Chemical Weapons
Improved Response Program
### Report Documentation Page

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Fedele, Paul D.

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US Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

Chemical Weapons Improved Response Program Overview

Dr. Paul D. Fedele
Chief Scientist, CWIRP
pfdedele@apgea.army.mil
410-436-2962
US Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

- Department of Defense experts on chemical and biological warfare since 1917

- Develop, acquire, and sustain chemical and biological defense technology, systems and services

- Also provide:
  - Chemical weapons storage and demilitarization
  - Associated environmental remediation
  - Chemical weapons treaty compliance
Chemical Weapons Improved Response Program

• Designed to improve response posture for acts of terrorism using chemical weapons

• Focuses on high priority responder needs
  – Think tank approach
  – Conducts technical and operational investigations with associated exercises to insure valid solutions

• Applications to both rural and metropolitan communities
Chemical Weapons Improved Response Program

- SBCCOM possesses the technical expertise in WMD
- Local involvement essential
- Partnership between federal, state, and local experts
Chemical Weapons Improved Response Program
Program Approach

Established four functional groups to focus on key issues
CWIRP Functional Groups
Health & Safety

Mission
Focus on the issues that impact the well-being of the community at large and the challenges associated with maximizing the impact of local and regional public health and medical resources.

- Baltimore City HD
- USPHS
- MD DHMH
- MIEMSS
- Baltimore City School Police
- American Red Cross
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Franklin Square Hospital
- St. Agnes Hospital
- Disaster Planning International
Mission
Enhance preparedness by identifying, prioritizing, and addressing the challenges facing law enforcement that are unique to a chemical terrorist incident.

- FBI
- APG CID
- MD State Police
- MD State Fire Marshall
- MD Trans. Authority
- Mass Transit Admin.
- Ocean City Police
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- District of Columbia
- Harford County
- Howard County
- Montgomery County
- New York City
Mission
Identify and develop ways to improve the response capabilities of the first responders to manage the consequences of a chemical terrorist event.

- Montgomery County
- Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Ft. Detrick, MD
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Boston, MA
- District of Columbia
- Harford County
- Howard County
- Philadelphia, PA
- Washington County
- Anchorage, AK
CWIRP Functional Groups
Emergency Management

Mission
Address issues and make recommendations designed to enhance the responder and emergency management communities’ planning, resourcing and coordinating capability.

- Baltimore County
- MEMA
- Baltimore City
- Carroll County
- Howard County
- American Red Cross
CWIRP Accomplishments

Exercises:
• Eleven table top exercises
• Two functional exercises

Technical studies:
• Firefighter PPE Assessment for Quick Rescue
• Positive Pressure Ventilation Studies
• Mass Casualty Decontamination Techniques
• Law Enforcement / EMS PPE Assessments
• Protective Clothing analysis for SWAT Teams
• Alternate Chemical Casualty Medical Care Facility
• Chemical Mass Fatality Management
• Law Enforcement Protective Clothing Report
• Fire Service Emergency Response Video
Technical Initiatives

Firefighter Protective Clothing Assessment

• Evaluate the degree of protection against chemical agents offered by standard firefighter gear during quick rescue operations
• Conducted tests with local firefighters at SBCCOM test facilities using standard DoD test methodologies
• Developing guidelines the can be used by the Incident Commander to make risk-based decisions if level A protection is not immediately available
Technical Initiatives

Positive Pressure Ventilation

- Evaluate the use of PPV fans as a mitigation tool to quickly reduce contamination levels in a contaminated building
- Determine the amount of additional protection afforded firefighters conducting quick rescue
- PPV reduces vapor concentrations of agent by 50%-70%
Technical Initiatives

Protective Clothing for Police Officers

- Recommended a range of low cost protective clothing options for personnel operating on the perimeter of an incident
- Threat of contamination comes from wind shifts, cross-contamination from victims, and secondary releases
- Included gas mask evaluations, chemical clothing tests and weapons firing
- Concerns included cost, training and maintenance requirements
Technical Initiatives

Protective Clothing for SWAT Teams

• Evaluated available protective clothing suitable to a SWAT team
• Protection from higher levels of contamination are needed
• Focus on protection afforded while using special weapons, equipment and tactics
Technical Initiatives

Mass Casualty Decontamination

• Evaluate technologies and methodologies that permit rapid decontamination of large numbers of casualties
• Importance on use of existing equipment and resources
• Scientific analysis and responder input indicates that water is the overall, best solution
• Additional studies scheduled on cold weather decontamination
Technical Initiatives

Medical/Health Response

• Develop a medical response plan to handle the potentially catastrophic number of casualties from a chemical terrorism incident

• Establish Off-site Triage, Treatment and Transport Center to
  • Manage the non-critically ill and psychosomatic
  • Allows established infrastructure to maintain status quo

• Outline chemical fatality management guidelines
CWIRP Future
2001 and Beyond

- Domestic Preparedness transitions from Department of Defense (DoD) to Department of Justice (DoJ)
- Office of Justice Programs continues civilian response improvement.
- SBCCOM maintains support and focuses on DoD military installation protection and response preparedness.
Further CW IRP Information

Further information is available on line, under CWIRP at the web site:

http://www2.sbccom.army.mil/hld/index.htm

Dr. Paul D. Fedele
Chief Scientist, CWIRP
pdfedele@apgea.army.mil
410-436-2962