared. A well-defined standard along with equipment and training, permits follow-up in-

spections and effective evaluation. If there are no standards by which to measure and judge the quality of equipment and training, then there is no possible way to judge the level of preparedness.

The Department of Justice, now has an opportunity that has not presented itself before to ensure that we have a coordinated procedure of training, equipment exercises, research, and development that can help us achieve the goal we all seek. That goal is having prepared communities.

I am delighted that we have this outstanding panel with us today; I look forward to hearing their comments and testimony and asking questions as we go forward.

Let me begin by introducing our first panel. Dr. Robert Knouss is the director of Emergency Preparedness for the U.S. Public Health Service. He has been to Fort McClellan previously and I am glad to have him back. He is actively involved in development of the medical training program in coordination with the Center here. He is a key individual in the establishment of training for the metropolitan strike teams.

Mike Parker is Deputy Commander of the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground. He will be providing us insight from the military side.

Butch Straub is director of the Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support of OJP, Office of Justice Programs. Laurie Robinson, who has been here previously, planned to be here today, but could not make it. At any rate, we are glad to have Butch here—he has been working intensely on that.

That will be our first panel. Dr. Knouss, do you want to lead off? Do you have any comments?

PANEL CONSISTING OF ROBERT KNOUSS, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; MICHAEL A. PARKER, DEPUTY COMMANDER, SOLDIER AND BIOLOGICAL CHEMICAL COMMAND, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; AND CURTIS H. STRAUB, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR STATE AND LOCAL DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS SUPPORT, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STATEMENT OF ROBERT KNOUSS

Mr. KNOUSS. Thank you very much, Senator Sessions.

Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure for us to be here and I am accompanied today by Dr. Jarrett Clinton, who is the Regional Health Administrator for this Region IV within our Department, located in Atlanta and he will be responsible for activities here at Fort McClellan, out of the Regional Office in Atlanta. Eventually, I hope that we will have some people who are directly stationed at Fort McClellan, but under his able leadership.

I would like to spend just a few minutes, with your permission, Senator, discussing a little bit about what we are doing in our Department in terms of domestic preparedness and the activities that we have undertaken.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, headed by the Hon. Donna Shalala, is committed to developing a strong local, State and Federal capacity to respond to the health consequences

of a terrorist attack, particularly one using chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction.

Under our Department's operating plan for this fiscal year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is supporting State and local governments in strengthening their surveillance, epidemiological investigation and laboratory identification capabilities as well as initiating a national stockpile of critical pharmaceuticals and vaccines to supplement local and State resources, if needed.

The National Institutes of Health is increasing its research related to protecting against bioterrorism and our office, the Office of Emergency Preparedness, is expanding the development of local emergency health system capabilities to respond to the health consequences of a WMD attack.

We focus much of our attention in our office on local preparedness because the first response to any immediately evident terrorist incident in the United States will be with community-based resources supplemented by State and Federal assistance. Therefore, local capability and capacity building are absolutely crucial for reducing morbidity and mortality caused by these types of attacks.

The critical issue is preparedness, which includes developing and strengthening community response plans and operational capabilities. The effectiveness of the integration of the capabilities of all levels of government will determine the success or failure of our Nation's ability to respond to a major terrorist attack.

Just as a little bit of background, our office coordinates the health and medical emergency preparedness activities within the Department of Health and Human Services and is the lead organization to coordinate disaster and emergency health response activities with other Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense and with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

During a federally declared disaster, HHS is the primary agency that provides the health and medical response known as emergency support function number eight under the Federal response plan. We also manage the national disaster medical system, which is known as NDMS. It is a partnership between Health and Human Services, the Departments of Veterans' Affairs and Defense and FEMA, and really is a remarkable system. I call this, at times, the country's largest volunteer fire department. And the reason for that is that we have 7,000 private citizens across the country who volunteer their time and expertise as members of response teams to provide primary medical and certain types of specialized care to disaster victims, and more than 2,000 participating non-Federal hospitals.

Our response capability is organized into teams such as primary care; disaster medical assistance teams; specialty medical teams, for example those that concentrate on pediatrics or burn care; and disaster mortuary teams. We have 25 level one DMAT's, including one that is located here in Alabama—headquartered in Birmingham, which we are very proud of and which I think every State that has one or more of these teams should be proud of. They can be federalized to deploy within hours, they can be self-sufficient at a disaster scene for 72 hours, providing on-site medical services. This means that they carry their own pharmaceutical and

medical supplies, food and water, shelter and communication and other mission essential equipment. These teams have been sent to many areas in the aftermath of disasters, in support of FEMA-coordinated response activities.

Our mortuary teams can assist local medical examiners to identify and deal appropriately with the remains of those who do not survive major disasters or in the aftermath of airline and other transportation accidents when requested by the National Transportation Safety Board. Just recently we deployed that team, for example, again in Oklahoma City as a consequence of the horrible tornadoes that swept through that State and several other States in the midwest.

To make maximum use of these resources, we also allow State governments to activate the national teams that are based in their own States if necessary.

Over the last 2 years, we have provided additional training and specialized equipment to three of our DMAT's to develop the required capabilities to respond to terrorist attacks. We call them national medical response teams. These teams, which are located in North Carolina, Colorado and California, are capable of rapidly deploying to an incident site and providing medical treatment after the release of a chemical or biological weapon. They can respond with a cache of specialized pharmaceuticals, each one of them to treat up to 5,000 people exposed to a chemical weapon. They also have specialized personal protective equipment, detection devices and patient decontamination capabilities.

A fourth team, actually the prototype team, is located in Washington, DC, and remains locally to respond in our Nation's Capital. It was prepositioned to respond should the need have arisen during several State of the Union Addresses—located in the U.S. Capitol, the 1997 Inauguration and most recently during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of NATO.

Senator SESSIONS. I am glad you are worrying about those events. The only time I have ever thought much about security was there at the inauguration when I noticed that everybody in the whole government was sitting right there. It makes you think about the possibilities that could happen. The State of the Union Address also makes you think about things, as well.

Anyway, sorry to interrupt you.

Mr. KNOUSS. Those were precisely our concerns as well, and we have joined with the Capitol Police to respond to that potential.

Several years ago, our Department realized the Nation was not prepared to deal with the health effects of terrorism and that should a terrorist event occur, our cities and metropolitan areas would bear the brunt of coping with its effects. In addition, we realized that local medical communities would be faced with severe problems, including the possibility of contaminating major healthcare institutions, overloading hospital capabilities and threatening the safety of medical personnel.

Consequently, in fiscal year 1995, we began developing the first prototype metropolitan medical response system in partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and its 18 local member jurisdictions. This system, primarily designed to respond to a chemical attack, became the prototype of response for

capabilities that we developed in Atlanta in 1996 in preparation for the Centennial Olympic Games, and for the 25 local systems that we began developing in 1997 as part of the domestic preparedness program stimulated by Senators Nunn, Lugar, and Domenici.

This year, we expect to begin an additional 20 systems in addition to supplementing the initial metropolitan systems in order to respond to biological terrorism. These systems activities are HHS's highest priority in helping the Nation to prepare to cope with the effects of terrorist acts.

Once an immediately evident terrorist incident occurs, local first responders, police and fire and emergency medical services, would respond. HAZMAT teams would be called to provide agent identification and hot zone rescue management. These actions would have been the focus of DOD and FEMA under the domestic preparedness program.

The purpose of the NMRS is to ensure that a metropolitan area's health system is able to cope with the human health consequences that can result from a terrorist act. Because each city has a public safety and public health system with unique characteristics, our system development contracts—our NMRS development contracts, excuse me—emphasize that each metropolitan area will develop its enhanced medical and health response system within its current emergency response structure. These systems provide an integrated prehospital, hospital and public health response capability in local jurisdictions. Each system must ensure that health workers be able to recognize WMD injuries, know the proper treatment, be able to ensure that medical facilities maintain their functional capacities and plan the integration of State and Federal responders when they arrive. Our goal is to develop 120 of these medical response systems in the largest metropolitan areas across the country.

In regard to our training activities which brings us specifically to the point of these field hearings, our primary focus has been on the development of these metropolitan medical response systems with the components of metropolitan-based systems that would provide decontamination, triage and definitive medical care. While DOD, DOJ, FEMA and other Federal agencies are providing first responder awareness training, there has been little focus on the preparation of healthcare delivery systems and their health professionals, those being the doctors and nurses and paramedics. Therefore, we have begun developing the health professions curricula that are necessary to prepare the Nation's emergency medical response personnel to meet this challenge. The American College of Emergency Physicians along with the American Nurses' Association and other health professional groups, are developing with our support the competency objectives that are needed for training and testing of these critical types of health profession responders. We are also seeking to address the standards used by hospitals for assuring the maintenance of their functional capacity during a WMD event in their communities.

In this fiscal year, Congress appropriated \$3 million to our Department for renovation and modernization of the Nobel Army Hospital here at Fort McClellan. DOJ's Center for Domestic Preparedness is currently establishing a national training center, which you are certainly well aware of, for first responders to domestic terror-

ist acts, to address the training needs of law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical and emergency communications personnel, among others.

First responders need to be trained in the administration of the antidotes and other hot zone medically related activities in addition to triage and primary care at the scene. Paramedics need to be trained about the care required during transportation. Hospital administrators need to be trained in the preparation of hospitals for safety and protection of their operations during an incident. And health professionals need to be trained in appropriate and essential emergency and longer term care.

And I want to just emphasize that we are working very closely with the Office of Justice Programs to enhance the availability of medically related training for all first responders, and I particularly want to thank—this gives me an opportunity to thank Mr. L.Z. Johnson for all the support that he has given to us in this dialog that we have been having of developing these programs here at Fort McClellan.

In summary, HHS is committed to assuring that communities across the country are prepared to respond to the health consequences of a WMD event. We are prepared to quickly mobilize the health professionals and systems required to respond to a disaster anywhere in the United States and its territories and to assist local medical response systems in dealing with the extraordinary conditions that would be created by a WMD attack, and we are certain that the program we are about to engage in here at Fort McClellan can make a very significant contribution to those efforts.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear.

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you, Dr. Knouss. Mr. Parker.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. PARKER

Mr. PARKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this subcommittee. It is really always great to return here to Fort McClellan, especially on this occasion, to be able to see firsthand how Fort McClellan and the surrounding communities continue to apply their expertise in chem bio defense now in our homelands defense.

Senator SESSIONS. Let me ask a question. Can people hear in the back? OK, good, the microphone is working. Go ahead.

Mr. PARKER. It really again demonstrates its value, critical value, to our Nation.

I would like to request your permission to submit extended remarks for the record and do a quick summary.

Senator SESSIONS. That will be fine and we will make those a part of the record.

Mr. PARKER. My purpose this morning before you is to update you on the progress of the domestic preparedness program, at least the portion that the Department of Defense is responsible for, and our plan to transition the leadership to the interagency program which will now be headed by the Department of Justice.

In addition, I would like to take the opportunity to describe some of the support we believe that the Department of Defense can provide to the Department of Justice as they continue to mature the domestic preparedness program to deal with weapons of mass destruction.

As of this date, we, as the interagency team, that is the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Health and Human Services, Department of Energy and other Federal agencies, have trained 59 communities. By the end of this fiscal year, we will have trained 65. We have plans to complete an additional 36 in fiscal year 2000 and will complete the last 19 for a total of 120 cities, by about midyear fiscal 2001. A list of the cities and their status is contained in the written submission.

To date, we have trained approximately 17,000 first responders, drawn from the fire-fighting, law enforcement, hazardous materials handlers, emergency medical, emergency management and the 911 operator/dispatcher communities. I must remark that these personnel have been absolutely professional to the highest level throughout this training program.

This community-given training, equipment and exercise to standards will be able to respond and meet your challenge that you stated earlier of being prepared. It is our obligation at the Federal level to assist the local communities to meet those standards.

In our efforts, we have employed a train-the-trainer concept in our efforts. There are several reasons for this approach, one of which you touched on in your opening remarks. There are literally hundreds of thousands of initial first responders and when extended through the complete community, including the medical community, there literally are millions of people involved. In order to reach this community in a practical manner, we determined that to use the existing training infrastructure was the only practical timely manner approach to take to deal with these communities.

The second aspect, Dr. Knouss touched on this as well, is each of these communities has a unique element. They have built a very effective response capability around their unique circumstance, their infrastructure, the challenges that face them, how they interface on a regional basis and many other factors. So it is important that the Federal efforts are tailored to fit within the communities' needs vice a top-down driven approach. So training the trainers inculcates into the local community's culture the aspects of chem bio defense and nuclear response that we are trying to provide to the first responder community.

This approach, as I touched on, generates a real partnership by inducting the Federal efforts into the local efforts where we knit together then a Federal, State and local partnership in preparing a true domestically prepared and responsive local community.

Another aspect of our training is a team approach where we have taken a member from the interagency training team and paired that person with somebody from the local community. Many of these local community personnel, because of military training, already have some insight into weapons of mass destruction. So by teaming a person from the Federal interagency effort, the DOD effort, with someone from the local community and putting these

people on the podium to do the training, we have felt a much stronger sense with the local community of acceptance because they see someone from their own community participating in the training. It has led to a much more meaningful dialog and interchange at that level.

In previous testimony before Congress, we cited the fact that skills learned in this area are very perishable. This is further compounded by the fact that there are constant personnel turnover. So the area of sustainment, training sustainment, is a very, very critical issue. There are a number of initiatives that have been taken to address this area. One such initiative is the establishment of the Fort McClellan Center for Domestic Preparedness here at Fort McClellan.

DOJ has taken the leadership to establish this center, to build the necessary long-term training environment that will not only prepare our local communities, but sustain them in that level of preparedness as long as this threat is offered to our country.

One of the aspects that we have learned out of a Department of Army Federal emergency management program called the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, is that you do need to address an overarching strategy from which you can then build a training strategy, an equipping strategy and an exercise strategy, all built around standards by which to measure the attainment; in this case, the attainment of real preparedness. I think it relates earlier in your remarks that it is a very critical component of the program and would suggest that the Department of Justice especially here at the Center for Domestic Preparedness, that the efforts that have been initiated on these strategies and national standards development is something that must be pursued in order to really have a prepared domestic first response community.

We have offered to the Department of Justice, especially as it relates to the Center for Domestic Preparedness here at Fort McClellan, DOJ and DOA, Department of Army, have entered into a support agreement where the Department of Army has agreed, as we have been directed by the Secretary of Defense, to provide the support to continue the operations here at the Center that build on prior activities at Fort McClellan, specifically the agent training facility referenced earlier, and any other technical support that Department of Justice would desire. That agreement is in place and we are fine-tuning it and we have built, I believe, a very strong relationship with L.Z. Johnson here at the Center.

We are also involved in the Department of Defense's efforts to prepare another element of the domestic response support community. That is the Consequence Management Program Integration Office, which is preparing the National Guard elements to underpin State and local response in the event of a weapons of mass destruction incident. The Army's efforts and my command's efforts, have been focused primarily on the equipment, evaluation, characterization, equipping of the National Guard units and providing various levels of technical expertise in the area of chemical and biological agents, and certain facets of training that we have learned through the domestic preparedness program.

The elements are primarily in the National Guard, although there are a few Army Reserve component units as well involved in this. There are approximately 10 military support detachments also known as the rapid assessment and initial detection detachments, or RAID units, ten of which will be regionalized across the country. These will be underpinned by 44 additional RAID-like detachments which will underpin any consequence management activity or support during the critical incident phase.

Additional units have been designated, 43 reconnaissance elements as well as 127 domestic response casualty decontamination elements, which will be available to the local communities to call upon through the State National Guard command and control structure. These units, because they are moving out of a traditional military role into a domestic preparedness role, require certain equipment that is tailored then to this domestic environment. We are using a performance-based approach to look at not only military equipment which is already qualified to operate in these environments, but also to tap into new emerging technologies that are either a domestic commercial or a military research lab product or commercial technologies that are already on the shelf. We are providing the technical evaluation and will feed those into the various National Guard elements as those are qualified.

We will also evaluate some of the considerations that you touched on earlier, the command and control, the ability for the communications system to cross a wide spectrum of equipment that is already in the field is one of the elements that the National Guard units have recognized, and we are assisting in building communications vans with the ability to cross multiple frequencies so that the National Guard elements can provide assistance for the local authorities in bringing the communications together so that there is really connectivity across many, many of the elements that lack that as we stand today.

Senator SESSIONS. Mr. Parker, I would just note that the Senate Armed Services Committee did add some money for that—I think there will be 17 new teams approved under our proposal. Additionally, I think the National Guard has a critical role to play and I appreciate that.

We are dealing with time constraints so if you can wrap up then we'll let Mr. Straub speak. Then we will hear from the second panel.

Mr. PARKER. Yes, sir.

One of the comments that I think needs to be passed to the Committee is one that has to do with equipping. We have—the domestic communities that we have interfaced with have really appreciated and been very laudatory towards the training provided. But a common thread that comes back from every community is that they need the equipment in order to be able to respond and utilize the training. We have mitigated this to some degree by DOD providing equipment training packages which we leave behind as we complete the training of a city. That is really an equipment package that's focused on training.

To move beyond and fully equip the communities, the Department of Justice effort with the Department of Army would like to provide technical support to, would characterize equipment and

then through Department of Justice's grant authority significantly streamline and enhance the efficiency of providing equipment to the local first responders—a very critical element.

I think I could just maybe step to the latter part and talk about our final transition of leadership from Department of Defense to Department of Justice. We are—we do have agreement at the departmental levels, the Department of Justice and Department of Defense came together and Department of Justice will be assuming responsibility as the lead Federal agency for this domestic preparedness. We have been instructed by our Secretary, Mr. Cohen, and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. Hamry, to fully support the Department of Justice in any manner that they need. Our leadership in the Department of Army, Secretary Caldera, has noted that the Army has over 82 years of experience in the chem bio defense area and we literally have invested billions and billions of the taxpayers' dollars in generating this infrastructure and this expertise, and it is our obligation in the Army to provide support to Justice in this domestic preparedness effort. Whatever they need, whenever they need it, we are a full supporting partner.

We are looking for a formal transition about October 1, 2000 and we will be proceeding across fiscal year 2000 and actually we already have, to implementing the details, the necessary transition steps so there will be a smooth, transparent transition and the domestic authorities who are the beneficiaries of this program will see us at the Federal level move in an absolutely transparent cross over from Defense to Justice.

With that, I thank you, sir, for the opportunity to present today.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Parker follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. PARKER

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate this, opportunity to appear before the subcommittee.

I am Michael Parker, Deputy to the Commander, Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. My purpose in testifying here today is to update you on the progress of the domestic preparedness program and the plan to transition lead responsibility for this interagency program to the Department of Justice. In addition I would like to take this opportunity to describe the types of support we can render to the Department of Justice as they continue to address the challenges posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

As of this date, we, the interagency team, have trained 59 cities. By the end of this fiscal year we will have trained a total of 65 cities. We, the interagency team, plan to train approximately thirty-six cities in fiscal year 2000, with the remaining 19 cities trained by third quarter, fiscal year 2001. A listing of the cities trained is included as part of my written submission. To date, we have trained over 16,850 first responder-trainers drawn from the firefighting community, law enforcement community, hazardous material handlers, emergency medical and management communities and the 911 operator/dispatcher community.

We employ the "Train-the-Trainer" concept in our training. There are several reasons for using this concept. First, the sheer numbers of emergency responders who have to be trained are overwhelming. Second, each community responds differently to various emergencies and relies upon its unique infrastructure to accomplish its response. Finally, each community generally has specific training institutions for various segments of its response infrastructure. Utilization of a train-the-trainer approach, we think, institutionalizes the response material within the local culture. Upon completion of our training, the city trainers take the instructor training material and adapt it to their unique response structures and organizations and train their responders. The training program in essence, is a federal, state, and local partnership.

Another important aspect of our training approach is the "team teaching" technique. This technique involves pairing a subject matter expert in the nuclear, bio-

logical or chemical (NBC) arena with an emergency responder with experience in these areas. Together the pairing brings a high degree of credibility to the training due to the extensive experience of the individuals involved. Both the train-the-trainer approach and the team teaching approach continue to be very well received by our training audience and we suggest that these approaches continue to be used for future training of this type.

A synopsis of each course of instruction follows:

1. *Employee Awareness (Video)*. Employee Awareness is a 30-minute video presentation for 911 operators and diverse employees at potential terrorist target facilities. The video is presented in layman's terms in both English and Spanish. There is no instructor requirement, however, a facilitator (provided by the facility employer) is recommended to introduce the video. The video covers:

- General aspects of NBC terrorism
- Information on how to recognize a NBC terrorist incident through signs and symptoms, and possible dissemination devices
- Self-protection measures—Instructional materials include a facilitator's guide, a pamphlet for the participants and a 911 checklist for future reference.

2. *Senior Officials' Workshop*. The workshop is a 4.5-hour course intended to instruct and inform the senior leadership of the city. The interactive workshop employs video clips, case studies, lecture and discussion to promote understanding amongst city officials of the impacts of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction. The workshop objectives are to:

- Assess the potential risk to their community from NBC WMD.
- Identify possible targets within their community.
- Understand the implications for their community from NBC WMD.
- Interact with state and federal personnel so that operational assets can be assembled, assigned and employed with maximum effectiveness.
- Identify special legal and financial considerations that NBC WMD incidents may involve.

The Senior Officials' Workshop is a stand-alone course with no Domestic Preparedness (DP) course prerequisites.

3. *Emergency Responder Awareness*. Unlike the Employee Awareness video, the Emergency Responder Awareness course (4 hours, 0.4 Continuing Education Units (CEU)), is designed for the trainers of emergency responders. These responders include firefighters, police officers and emergency medical responders. The goal of this course is to enable participants to teach other responders the signs and symptoms of chemical and biological agents and nuclear materials; potential devices used for dissemination; make proper notification; and defensive actions to safeguard themselves and their community. This course covers:

- Introduction to the NBC Terrorism Threat.
- Radiological, Biological, and Chemical Materials and Weapons.
- Dissemination Devices
- Responder Actions.

Prior to enrollment in the Responder Awareness course, participants should be trainers and have a basic understanding of principles and procedures to respond to a hazardous material incident.

4. *Emergency Responder Operations*. The Emergency Responder Operations course (4 hours, 0.4 CEU) is designed specifically for incident response teams in a defensive mode. The goal of this course is to enable participants to teach the technical aspects of NBC incidents, and the defensive actions required for responders to protect themselves and their community. This course covers:

- Responder Actions at the Operations Level
- Chemical Downwind Hazard Analysis
- Personal Protection
- Introduction to Detection and Identification
- Emergency Decontamination Procedures
- Practical Exercise

The Responder Awareness course is the prerequisite.

5. *Technician—HAZMAT*. The Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) course (12 hours, 1.2 CEU) is specifically designed for trainers of current HAZMAT Technicians. HAZMAT Technicians learn the difference between responding to NBC terrorist incidents compared to an "everyday" HAZMAT event. The goal of this course is to enable participants to teach the technical aspects of NBC incidents and the of-

fensive actions required for responders to protect themselves and their community. This course covers the same subjects as the Awareness and Operation courses, but at a more advanced level. In addition, this course covers:

- Responder Actions at the HAZMAT Technician Level
- Hands-on Detection and Identification Exercise
- NBC Agents at the HAZMAT Technician Level
- Protective Equipment
- Decontamination Procedures
- Chemical Classification, Detection and Identification
- Practical Exercise
- Downwind Hazard Analysis
- Dissemination Devices

The participants should be HAZMAT technician qualified prior to enrollment. No DP course prerequisites are required.

6. Technician—Emergency Medical Service. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) course (8 hours, 8.5 CEU) instructs trainers of emergency medical technicians and paramedics on the unique aspects of a response to a NBC terrorist event. The goal of this course is to enable participants to teach the technical aspects of NBC incidents and the defensive actions required by EMS responders to protect themselves and their community. This course includes:

- Introduction to NBC terrorism threat
- Possible dissemination devices
- Recognizing NBC exposure
- Trends indicating possible events
- Safe and legal antidote requirements
- Unique triage of potential mass casualties and emergency medical field treatment demands
- Unique considerations to treat children and elderly victims of an NBC, terrorist incident

The course consists of lectures, demonstrations and field exercises to include personal protection measures, detection, decontamination and triage. No DP course prerequisites are required.

7. Hospital Provider. The Hospital Provider course (8 hours, 7 CMEU for physicians and 8.4 CEU for nurses) provides instruction to trainers of emergency department physicians and nurses. The goal of this course is to enable participants to teach the medical technical aspects of NBC incidents and the defensive actions required for responders to protect themselves and their community. This course includes the same topics as the EMS course, but at a more advanced level. Course covers:

- Introduction to NBC terrorism threat
- Diagnosis and treatment victims of an NBC incident
- Unique public health guidelines
- Special considerations for Hospital personnel dealing with an NBC incident
- Properly manage contaminated victims
- Decontamination
- Protect against cross-contamination using personal protective measures

Course format includes classroom lecture with demonstrations and case studies. No DP course prerequisites are required.

8. Incident Command. This course (6 hours, 0.6 CEU) provides trainers of incident commanders with the necessary information and considerations to effectively manage an NBC incident. The course consists of 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of a tabletop exercise. Specific topics include coordination of resources; protective measures and associated risks; evacuation versus shelter-in-place considerations; perimeter security measures; management of mass casualties, and applications of the Federal Response Plan. The goal of this course is to enable the participants to teach the challenges, consequences, and special considerations of incident commanders when dealing with NBC incidents. This course covers:

- Challenges and Consequences of Management in an NBC Incident
- Tactical Considerations and Actions for NBC Incidents
- Understanding the Roles of the Federal Government in an NBC Terrorist Incident
- NBC Terrorism Response and Planning Exercise

The DP Responder Awareness and Responder Operations courses are prerequisites for the Incident Command course or any of the Technician Level courses (i.e., EMS, HAZMAT, Hospital Provider).

As a critical part of city training, exercises add to the overall comprehensive training process of the Domestic Preparedness program. Three main components comprise the exercise program as an integrated strategy:

- Chemical weapons tabletop exercises
- Chemical weapons functional exercises
- Biological weapons tabletop exercises

Chemical Weapons Tabletop Exercise

The chemical weapons tabletop exercise is a six to eight hour event conducted in a conference room environment for city, county and state emergency responders. Federal agency representatives also participate in the exercise. A chemical tabletop exercise typically follows emergency responder training. This exercise routinely focuses on a range of crisis and consequence management activities beginning with threat identification, through initial and secondary responses, to follow-on actions and long-term consequences. This exercise presents emergency responders with simulated emergency situations designed to encourage constructive discussion.

The objectives of the chemical weapons tabletop exercise are to:

- Assist local authorities to exercise the decision process in response to a chemical weapons terrorist incident scenario.
- Examine the response mechanism of the incident command structure.
- Capitalize, reinforce and provide feedback on the training conducted by the Domestic Preparedness program.

Chemical Weapons Functional Exercise

The chemical weapons functional exercise is a two to four-hour, hands-on event that normally follows six months after the Domestic Preparedness training of the city emergency responders. A three-day timeframe encompasses the actual exercise and includes:

- Controller/evaluator training (Day 1)
- Site setup (Day 1)
- Actor/observer/media briefings (Day 2)
- Two to four-hour functional exercise (Day 2)
- Formal debriefs (Close of Day 2 and Day 3)

This exercise is real time, and the participants include: fire, law enforcement hazardous materials (HAZMAT) and emergency medical services (EMS) units that received the Domestic Preparedness training. Participants must assess and act on the simulated terrorist incident based upon expert knowledge of these issues: response procedures, current plans and protocols at their respective agencies and the Domestic Preparedness training lessons. In this exercise, emergency responders treat and decontaminate simulated "victims" and simulate transporting them to area hospitals as if a real world situation occurred. Furthermore, the city provides controllers and evaluators for these exercises. Controllers ensure the city's identified objectives are met through key actions during the CW exercise, whereas evaluators assess the response as the chemical weapons functional exercise is executed. The objectives of the chemical weapons functional exercise are to:

- Establish a learning environment.
- Familiarize response teams and agencies with protocols to respond to a chemical incident involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
- Acquaint emergency responders with the potential of a chemical terrorist attack.

Biological Weapons Tabletop Exercise

The biological tabletop is a one-day, six to eight-hour exercise conducted for the city, county and state emergency responders. Federal agency representatives also participate in the exercise. This exercise is conducted in a conference room environment where participants respond to a simulated terrorist incident. The biological exercise depicts the major functional response aspects of a biological terrorist incident. This exercise focuses on how to detect and mitigate a biological terrorist incident. Medical consequences of a biological terrorist attack are emphasized.

The objectives of the biological tabletop are to:

- Assist local authorities to exercise the decision process in response to an assessment of a biological terrorist incident.
- Examine, as a unified command, the response mechanisms of the city, county and state agencies with federal support.

- Provide feedback on the training conducted by the Domestic Preparedness program.

In previous testimony before Congress, we have cited the fact that the skills learned are perishable and that factors such as personnel turnover create a need for sustainment. There are a number of initiatives that have addressed this issue. One such initiative has resulted in the establishment at Fort McClellan of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) under the Department of Justice. The Deputy Secretary of Defense has indicated that the Department of Defense will act in a support role and in concert with that, we have entered into an agreement with the Department of Justice to provide a broad range of supporting services to the CDP. We view the relationship created by this agreement as a partnership which will aid in program continuity and efficiency and which will leverage on the body of effort not only gained in our Domestic Preparedness program activities but in our eighty-two years of experience and our recognition as the Army's leader in the chemical and biological arena.

We are also involved in supporting the Consequence Management Program Integration Office (CoMPIO) through the provision of SBCCOM functional expertise as they establish state and regional response teams within the DoD Reserve Component. We are supporting the CoMPIO in equipping and providing logistical support to the first 10 Military Support Detachment (Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID)) Detachments and the initial 44 Military Support Detachment (RAID Light) Detachments, 43 Reconnaissance Elements, and 127 Domestic Response Casualty Decontamination Elements. We utilize performance-based research and development to provide "tried, true and tested" products. We utilize emerging technological applications to transition promising advanced technologies or rapidly develop prototype systems into field applications. We have leverage the defense test and evaluation infrastructure to conduct technical performance evaluations of commercially available equipment, and participate on the Interagency Board (IAB) to develop a list to ensure equipment standardization and interoperability at the local, state and federal levels. In addition we apply functional experts to develop and deliver training programs and expert technical assistance for the response teams.

One of the fundamental components of readiness for the cities as they prepare for a WMD incident is equipment. As we travel the country in our training program and other related activities we constantly hear the message "We need equipment—what good is training without equipment?" We recognized the need and have provided on a loan basis under the Domestic Preparedness program a training equipment set with an approximate value of \$300,000.00 to each city trained. Each loaned equipment training set is tailored to the unique needs of the specific city involved. This process however, doesn't fully address the larger operational requirements of the communities.

The training equipment set includes four categories of equipment: protective equipment; detection equipment; decontamination equipment; and training aids. The training aids are delivered during the week that the Federal Training Team trains the city's emergency responder trainers. The training aids are used by the city as they train their responders. After the city is trained and has had an opportunity to assess their Domestic Preparedness requirements, the city makes an equipment selection and requests DOD to acquire protective, detection, and decontamination equipment which meets their training plans. If the requested equipment is approved, DOD acquires the equipment and provides it under the loan agreement.

Examples of items that are found in typical Training Equipment Sets follows:

Personal Protective Equipment: Level A Encapsulated Protective Suits; Level B Protective Suits; Respiratory Equipment; Protective gloves and boots.

Detection: M256A1 Training Kits; M256A1 Test Kits; M8 Paper, Box; M9 Paper, Roll; Chemical vapor colorimetric sampling tubes and pump; Commercial Chemical Detector.

Decontamination: M291 Decon Kit; M295 Decon Kit; Portable Showers; Emergency Shelters.

Training Aids Set (contents fixed): M256 Simulator, Chemical Agent Detector Kit, box; Bio Detection Tickets; M28 Simulator, Detector Tickets, Boxes; M29 Simulator, Detector Tickets, Boxes; M18A2 Chemical Agent Detection Kit; M8 Paper; M9 Paper; CAMSIM (Optional); CAM Simulator (Optional); CWA Detector Kit (Tubes and Pumps); Mark I Nerve Agent Antidote Trainers; Blue Books (Med Mgt of Bio Casualties); Green Books (Med Mgt of Chem Casualties); Yellow Books (EMS); REAC/TS Transport of Radiological Materials—Q&A About Incident Response; Sets of 35mm Slides for the Six Courses; Sets of Instructor and Student Guides for the Six Courses (Master Copies); CD-ROM containing the six courses; Video Tapes of "Terror at Harford Mall" Master Copies (Beta or other format); Video Tapes of "Ter-

ror at Harford Mall” and FBI—WMD Briefing Video, VHS; Employee Awareness Video, Master Copies (Beta or other format); Employee Awareness Video, VHS; Medical Courses Video, VHS; Preval Sprayer; Technician-HAZMAT Training Exercise Kit; Persistent Chemical Agent Dissemination Device; Non-Persistent Chemical Agent Dissemination Device; Small Vials (For Sugar and Baby Oil)

Currently there are efforts under way within the National Domestic Preparedness Office (NDPO) to create a standardized equipment list which will meet these needs and when coupled with DOJ’s grant authority should be able to make the process far more efficient and effective. We at SBCCOM would suggest however, that it is important to avail the communities of expertise available at SBCCOM and other federal agencies early in the process to aid in selecting equipment and after the equipment delivery ensuring that it meets the needs of the community and properly addresses the challenges posed in the WMD environment.

An integral part of the domestic preparedness program is the testing that we are performing by the Department of Army available equipment, which is in general use by the emergency responders around the country. We subject the equipment to agent and simulant testing and make the performance data available to the emergency response community via the Domestic Preparedness Web site. We don’t recommend a particular piece of equipment based on the test results. We simply discuss the test protocol utilized and list the test data that we obtain. In essence, we act as a kind of Underwriter’s Laboratory. This type of information is critical to the emergency response community. Our efforts in this regard have been very well received by the emergency response community. We think that this type of testing activity should be continued and would strongly support the activities of DOJ as they address further challenges in this area while leading the National Domestic Preparedness Program.

Finally, I’d like to address the status of the planned transition of program responsibility from the Department of Defense to the Department of Justice. There is an agreement, which is currently being worked which will outline the various aspects of the transition. It is anticipated that this transition will take place on 1 October of the year 2000 or beginning of fiscal year 2001.

Tentative plans for the transition include the following:

- DoD will fund and execute all aspects of the Domestic Preparedness program through city number 68 of 120.
- DoD will fund and execute training, chemical tabletop exercises and Category IV equipment sets for cities 69 through 105.
- DoD will fund and execute the annual Federal, State, and Local exercises through fiscal year 2001.
- DOJ will fund and execute Categories 1–3 grant money distribution, chemical weapons functional exercises, and the biological weapons tabletop exercise for cities 69 through 105.
- DOJ will fund and execute all aspects of the Domestic Preparedness program for cities number 106–120.
- DoD and DOJ will jointly fund and execute the Improved Response Program beginning in fiscal year 2001. The DoD focus, beginning in fiscal year 2001, will be to enhance the Services’ response units and installation responders. DOJ will continue to focus on responders at the state and local levels.
- DOJ will be responsible for the funding and execution mechanisms for the HelpLine and Hotline beginning in fiscal year 2001.
- DOJ will control the Domestic Preparedness World Wide Web Page after transition.
- DoD will be responsible for the funding and execution of the Chemical Biological (CB) Response portion of the DP program.

Regardless of the transition details one thing remains paramount—we as a nation are faced with a serious challenge—the challenge posed by weapons of mass destruction. SBCCOM and its interagency partners have gained a lot of experience through their domestic preparedness activities thus far and SBCCOM desires to support the new lead agency in the fulfillment of their programmatic responsibilities by bringing to bear functional and testing expertise gained from decades of experience and from other preparedness related programs.

We continue to be proud to be associated with this important program and look forward to supporting DOJ in their leadership role in the future. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you here today.

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS TRAINING SCHEDULE

Fiscal year 1997

1. Philadelphia; 2. Boston; 3. Detroit; 4. Chicago.

Fiscal year 1998

5. New York City; 6. Los Angeles; 7. San Antonio; 8. Washington D.C.; 9. Memphis; 10. Kansas City, MO; 11. San Jose; 12. Honolulu; 13. Indianapolis; 14. Dallas; 15. Seattle; 16. Miami; 17. Baltimore; 18. Houston; 19. Atlanta; 20. San Francisco; 21. Portland; 22. Jacksonville; 23. Phoenix; 24. San Diego; 25. Columbus, OH; 26. Anchorage; 27. Denver; 28. Milwaukee; 29. New Orleans; 30. Providence; 31. Albuquerque; 32. Saint Louis; 33. Nashville; 34. Tucson; 35. Charlotte.

Fiscal year 1999

Hampton Roads Area (Cities 36–39 trained Collectively); 36. Virginia Beach; 37. Norfolk; 38. Chesapeake; 39. Newport News; 40. El Paso; 41. Sacramento; 42. Cleveland; 43. Austin; 44. Oklahoma City; 45. Colorado Springs; 46. Buffalo; 47. Long Beach; 48. Minneapolis; 49. Pittsburgh; 50. Newark; 51. Omaha; 52. Santa Ana; 53. Tulsa; 54. Fort Worth; 55. Raleigh; 56. Oakland; 57. Cincinnati; 58. Tampa; 59. Birmingham

Since program inception fifty-nine cities have been trained through June 11, 1999.

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you, and I appreciate your insightful comments, they are important, on all aspects of what we are dealing with.

Butch Straub, with Office of Justice Programs, again, we are glad to have you here.

STATEMENT OF CURTIS H. STRAUB

Mr. STRAUB. Thank you. Good to see you again.

On behalf of Attorney General Reno, Assistant Attorney General Roy Robinson, I am pleased to be with you today to discuss our programs, particularly our training programs that are dedicated to enhancing the capability of State and local first responders.

I am particularly pleased to be at Fort McClellan again with you. This is OJP's first responder training center, a premier center, the Center for Domestic Preparedness. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I request that my formal written statement be entered into the record.

Senator SESSIONS. We will be glad to receive that.

Mr. STRAUB. It is always terrible to go last. The two gentlemen at the table have taken most of my speech.

As you have heard, OJP is working closely with both of these agencies. Today, however, I am pleased to tell you that OJP has formed an alliance with PHS—

Senator SESSIONS. Public Health Service.

Mr. STRAUB. Absolutely, to establish a public health training center here at Fort McClellan. We believe that the presence of the PHS center will provide excellent opportunities for partnership and enhanced ability for the two Federal agencies to serve the first responder community.

First responder training is a critical element and perhaps the most important element of the OJP Program. Training currently available for the first responder community to address WMD terrorism is far from comprehensive. OJP's programs are designed to bridge gaps in other programs and offer new enhanced specialized training. OJP's training mission is simple—to ensure that State and local emergency response personnel receive the skills, knowledge, abilities to enhance them to respond to domestic terrorism

and in turn protect lives, property and enhance safety and security in the communities.

As OJP moves into fiscal year 2,000, we will be able to use needs assessments and comprehensive plans developed by the States themselves to identify training requirements and target training resources.

As you stated, the CDP was opened June 1, 1998. Even now, in its initial stages of operation, the CDP has trained over 1,000 first responders from 305 jurisdictions, 43 States in basic awareness, incident command and incident management.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, Fort McClellan, which is currently the home of the U.S. Army Chemical School, is scheduled to be closed at the end of the current fiscal year. In directing the establishment of the CDP, I believe Congress saw a unique opportunity that was being provided to the civilian emergency response community. Simply put, facilities at Fort McClellan that so successfully served the Army's chemical training needs can now be used to benefit the training needs of America's civilian emergency responders. Mr. Chairman, the transformation of Fort McClellan from a military training facility to a civilian first responder training facility through the creation and development of the Center for Domestic Preparedness has the full support and commitment of the Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General Roy Robinson.

Senator Sessions, I truly believe that CDP will be a success story, not just for the Federal Government, but for America's first responders.

Mr. Chairman, I have eight letters of support that I would like to enter into the record, one of which is from Colorado.

Senator SESSIONS. We would be pleased to receive those.

Mr. STRAUB. As I conclude my statement, I want to personally thank you for all your support of the CDP and of all your support for the OJP program activities.

That concludes my statement. I will be pleased to answer any questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Straub and the above mentioned letters follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CURTIS H. STRAUB

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE: My name is Curtis H. Straub, and I am the Director of the Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support (OSLDPS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP). On behalf of the Attorney General Reno and Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, I am pleased to be with you today to discuss programs that are dedicated to enhancing the capabilities of state and local first responders to deal with the threat of domestic terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). I am particularly pleased to be here at Fort McClellan, at the Office of Justice Programs' first responder training center, the Center for Domestic Preparedness. As you know, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, which is a component of the Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support, is an integral part of OJP's first responder training initiative. The Center has successfully trained over 1,000 first responders since it opened June 1, 1998.

OSLDPS Deputy Director Andy Mitchell was pleased to testify before this subcommittee on April 20, to discuss the full range of our programs, so I will limit my remarks today to aspects of our training initiatives.

The standards by which OJP/OSLDPS assists state and local jurisdictions in accessing and acquiring training and equipment for emergency responder personnel will be coordinated by the Department of Justice's National Domestic Preparedness Office (NDPO), which has been proposed as an office to coordinate federal domestic

preparedness initiatives and to serve as a single point of contact for first responders for information on federal preparedness programs.

When fully operational, NDPO will act as the single federal office for coordinating federal initiatives on domestic preparedness into a cohesive and logical program that enhances the capabilities of first responders. As part of this mission, OJP/OSLDPS will operate under the umbrella of NDPO to assist state and local jurisdictions with the delivery of appropriate training, equipment, and exercises consistent with the standards coordinated by NDPO.

Responder training, like any other learning experience, must be incremental, with progressive steps in the learning process. Training currently being offered to address readiness for WMD terrorism is far from comprehensive. OJP/OSLDPS programs are designed to bridge gaps in other programs and offer new enhanced, specialized training. OJP/OSLDPS will work in partnership with other federal agencies, as well as through the NDPO, to ensure that its programs complement other ongoing federal training efforts.

OJP/OSLDPS' overall training mission is to ensure that state and local emergency response personnel receive the skills, knowledge, and abilities to enable them to respond to incidents of domestic terrorism, and in turn, better protect lives, property, and public safety. The training focuses on enhancing a jurisdiction's ability to respond to explosive, incendiary, chemical, radiological, nuclear and biological incidents. During fiscal year 1999, training efforts are being focused on those jurisdictions that received OJP/OSLDPS equipment grant funding during fiscal year 1998, and those jurisdictions targeted under OJP/OSLDPS Metropolitan Firefighter and Emergency Medical Service Program. This ensures that current training builds on past efforts and that there is a continuity to the resources targeted to jurisdictions.

The Metropolitan Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services (MFEMS) Program was begun in fiscal year 1997, and offers training and technical support to the fire and emergency medical services of the nation's largest metropolitan jurisdictions. Originally targeted to the nation's 120 largest jurisdictions, this program has been recently expanded to cover 255 jurisdictions across the country, including all cities targeted for training under the Defense Department's Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness Program, and all state capitals.

Since its inception, the MFEMS Program has been primarily responsible for providing basic instruction in WMD awareness to fire and emergency medical service personnel. The program's principal course, "Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts," is a two-day training course that has, to date, trained over 32,000 fire and emergency medical service first responders in basic WMD awareness principles. In addition, over 59,000 persons are currently in the process of being trained.

The Basic Concepts course is delivered in the first responders' local communities in order to reach the maximum numbers of first responders. This course is also available through a "self-study" version that has proven very successful. We are also exploring ways to deliver it through both "distance learning" mechanisms and through an Internet-based version. OJP/OSLDPS has also worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that this course has become part of the standing curriculum at all state fire training academies.

Since fiscal year 1997, OJP/OSLDPS' responsibilities in the area of first responder training have significantly increased, notably with the passage of the "Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts of 1998 and 1999." During this time, we have built on the success of the MFEMS Program and integrated its training efforts into a comprehensive initiative to meet state and local first responder training needs. Key to this process is the use of a variety of needs assessment methods to garner information from state and local jurisdictions aimed at identifying training requirements and serving as a road map for targeting training resources.

Beginning in the current fiscal year, OJP/OSLDPS will require states to submit a three-year comprehensive plan that will identify equipment, training, exercise, and other needs, which will be used to identify needs and target resources. The collection of this type of information will allow OJP/OSLDPS, working with NDPO, to determine the WMD training that is available, being utilized, or required by jurisdictions across the country. The information will assist the development of new training materials and courses to fill training gaps. This effort will be aided by NDPO's function as a central federal government clearinghouse for training information.

A key element of the federal government's domestic preparedness initiative is OJP/OSLDPS' National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC). Organized as part of OJP's domestic preparedness training initiative in fiscal year 1998, the NDPC is providing the nation's first responders with specialized training specifically designed for responding to WMD incidents of domestic terrorism, filling existing

training gaps, and enhancing training currently provided by FEMA, DoD, and other federal agencies. The specialized NDPC training will be delivered in three ways: on location at the Consortium facilities, through regional or traveling courses, and via distance learning technology. During fiscal year 1999, the Consortium is identifying training needs, developing training courses, and delivering courses to first responders in four major areas: awareness, responder operations, technician responses, and WMD incident management.

The Consortium incorporates several of the organizations that have received funding under the OJP/OSLDPS' domestic preparedness initiative into a single, coordinated, and integrated training program. Each of the five NDPC members has capabilities that make it uniquely qualified to provide specialized WMD training.

- The National Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology provides live explosive training and field exercises.
- The National Center for Bio-Medical Research and Training at Louisiana State University provides expertise and training in biological agents and in law enforcement.
- The National Emergency and Response and Rescue Training Center at Texas A&M University provides the ability to conduct field exercises and expertise and facilities for training on urban search and rescue techniques, with emphasis on the fire, HAZMAT, and EMS disciplines.
- The U.S. Department of Energy's National Exercise, Test, and Training Center at the Nevada Test Site provides the ability to conduct large scale field exercises using a wide range of live agent simulants and explosives.
- The Office of Justice Program's Center for Domestic Preparedness here at Fort McClellan provides the ability to conduct training in a live chemical agent environment and to conduct field exercises. The Center was opened by OJP/OSLDPS on June 1, 1998, to train state and local emergency responders in both basic and advanced methods of responding to, and managing, incidents of domestic terrorism and has already trained nearly 1,000 first responders in basic awareness, incident command, and incident management. OJP/OSLDPS is also working in partnership with the Public Health Service (PHS) as PHS establishes a public health training center for responding to WMD incidents at Fort McClellan. "OJP/OSLDPS believes that the presence of the PHS center will provide excellent opportunities for partnership and an enhanced ability for these two federal entities to serve the first responder community."

The newest addition to OJP/OSLDPS domestic preparedness training initiative will be the assumption by OJP/OSLDPS of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness Training Program in fiscal year 2001. Currently DoD and the Department of Justice are working on a Memorandum of Understanding for the proposed transition of the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici program. This agreement should be completed later this month. During fiscal year 2000, the program transition will begin and will be completed by the beginning of fiscal year 2001. The two departments are working well together, with excellent cooperation from DoD, which should make the transition seamless, with no impact on the cities involved with the training. The Department of Justice is committed to completing the training in the 120 jurisdictions originally identified by DoD. I am confident that the program transition will result in a much more comprehensive federal training program for first responders, enabling OJP/OSLDPS to integrate our training and other domestic preparedness assets with the Domestic Preparedness Program implementation. The integration will also address legitimate concerns regarding DOJ's and DoD's two programs having different target groups with different delivery mechanisms.

Among the goals of this transition is to provide the basic Nunn-Lugar-Domenici training elements to as many of the 120 cities designated by DoD as Nunn-Lugar-Domenici training sites as possible by the end of fiscal year 2000. Under the terms of the agreement between DoD and the Justice Department, DoD will complete all phases of the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici program for 68 of the 120 jurisdictions, and will complete all basic training elements for an additional 37 cities, by the end of fiscal year 2000. OJP/OSLDPS will initiate its administration of the program with the remaining 15 cities in fiscal year 2001. The completion of the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici exercise component for cities 69-120 will be accomplished by OJP/OSLDPS, beginning on a small scale in fiscal year 2000, followed by an accelerated rate in fiscal year 2001.

In addition, OJP/OSLDPS, as part of its administration of the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici program, is developing an enhanced Senior Officials Course tailored for

each recipient jurisdiction. The course builds on the existing Senior Official courses and is part of the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici transition. This enhanced course will dovetail with the new state planning and assessment process under the equipment grant program and will ultimately serve as a vehicle for delivering the assessment findings to state and local leaders. The course teaches baseline awareness, then walks participants through the findings of the jurisdictional assessment. Through this process, decision makers will come to fully understand the community's state of preparedness and the necessary steps to ameliorate shortfalls. OJP/OSLDPS will initiate the program with a special version intended for the first 25 cities that received the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness Program train-the-trainer courses.

DoD's Domestic Preparedness Program training is essentially entry-level WMD training for first responders, providing concepts and raising hazard awareness. Other OJP/OSLDPS training efforts and programs will build upon the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici base and provide the next tier in that process, offering more advanced learning opportunities to enhance the understanding, skills, and abilities of the first responder community, including tactical and strategic responses to WMD terrorist incidents. An effort is underway to evaluate and, by request of the first responder community, certify effective training courses. As part of that process, the establishment of training hierarchies will assure first responders that they are progressing toward greater levels of proficiency. NDPO will also continue DoD's compendium of existing federal training courses and help ensure that courses meet minimum national standards.

OJP/OSLDPS is also moving to ensure that training offered to first responders includes the training required to use and operate the equipment available to them under the OJP/OSLDPS equipment grant programs. OJP/OSLDPS will provide jurisdictions technical training in handling equipment purchased with federal grants. This training is available upon the jurisdiction's request either through on-site visits, long-distance learning, or by hosting responders at training facilities around the country.

Each of the 12 courses being developed will undergo a thorough review and critique. Comments from the review boards will then be incorporated into the courses and, following a final expert review, the courses will be certified by OSLDPS through the NDPO certification process. This process will help ensure that uniform, high-quality training is available to first responders. In addition, all training efforts will be enhanced through OSLDPS' technical assistance program and through responder participation in both table-top and field exercises.

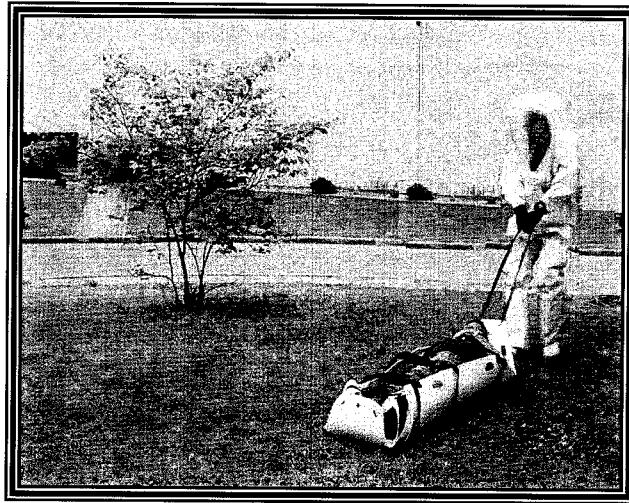
Throughout the training development process, we have attempted to maintain close contact with and seek comments from our first responder customers. In August 1998, the first State and Local Domestic Preparedness Stakeholders Forum was convened with participation from over 200 local, state and federal responders. At the conference, responders identified shortfalls or needs from the context of practical experience and offered recommended courses of action. The concerns and recommendations for action that emerged have provided invaluable guidance to planners in the development of the OSLDPS programs and to other federal government agencies. We intend to continue this process by maintaining an active feedback process, engaging with the responder community through efforts such as the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium and the NDPO's State and Local Advisory Group, which is proposed as a key element of NDPO's process for coordinating federal programs with state and local needs.

Through the improved coordination of federal domestic preparedness programs that will be provided by the NDPO, OJP/OSLDPS will continue to provide assistance to state and local jurisdictions as a part of DOJ's overall effort to enhance the nation's capabilities to respond to events we hope will never occur.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement and I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.



Office of Justice Programs
Office for State and Local Domestic
Preparedness Support
Center for Domestic Preparedness



Responder Comments

MAY-21-1999 15:12

NHCEM

6832257341 P. 02

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**



EANNE SHAHEEN
Governor

Office of Emergency Management
State Office Park South
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3509
603-271-2231
1-800-632-3752
FAX 603-225-7341



WOODBURY P. FOGG, P.E.
Director

May 21, 1999

The Honorable Judd Gregg
United States Senator
125 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Gregg:

This letter is in support of the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological Weapons of Mass Destruction (COBRA WMD) Terrorism Courses at Ft. McClellan, Alabama offered through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Center for Domestic Preparedness.

As the NH Terrorism Program Coordinator, I can not say enough about the quality of the COBRA WMD Terrorism Courses; they have been a great addition to our in-state terrorism training program. To date we have sent 24 fire and law enforcement personnel to Ft. McClellan. All have returned home overwhelmed with the way they were treated, the type, way and kinds of information that was presented, and the opportunity to network with other first responders from all over the country. The overall experience has been invaluable to them; it allows NH responders to experience a live-agent training facility that they would otherwise never get a chance to see, nonetheless train at.

The Center for Domestic Preparedness is doing a first-class job at getting as many local and state first responders through these courses as they possibly can under their current restrictions. We look forward to the expansion of training opportunities at Ft. McClellan. The investment in this training facility by the Federal Government has certainly proved to be a very cost-effective format from New Hampshire's standpoint.

We appreciate your continued efforts in Washington to secure additional funding to expand the area of WMD terrorism training, not only at Ft. McClellan, but also to the state and local first responders.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Harper
Terrorism Program Coordinator

cc: Woodbury Fogg, Director
Leland M. Kimball, SERC Coordinator
Richard Dickson, Center for Domestic Preparedness



Bedford Park Fire Department

Curtis L. Kerzich
Fire Chief

Paul Miraldi
Deputy Fire Chief

May 23, 1999

Mr. Bob Baker, Director of Training
United States Department of Justice
Center for Domestic Preparedness
Post Office Box 5100
Building 65, Headquarters Road (061)
Fort McClellan, AL 36205-5100

Dear Mr. Baker:

I would personally like to thank you and your staff for the opportunity to attend the COBRA, WMD Responder course #99-07R from May 17 - 22, 1999. In my twenty years of public service, I have attended numerous courses and schools, and I firmly believe that this was one of the best programs that I attended. This program was very professionally organized and executed.

The instructors from EAI Corporation were very knowledgeable and professional. I feel one of the most important elements of training is the experience of the instructor. It was reassuring to know that these instructors are experienced in their fields. There is nothing more disappointing when attending a class than an instructor not having a solid background in the subject and not being able to present it. This was not the case in the COBRA Class. I feel that the instructors presented their subject in an excellent manner.

Over the years, local public service entities, specifically fire departments have had to deal with many government mandates, and standards in training with no funding or courses offered to them by the Federal Government. The COBRA programs offered by the Justice Department are breaking new ground to change this and standardize training nationwide.

The knowledge that I received from the COBRA course was outstanding, and will be passed on to members of our department through training. Again thank you very much for an excellent program and experience. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Jeffery E. Clobessy, Lieutenant / Training Officer

CARROLL COUNTY FIRE RESCUE & E.M.A.



Gary L. Thomas
Chief/Administration
Steve Chadwick
Chief/Operations
Tim Padgett
Division Chief
E.M.A. Director
Bud Benetfield
Division Chief
Training

January 29, 1999

Mr. Tim Padgett Director
Carroll County Emergency Management
P.O. Box 338
Carrollton, GA 30117

Dear Tim:

I would like to take this opportunity to pass along my thoughts to you in regards to the recent C.O.B.R.A. training which I attended this week (January 25 thru 28) conducted at Ft. McClellan, Alabama hosted by the U.S. Department Of Justice, Center for Domestic Preparedness.

From an overall viewpoint, the class covered very valuable information from the standpoint of a trainer and from that of a responder. Instructors were very knowledgeable and experienced in the fields which they represented. Openness and class participation was encouraged. ALL of the instructors made a point to return to the classroom after the evening meal each day, for the purposes of fielding questions and providing additional information to any class member who wanted to return. This is something which I haven't seen in a long time. As you are well aware valuable information is gained thru professional contact or networking outside the formal classroom setting.

I received the entire classroom presentation on CD Rohm for use in our department, a program which represents many hours of research and hard work, and may I add this was given free of charge. In today's training market this program could have easily cost \$300.00 to \$800.00. I do intend to put it to use in our department to train others.

Participants and instructors came from almost every section of the country with viewpoints which made application to everyone involved. This was especially interesting when challenged with the practical exercise on the final day of the training. I highly recommend this training for any responder in the country whether they come from Fire, Haz.Mat, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, EMS, or represent city or county administration. Each participant can take something back to their community which will help them better prepare for a WMD incident. It is my full intention to send Carroll County personnel any opportunity which may present itself.

"Serving Today For A Safer Tomorrow"

Old Newnan Road • P.O. Box 338 • Carrollton, Georgia 30117 • (770) 830-5880 • Fax (770) 830-5984

PAGE 02

CARROLL CO FIRE/EMA

02/25/99 09:05 7788355544

I personally look forward to the next phase of the training which involves live chemical agent. I would appreciate your obtaining a class schedule so that we can plan to send additional personnel. Being only a 45 minute drive away we may be able to fill any vacancies created due to last minute cancellations. If you should have questions or require additional information I will be happy to discuss them with you. Again, thanks for you cooperation in forwarding the class information along to me.

Sincerely,



Bud Benefield
 Division Chief Training

02/26/99 14:29 FAX 2026182922 0AAG 003 Feb 25 '99 9:45 P. 03/03



MOBILE FIRE - RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Training Academy

F.D. Sias
Deputy Chief

United States Center for Domestic Preparedness
P.O. Box 5100
Fort McClellan, Alabama 36205-5000
Attn: Director L. Z. Johnson

Dear Mr. Johnson;

I wanted to take just a moment to let you know what an outstanding program I feel you and your staff are presenting. I attended the COBRA, WMD- INCIDENT COMMAND class on April 6-9, 1999. The instructors are of very high caliber, very knowledgeable and great speakers. The staff and instructors treated everyone very professional at all times and were willing to go that extra mile to meet our needs. Several members of our department have attended these classes and all have come back saying the same thing. I know the program will only get better as you move into your permanent facilities. Keep up the good work and pass my compliments along to the staff and instructors.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Hunter".

Bill Hunter
District Chief - Haz-mat
Mobile Fire Rescue



15001 East Alameda Drive • Aurora, Colorado 80012-1547 • 303/739-6000

March 24, 1999
js99-020.doc

Rick Dixon
Operations and Training
Center for Domestic Preparedness
P.O. Box 5100, Building 65
Headquarters Road (061)
Ft. McClellan, AL 36205-5100

Dear Mr. Dixon:

I am taking this opportunity to let you know how thoroughly impressed I was with the Advanced Operations training I recently received in Alabama. The staff were extremely knowledgeable and totally professional in all of their contacts with the trainees. The classes were well organized and the material presented was extremely valuable. I personally found the practical exercises to be relevant to potentially critical situations and gained a better understanding of the "big picture" of COBRA events.

Thank you for the time, effort, and professionalism exhibited by all of the staff during this training. As a "First Responder," I found the experience to be invaluable to the implementation of correct and safe procedure in handling weapons of mass destruction. I will be sharing this information with all members of the Aurora Police Department, and especially our Emergency Response Team. Again, thank you.

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lt. J. Shirk, Commander
Emergency Response Team



City of
PORTLAND, OREGON
Office of Emergency Management
Bureau of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

Jim Francesconi, Commissioner of Public Utilities
Steve Muir, Battalion Chief
Portland Office of Emergency Management
55 S.W. Ash Street
Portland, Oregon 97204-3590
(503) 823-3736
FAX (503) 823-3903

Kelly Jo Jensen
Exercise Training Officer
Oregon Emergency Management

May 4, 1999

Kelly;

Here are a few comments concerning the COBRA training. I thought the training was very good. It has been up graded and up dated from the CBDCOM training. I felt the best factor was the multi discipline attendance. In a real event we will have a lot of people from Fire, Police, Public Works, Emergency Management and others, not just Fire and Police. During the training I heard a number of comments, such as, "I didn't know that they did that", and "How can we help you get that done". This is the type of information transfer we need to get through an incident of this type. I am amazed at the lack of information sharing in some jurisdictions. This type of multi discipline class is one of the best ways to overcome this problem. The other high point was the tabletop exercise; it brought the information together in a way that everyone could see the connection between the various disciplines. It also demonstrated how all disciplines must work together to be successful. I heard a number of comment that the exercise cleared up the questions concerning inter discipline connections.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Morris".

Bill Morris, ORCEMS
Asst. Emergency Management Coordinator
Portland Office of Emergency Management

RECEIVED

MAY 05 1999

Oregon Emergency Management

DICKSON, RICHARD

From: Jake Shirk [JSHIRK@ci.aurora.co.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 1999 2:16 PM
To: DICKSON, RICHARD
Subject: Thank You

Rick,
I wanted to let you know that the Advanced Operations Training that I recieved in April was of benefit. While not directly involved in the first day of the Columbine High School shooting I was subsequently tasked to set up large teams of officers to bomb sweep 12 high schools. My unit was also assigned to assist in providing crowd control and vice presidential security at the memorial service. The ICS training was of great benefit in assisting me in setting up for the events. Thank you again for the outstanding training program.

4 May 1999

Lieutenant David J. Nobles
Philadelphia Police Department
Advanced Training Division
990 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123

Mr. Bob Hoehl
Curriculum Developer
Center for Domestic Preparedness
Post Office Box 5100
Building 65, Headquarters Road (061)
Fort McClellan, Alabama 36205-5100

Dear Sir,

I was an attendee of the 99-01 COBRA, WMD Incident Command that took place between 27 April and 1 May 1999. I wrote some comments while at the CDTF but I wanted to elaborate on the Training in this letter.

I have been with the Police Department in Philadelphia for 20 years. In those 20 years I have received a lot of Training. The COBRA training was by far the VERY BEST TRAINING I have ever received inside or outside the Department. Let me recap and go through each segment with my comments/ suggestions. The first class, COBRA Terrorism Threat Update was I thought the weakest of all the classes. There should have been some discussion given to the "profile of a Terrorist", or the reasons behind terrorist acts such as the areas where terrorism emanates. This would be Right Wing, Left Wing, State Sponsored, Single Issue and Mentally Unbalanced. In the class that I do for the Police Department, this information is discussed in detail especially the difference between a criminal and a terrorist.

Mr. Whitmire of the Atlanta Bomb Squad was excellent. His information was timely and very easy for non-Bomb Technicians to understand.

Dr. Battle was fantastic, listening to him speak gave me the impression that he forgot more than I'll ever know. His style was easy going but very informative.

Dr. Nolan again was one of those speakers that you knew was head and shoulders above what you might know. His talk along with his slides added much to the CEDCOM information on the classes of agents out there. Dr. Nolan was great. (running out of superlatives)

Jack Lombardi was also very good, but I got the impression that he might have been pressed into service because someone didn't show up. This was evident when he only showed portions of PBS's Plague War.

The Federal Support and Directives section was also good even if the First Responder doesn't have to know what is in PD 66.

DAY THREE

Mr. Charlie Rupperts' talk on Tactical Decisions was tremendous. The talk may have went a little long but it was very good.

The Table Top exercise was again by far the best tabletop I ever was in, and I have been in about 6-7 of them. The Facilitators, Doug Bartlett, Fran Byrd, Harry Cusick and Rick Risdon were the best. I could tell that these individuals not only do Table Tops well, but have done the real thing. I know Harry Cusick has.

DAY FOUR

The COBRA Training Facility exercise was as my middle daughter would say "awesome". The whole day was the most intense day of Training I have ever had. This wasn't some touchy-feelly dribble this was REAL. I know I woke up about 3:00am the day of the CDTF and couldn't get back to sleep. I don't think I was afraid, I was excited to be a participant. The Live Agent Training gave me the confidence to walk into an area with VX or Sarin and know that my equipment will work. Mr. Michael Law and SSGT Childs were our Instructors. These men were absolutely professional, outstanding and excellent. These guys gave me the confidence.

Again let me say that the COBRA Incident Command-Hazmat Technician course was outstanding and I would highly recommend this course as I have done so to the Managing Director Office of Emergency Management Mike Nucci. Keep up the good work. Let me close with one word to describe the COBRA Training. In the immortal words of Mr.. Donald Futrell "OUTSTANDING".

Sincerely,



David J. Nobles
Lieutenant # 205
Advanced Training Unit

Army Comments Pertaining to Training at the CDTF
in Relationship to Events during Desert Storm

- On behalf of the 490th Chemical Battalion I would like to express our appreciation for your support during our deployment and redeployment for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.
I would like to make special mention of the training you provided at the Chemical Decontamination Training Facility (CDTF). Having experienced the treat of chemical warfare first hand, I am convinced that the psychological fear of the unknown is the most pervasive aspect of chemical fear. The confidence inspired by the "hands on" experience is truly underestimated. In additions, the 490th Cml Bn's experience at the CDTF influenced more troops than you might imagine. Specifically because of our "experience" we were often asked to provide advise and instruct other units. Confidence is contagious!
- Appreciate the outstanding "live agent" training for leaders of the 24th Infantry division (Mechanized) over the past several months.
- I express my sincere thanks to all personnel involved at the U.S. Army chemical School who assisted in the planning and training of the 457th Cml Bn, 371st Cml Co, and the 413th Cml Co during our recent visits to Fort McClellan in preparation for deployment on Operation Desert Shield.
The experience of going through CDTF gave our soldiers confidence in their equipment and their ability to survive in a chemical environment.

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you.

It is a very fascinating area. I have oddly found myself on three interesting committees that deal with it. I am on the Health Committee and the Public Health Subcommittee, which Dr. Knouss is with, and on Armed Services that deals with the defense and Chairman Warner has spoken out and had hearings with the CIA Director and others about terrorist attacks and he is very concerned about it, and also on the Judiciary Committee where obviously Justice programs is. So it has given me an interesting insight in all those agencies.

Mr. Parker, I do recall and appreciate very much Assistant Secretary Hamry, Dr. Hamry's comments, Assistant Secretary of Defense, second to Mr. Cohen, when he said that he believed it was a good idea to transition the initial responsibility you were given under Nunn-Lugar to the Department of Justice. In fact, he said he didn't think that was a core mission of the military to be training in every city in the country. So he thought it was healthy that that transition take place. And you have—and I believe the Department of Defense is cooperating fully, and it is not easy sometimes. Agencies do not like to give up their jurisdiction or what they have been working on. And I think that is a good event.

Dr. Knouss, just briefly, the Centers for Disease Control is in Atlanta. Do you think they will play a significant role in your planning for protecting public health in case of an attack?

Mr. KNOUSS. Senator Sessions, they play an absolutely critical role because, as I mentioned in the very beginning, it is that agency that we need to turn to for strengthening much of our public health infrastructure in the United States to be able to establish the systems necessary to detect and determine what agent may have been released, to create the laboratory capability that is necessary not only for terrorist attacks but also for other emerging infectious diseases, to be able to assist our public health departments around the country to make a determination of what kinds of health problems we are facing. And we are very actively engaged with them in a partnership within our department.

CDC plays a very prominent role in disease control efforts and prevention efforts. But when it comes to response, the lead within our department will fall to our Office of Emergency Preparedness to coordinate that for the department. And we firmly believe that the capability to respond starts in the community and so we are committed to working with communities across the country to strengthen their capabilities in this regard and CDC is not only working with the communities but also the States, which is their traditional role.

It is just that it is right down the road and I think it would be an asset to Nobel Army Hospital if you develop a training program here. And by the way, on training, I know you have mentioned to me, I think the last time we talked, you indicated again today, that you are concerned about actually training physicians and nurses and those in the communities. Do you have funding for that? And where are we as a country in funding money for public health training for emergencies?

Mr. KNOUSS. Most of the money that we have spent up to the present time has been spent on developing the systems at the city

level for the response of the health systems, and this year, our funding for that activity was about \$3 million against a request that was made of \$14 million. So the Secretary of Health and Human Services actually added another \$11 million that she used her authority and transferred from other programs within the Department to augment what was available through the direct appropriations. And we have made a substantial request again for fiscal year 2000's budget so that we can support that activity. I think we are now requesting in excess of \$16 million for that activity in the fiscal 2000 budget.

Senator SESSIONS. That is not a line item in last year's or this year's budget, is it?

Mr. KNOUSS. Yes, it was \$3 million actually appropriated. We had asked for 14, we added 11 from within the Department's own funds and we are asking for 16.5 to be appropriated in the coming—for fiscal year 2000.

Senator SESSIONS. We have got a lot of extra money being spent on hazardous events and I believe we should make sure that there is an actual appropriation sufficient to help you train the physicians and first medical responders. I think it is something we need to work on. I thank you.

Mr. KNOUSS. I really appreciate that a great deal.

Senator SESSIONS. Mr. Parker, relative to the National Guard—do you have plans for where they might be trained? I had heard that Fort Leonard Wood, for example, really didn't have the capacity to do as much as might be needed. That was one place that had been suggested. Where are we on that?

Mr. PARKER. The overall training effort is still being formulated but one of the considerations, as you point out, in Fort Leonard Wood is the transitional state that the chemical school will be in over the next year, bringing on the new training facilities at Fort Leonard Wood is going to take some time. So there has been some at least discussion and plans to determine whether or not there is excess capacity here at Fort McClellan which could be called upon as the National Guard needs exceed the ability for Fort Wood to deal with it. So there is a realization that the facility is available here at Fort McClellan. It will be somewhat of a balance working with L.Z. on what are the domestic demands and then where the capacity exists to support DOD's uniformed personnel training.

Senator SESSIONS. We have got a great National Guard in Alabama. Per capita, it is number one in the Nation, and I think fifth in total membership behind Texas and California. They have informed me of their interest in playing an important role in that, and I think that has got real possibilities. I think the National Guard is spread out geographically around most States and could play a critical role. And I thank you for that.

Butch, I think we need to get to about 10,000 a year. Where are we in funding and what are your latest thoughts about how close we can come to that goal?

Mr. STRAUB. I would also like to see 10,000 a year. Of course that has been our objective all along. In fiscal year 2000, we requested \$17 million. I don't know what the mark is going to be. I understand the Senate was marking up—

Senator SESSIONS. It will be close to that.

Mr. STRAUB. I hope so. That will put us around 2000 trainees a year. But in our 2001 budget, OJP has requested \$30 million which would move the number of students to 6500. The target goal of 10,000 would take around \$37 million a year, which is what we would like to see.

Senator SESSIONS. That is a chunk of money even by Washington standards. But it is I think an achievable goal. Senator Shelby and I have talked about that figure several times. I think the Senate will be in at about what the Administration requested, hopefully we can increase it, but whether we can or not, I do not know. We are living with our commitment to the American people to contain spending, that the Congress and the President agreed to last year. As a result, funds are tight, and therefore money must come from some other programs that are of less priority. That is more difficult than I realized when I first went to Washington. Just because one program is more valuable or appears to be more valuable than another one does not mean you can easily walk over and take money from it to give to others. They howl quite loudly when you take money they have been receiving. As such, we have got to work on that and I intend to keep working on that.

Do any of you have any other comments?

[No response.]

Senator SESSIONS. Mr. Parker, briefly, do you have any insight from the Department of Defense's and Army's perspective about the nature of this challenge—how real it is? I know you have been giving thought to it for some time now. Would you share that with us?

Mr. PARKER. I think the threat is a demonstrated fact, as it has occurred in Tokyo. The reality is that based on the FBI, which really has the lead in the domestic threat environment, is that it is very hard to quantify these things other than there appears to be a consensus that the environment is as you stated earlier, it is when, not if. That seems to be the consensus opinion. Very hard to identify any particular group or timeframe but it is one of those circumstances where the consequences of the event are so extreme that we as a Nation need to proceed and be prepared.

Senator SESSIONS. Well said. The consequences are so extreme and all the experts tell us it is a question of when, not whether, and we do need to be prepared.

I thank you for the leadership each of you have given. I want to be helpful. While we love the facility here, we are concerned about the whole Nation and we want to do what is right for the country. I know the President has said we need to shift resources to this area and I believe the Congress agrees. If we can work together and not allow too many different agencies to fail to coordinate effectively, I believe we can make some major progress in short order.

Thank you very much for being with us. And I hope you can stay around for our tour in a little bit.

On next panel, we have Darrell Higuchi, who is the deputy fire chief in Los Angeles County Fire Department. He has an extensive background in national disasters and domestic preparedness in probably the Nation's most active metropolitan area dealing with these issues. The Los Angeles County area has been talked about and I know you have done a lot of work on this.

In addition, Gary McConnell is the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency in Atlanta. Of course, he grew up around Rome, he was Sheriff up there when he did a lot of work. Now he has moved down—

Mr. MCCONNELL. Hard work.

Senator SESSIONS. What is that?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Hard work.

Senator SESSIONS. Hard and honest work in Rome.

He was actively involved in planning and executing the 1996 Olympics and was a key operator in working on the bombing there. He has established an office that is well-recognized nationally for being forward thinking and effective. And we are glad to have you, Gary. You're too far away from here—just across the line Georgia.

Chief Higuchi, would you like to make a few comments and then we will have some questions.

PANEL CONSISTING OF DARRELL HIGUCHI, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA AND GARY MCCONNELL, DIRECTOR, GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

STATEMENT OF DARRELL HIGUCHI

Mr. HIGUCHI. Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, good morning. I would like to thank you for—

Senator SESSIONS. You might need to pull that microphone a little closer.

Mr. HIGUCHI. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to testify this morning.

Senator SESSIONS. And I probably need to ask you to keep your remarks around 5 minutes, opening remarks, if you would.

Mr. HIGUCHI. Yes, sir, I will keep them brief.

As you indicated, my name is Darrell Higuchi, I am the Deputy Chief of Los Angeles County Fire Department and I am also here before you today on behalf of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Preparing for incidents of terrorism involving chemical, biological and radiological agents, in addition to incidents that may involve conventional explosive devices, is certainly a high priority for the fire service. America's fire departments are first responders and often the last resort for rescue, prehospital emergency medical care in any community in a time of crisis.

Should an incident of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction occur, the fire service is typically the first public safety agency notified, along with law enforcement. Our ability to successfully mitigate the incident and save lives will depend upon our training and preparedness.

The Nunn-Lugar-Domenici amendment to the 1997 defense authorization and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 began Federal efforts to assist and help better prepare local fire, police and emergency service agencies for the possibility of terrorism involved in a WMD incident.

The IAFC has been involved in the development of both these laws and continues to work with the Departments of Defense and Justice in their administration. The Anti-Terrorism Act authorized a \$5 million appropriation to train metropolitan fire fighters in ter-

rorism response. Designated by the Attorney General to administer this law, the Office of Justice Programs, OJP, provided four jurisdictions with demonstration grants, and importantly worked with the National Fire Academy, in the development of awareness level training curriculum that has been available nationwide for approximately 2 years.

A train-the-trainer approach was used for both cost-savings and an efficient way to reach as many fire fighters as possible. Thousands have received this training based upon this curriculum.

Additionally, coordinated Federal assistance in acquiring appropriate personal protective, decontamination, detection and monitoring equipment is required. Federal support and funding for this training is also a necessity.

Early identification of a terrorist incident and the ability to implement command and control using the standard incident command system is vitally important. Successfully mitigating an incident is incumbent upon this. Awareness level training is vital and should continue to be provided. Congress should provide sufficient funding to facilitate the availability and delivery of this OJP/NFA awareness level training to every local public safety agency in the country.

OJP has created, at the direction of Congress, a National Domestic Preparedness Consortium comprised of Louisiana State University, the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Manufacturing, Texas A&M University and the Nevada Test Site. The Justice Department also established a National Domestic Preparedness Center here at Fort McClellan. We support expedited access to the consortium's facilities as well as as many local emergency services personnel as possible. It is important that each of the consortium facilities focus on those aspects of emergency operations that each can uniquely address.

It is also essential that local emergency response agencies have sufficient oversight and input into the training development. It is important that what is being taught is not duplicative or contradictory and that the training meets the goals and objectives of preparedness.

The lack of training standards in both Defense and Justice programs is a concern to some. Others will claim that no standards exist. We disagree. Consensus standards developed and promulgated by the National Fire Protection Association are the standards that should be adopted by all agencies involved in training of local fire departments. These standards are widely accepted and are already in use by fire training academies across our Nation. The awareness level training developed by OJP in conjunction with the National Fire Academy incorporates these standards. We urge Congress to mandate that all Federal agencies involved in training of fire fighters incorporate these existing NFPA standards.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs believes that the enhancement of the existing local capability is the wisest, most cost-effective course to follow in preparing for a WMD incident. It is our experience that not only will we be the first responders on the scene, but we will be the largest supplier of personnel and equipment to mitigate this incident. Fire department hazardous material response teams deal with and handle spills and accidental releases

of highly toxic chemicals on a regular basis. This is the case across the country. The importance of preparing for this risk should not be understated. However, we should not forget that bombing attacks remain the most common tool of terrorists, both domestically and abroad. We should not overlook the fact that our preparedness plans—and we do realize that the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium Program seeks to address that item.

The recent rash of anthrax hoaxes in Los Angeles County revealed several critical items. We found that we were unable to determine quickly whether or not anthrax agent was actually present at the several incidents. Further training and equipment necessary to identify biological and chemical agents is needed for all fire departments.

Of particular concern are those biological agents that have incubation periods that would expose individuals to those who unwittingly leave the scene and spread this disease across this great Nation. The ability of responding fire department personnel to make these decisions is crucial. The steps necessary to decontaminate are arduous to potential victims and responders alike.

In Los Angeles during recent drills, it was determined that non-ambulatory victims, the fire service could only handle 10 to 20 non-ambulatory victims in a given hour.

The decontamination process in itself is challenging. Training in how to accomplish it quickly and effectively is necessary for the entire fire service.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, local fire, public safety agency personnel will be the first on the scene in an act of terrorism. Our ability to save lives, mitigate environmental damage will depend on how we are prepared and trained. Existing National Fire Protection Association standards should be incorporated into the Federal training programs for fire departments.

Finally, I would like to stress that the Federal training programs would benefit from input and oversight by local civilian fire and emergency response experts.

At this time, I would certainly like to acknowledge the Department of Justice, Butch Straub, for his diligence and administrative oversight of OJP and training, and of course the grants program, NDPO, the Pentagon and in particular L.Z. Johnson and his staff. Our department has been a direct beneficiary of this live agent training. Returning personnel in their assessment and critique was rated a 9.5 out of 10 and this in itself created a flood of applicants within our own organization. This training has now fashioned an indelible benchmark for live agent training for all fire service individuals.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today, Mr. Chairman, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you very much.

Mr. McConnell.

STATEMENT OF GARY McCONNELL

Mr. McCONNELL. Senator, I am pleased to be here on behalf of the National Emergency Management Association, but more than that on behalf of the State of Georgia.

Let me preface my remarks this morning with some real issues that we must deal with. I am probably a little more of a realist than some of the folks that you deal with on a day-to-day basis, Senator.

Senator SESSIONS. Sheriffs are realists as a rule.

Mr. MCCONNELL. DA's and prosecutors are too.

Let us talk about whether it happens or not—it is going to happen. I will tell you about some of the things that have happened in Georgia that I was involved in firsthand. But before I get into that, it could not have occurred without the support of Justice, Andy, Butch, and Roy Robinson. They have been tremendously supportive with terrorism especially in the State of Georgia.

Centennial Park, we all watched in July 1996, with the explosion there, two other explosions in the City of Atlanta within 6 months. The secondary devices are a new phenomenon in this country where they planted it to kill the public safety responders. Just in the last year, we have had eight anthrax hoaxes just across the Alabama-Georgia line in Carroll County and Haralson County, just across from Cherokee, DeKalb, and Cleburne County.

Senator SESSIONS. You had eight anthrax hoax threats?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes, sir. Double suicide in a school in Carroll County, and of course the shooting about 6 weeks ago at Heritage High School in Rockdale County.

Senator with no disrespect to anybody and none certainly is meant, it is time that we quit talking about terrorism and school violence, and we do something. If the State of Georgia very candidly had waited on guidance to prepare for the 1996 Olympics, we would not have lit the torch yet. Terrorism is real, the local first responders, the fire, EMS and law enforcement are certainly the first folks there.

One group that I think has been overlooked this morning particularly in testimony and reality is the State. The State brings a tremendous amount of resources to support local governments. The Federal Government does a tremendous job supporting local and State but it is anywhere from 48 to 72 hours, admittedly, before they can have a large force there unless they are prestaged like they were in the 1996 Games. And we do not have that luxury.

It is very, very important in my opinion that we have Federal involvement, State involvement and local involvement. Certainly nobody is trying to take away from the local first responders. In 20 years as a local sheriff, I understand they are the folks there that do the work. But in 1996, for example, we brought 11,000 State officers to the 1996 Games. There has to be a coordinating agency out of the Governor's office who deals with mutual aid. If we train 120 cities that DOD is attempting to train across this country, without any involvement from the local or State as to who those are and how they are trained and how it is going to be distributed to the other cities—for example, if you train the City of Birmingham, that is great, but what about Roebuck, Gadsden, or Fort Payne?

So we have to have a mechanism of delivering that training across the State through mutual aid. We think that the training delivery and the issues that the Federal Government are dealing with need to come through the Governor's office, to be assigned to

whatever the appropriate State agency is to work with them. For example, the CDC is certainly appropriate in working with our Department of Human Resources in our State, but there needs to be a coordinated effort so that Agriculture or Justice is not trying to develop the same thing in their areas; to make sure that we use the best limited resources that we have.

The issue of the role of each individual group, we will never resolve that because of turf battles or pride and ego and who gets credit and who gets blame. Senator, very candidly, we had 191 countries in Atlanta, GA in 1996, we had 137 local jurisdictions involved in putting on the Games, we had over 60 Federal agencies there. What we must do is not only train on live biological weapons of mass destruction, school violence, we must go one step further past that and have an understanding by exercise, by an understanding of who does what. The time for the Federal agencies to meet their State counterparts and their local counterparts is not at Columbine High School.

You know, we all want to use media releases and we all want to be there to arrest the perpetrators. But we have got to have a coordinated effort on how that is going to occur. We had the luxury of having 3 years to train and exercise for the 1996 Games. That is the reason we had 130 odd victims of Centennial Park, but they were all in the hospitals and emergency rooms being treated within 28 minutes because we all understood our roles, we all understood how to accomplish that.

We have got to emphasize, whether it is the fire department of Los Angeles or the fire department here in Anniston, that we all have roles to play. And if we do not understand that today, we certainly cannot understand it when Columbine High School or Heritage High School in Rockdale County is under siege.

There is a tremendous need, I think, for the Federal Government to certainly continue their efforts to single focus terrorism through Justice or wherever the powers pick that agency to be. In my opinion, Justice is the place for that. But we do not need to reinvent the wheel. For example, there is a system of delivering Federal assistance to State and local governments now, we need to support that through FEMA. If the same incident would occur here in Anniston, there is a great, world class facility here to train the first responders on weapons of mass destruction and chemical and biological. Let us quit looking at other places, let us quit trying to build a new or better mousetrap and use the one that we have got. Spend that money on training the fire and law enforcement, EMS communities on the chemicals, how to deal with those and how to better coordinate those efforts.

And with no disrespect to the gentleman from DOD who testified earlier—and I do not want to get on a negative comment here—but the Guard RAID teams are great, but are we going to have them in our life time? We have been talking about Guard RAID teams and Georgia has been selected for one of those, I understand. It was selected for one of those shortly after the 1996 Games or whenever the program started. During those 17 days in Atlanta, GA when the world was watching, we responded to a suspicious package every 10 minutes for 17 solid days. We ran our fire and EMS

and law enforcement and military guys in the ground. Every 10 minutes 24 hours a day for 17 days is a long time.

RAID teams are great, but let us move on with it. You know, I heard this morning we are still developing where we are going to train them at. Hell, I need them in Georgia now. Let us train them, let us train them in Anniston and if there is a better place 10 years down the road, let us worry about that 10 years down the road.

But the Governors of this country and the elected leadership deserve for us to not worry about who is going to get the credit, there is enough to go around. There will be enough blame to go around. When CNN stuck their camera in my face at 1:21 in the morning in Atlanta, GA, they did not care who let the bomb go off, why did we do it. They did not care whether it was DOD, the State of Georgia, the City of Atlanta, EMS, fire or the whole alphabet soup, Senator.

We have got to move on. We may not have the ideal answer to it, it will always be different versions depending on what color shirt or what color uniform or where your loyalty lies. But the people in this country deserve for us to make a decision and for us to move on with it. The mothers and fathers of those six kids in Rockdale County 6 weeks ago, they wanted somebody to catch the shooter. They want me or somebody in the State of Georgia to assure them it is not going to happen again and be relatively sure that we can back up that promise.

That is what we are about. We are not about whether the State of Georgia, the City of Atlanta, the Federal Government or which agency gets credit for it. We have got an obligation to do the right thing.

I want to close with one thing that I asked my 11,000 folks to do during the Olympics, and I challenge you in Congress to do the same thing when you are voting on weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. I do not know who the most important person to you is in your life, but every time you deal with weapons of mass destruction, I want you to have that person in your mind. And if you and I do our jobs well enough to take care of that person, the rest of our people will be all right too. That is where we are at with terrorism in this country right now.

I will be glad to answer any questions you have, sir.

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you. That is well said and I think we are at that point.

I was just thinking as you said you spent 3 years getting ready in Atlanta—would you say that virtually any city in America, if they have got good support from training and equipment, that kind of thing, over a period of 2 or 3 years could reach the kind of level that you did in Atlanta? Moreover, would you say that, every major area ought to be developing the kind of coordinated response and communications that are necessary to respond effectively?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Senator, my—

Senator SESSIONS. Would that be your vision of what everybody ought to do?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes, sir. In my opinion, there is no reason that any city or any community in this country cannot get to that level. It takes about four things. It takes the political support of the elected leadership; it takes the vision and commitment of the agen-

cies involved, it is not easy, it is not always popular, sir; it takes elected leadership, the agencies involved committed to that goal and it takes community support. Communities at different times in their lives are willing to put up with more.

Senator SESSIONS. In other words, if it is the sheriff and the chief and the fire chief and all, if they are not getting support from the elected leaders, they are not likely to put a big effort into it, but if they are encouraged to, they will?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes, sir. And the public will put up with it. We put metal detectors at the majority of the venues, had a few complaints prior to Centennial Park. After Centennial Park, they did not mind being checked at all when they went in, sir.

Senator SESSIONS. Yeah, good point.

Mr. Higuchi, you mentioned the quality work that the National Fire Academy has done and the standards I guess, National Fire—what is it?

Mr. HIGUCHI. National Fire Protection Association, NFPA.

Senator SESSIONS. National Fire Protection Association standards—those have been developed over many years of careful consideration about how to respond to fires, chemicals, explosions and things of that nature. Do you feel like there has been enough attention paid to what has already been accomplished in developing these responses to chemical and biological weapons, and further do you think the Federal Government should do more in incorporating the work that has already been done?

Mr. HIGUCHI. Yes, sir, Mr. Senator. As you indicate, there has been a tremendous amount of Federal support in the establishment of national guidelines relative to fire, EMS and now weapons of mass destruction. I would certainly ask and hopefully the Congressional members will support additional funding through the Department of Justice, through FEMA down to U.S. Fire Administration, to the National Fire Academy. I am proud to say that I was part of several course developments of weapons of mass destruction and the support that we received, received an A grade. Although that is not to say that we should be standard and happy with what we currently have, but yet, we find those courses and possibly develop new additional courses to better meet the needs of the fire service.

Senator SESSIONS. If you have say a poison gas circumstance, what are the things that your firemen and women need to know as they respond to that? Do you think the average fire department in America has received enough assistance and training in how to do it?

Mr. HIGUCHI. Mr. Senator, I cannot sit in front of you today and acknowledge yes, they have had enough training, only because of the fact that I have only dealt with Los Angeles County Fire Department and our surrounding communities. We have had a tremendous amount of training in the awareness area. And to answer your question specifically with poison gas, we have had training tapes developed, we have written materials and again, people coming to this live agent school training as well as the National Fire Academy, has certainly broadened our exposure and knowledge and expertise relative to weapons of mass destruction. Yet, it is one of

those items that in reality most fire fighters hopefully never have to deal with.

Senator SESSIONS. Well, most people probably do not realize just how intensive fire department training is using chlorine and all kinds of hazardous materials that are transported on our roads and railways and used in our cities daily. Having said that, what I hear you saying is to go from that to biological attacks may be new to you, but would not be that difficult, although sufficient scientific studies have not yet been done. In addition, what I hear you saying is that we ought to build on what has already been learned and the training that has already gone on within the fire departments.

Mr. HIGUCHI. Yes, sir, that is correct. The fire service is built on a lot of tradition and the culture relative to ladders, to water systems, to fire and rescue. This is just a new door that has now opened and presents a challenge to the fire service in general and we are trying to meet that challenge.

Senator SESSIONS. You have mentioned live agent training several times now. Do you think that is a critical component of making training realistic and meaningful to students?

Mr. HIGUCHI. Yes, sir. On our written critiques and verbal interviews with persons that have come back, typically most fire departments across the Nation will use a color grenade or tear gas at the most during training exercises. But when individuals found out this was the real McCoy, they had a tendency to check their masks and seal 10 times more, along with the assistance of the personnel and staff here. And that in itself put a realism that has never been experienced by this fire service before.

Senator SESSIONS. It gives them confidence that the procedures work, I suppose, among other things also—

Mr. HIGUCHI. Yes, sir.

Senator SESSIONS. Would it not, if they have been through an actual live agent exercise.

Mr. HIGUCHI. Yes, sir, they trained as if their life depended on it this time versus normal training.

Senator SESSIONS. Gary, I was told a few months ago—and I think some changes have been made—that sheriffs had not been fully involved in this. Police departments were being coordinated with in some of the national programs. Have you heard any complaints that sheriffs have not been involved and offered the training to the extent that police departments have?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes, sir, I sure have.

Senator SESSIONS. I think they have made a change in that. I have expressed my concern about it, because some of my sheriff friends have raised it with me. A sheriff oftentimes will be the first one there.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I think your Sheriff in Tuscaloosa County is probably on the national board.

Senator SESSIONS. Yes, he did.

Mr. MCCONNELL. He may have expressed that to you.

Senator SESSIONS. He caught me and he does a great job. He is a national leader in the National Sheriffs' Association. That was a very valid complaint and I think the Department of Justice responded well to that.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Justice has responded very well to weapons of mass destruction and terrorism across the spectrum of public safety, even with the new players of Agriculture and some other folks we normally do not think of public safety. Justice needs to be commended for reaching out to the other groups that normally have not been involved in public safety.

Senator SESSIONS. Good.

Well, I want to thank all of you for coming. I hope that you panelists can have time after this to actually tour the facility. Your comments are important to me. I think this is my second full hearing. We have had some secret briefings from the CIA and Defense Intelligence that I cannot refer to, we have had hearings in Armed Services as to which of these issues have been raised. I believe we are as a Nation, beginning to recognize that we need to be prepared to respond effectively to these events that inevitably will occur.

We are going to accept a letter from Dr. Moriarty at Auburn and make that part of the record. Thank you for doing that and for your work with this project.

Senator SESSIONS. The record will be open to receive testimony and I may submit some follow-up questions to some of you who have testified.

Our bus will be leaving out front in a few minutes and we would like for you to join us there.

Thank you so much for being with us. We are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:50 a.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION FOR THE RECORD

June 11, 1999.

NERVE GAS SUMMARY FOR GB/VX

Nerve Gas—Used in chemical warfare, any of several poison gases derived chiefly from phosphoric acid that weaken or paralyze the nervous system, especially that part of the system controlling respiration.

GD—Clear water color and volatile.

VX—Persist. Light brown color.

Symptoms: 1. Twitching; 2. Pin pointing of the pupils; 3. Cessation of breathing; 4. Muscle tension; 5. Defecation; 6. Death.

How it works: Blocks the nerve junctions and effects colon esterates.

Previous logistics for shipment of GB VX in 1972. Nerve Gas (liquid) was placed in steel containers welded and encased in concrete cubes, placed on flat cars with decon teams, security medical personnel in support of the shipment to Sunny Point North Carolina, placed on a surplus troop ship, carried out to sea and dumped into many fathoms in a deep trench of the Atlantic Ocean. Quality assurance of the Nerve Gases (liquid) is monitored periodically and found to be contained as dumped in 1972. Fish habitat leakage is recorded by state of the art systems to insure stability.

Present proposal for shipments from Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland to Anniston Airport by a C-12 Army Aircraft and transferred to a helicopter (UH-1) or a helicopter in the inventory of the army for delivery to the CDT Fort McClellan for use in chemical training of law enforcement and other elements.

I challenge this air shipment of 1 liter of GB or VX to Fort McClellan for use at the CDT facility by the center for domestic preparedness.

Why: 1 liter is this much of VX or GB (show 1 qt. water).

1. Unsafe even at the most extremely remote possibility for reasons of plane crash, sabotage, and leakage during shipment.

Containment during shipment is in a baker lite container. This is any of a series of thermosetting plastics prepared by heating phenol or cresol with formaldehyde and ammonia, under pressure: used for radio cabinets and molded plastic wares. Baker like is a trademark.

2. If an accident occur during shipment, many people will die within minutes of ingestion of the VX or GB. a pinpoint amount of the Nerve Agent will kill instantly without protection of most clothing, Atropine, Topane Chloride. Everything in the downwind hazard zone will become contaminated.

Recommendations:

1. Use of simulants (hair spray, toulene, paint thinner with M-8, detector paper for VX and GB presents.

2. Collateral safety and security will be maintained without sickness or fatalities using simulants.

CLIFF BOURG,
Anniston, AL.

○