



**U.S. Army**

**Soldier and Biological Chemical Command**

Edgewood Area - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010

## Chemical Biological Rapid Response Team (CB-RRT)

### **Background.**

Public Law 104-201, Section 1414 et seq., mandates the Department of Defense organize a Chemical and Biological Rapid Response Team to be a joint organization to provide chemical and biological defense support to civil authorities. The CB-RRT was established in late 1997 to address this mandate. Over the past few years, the CB-RRT has evolved and increased its capabilities to meet the Department of Defense needs in support of civilian authorities in the growing mission of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) response support.

### **Mission:**

The mission of the CB-RRT is: On order, deploy and establish a robust and integrated capability to coordinate and synchronize DoD's technical assistance (medical and non-medical) to support the Lead Federal Agency in both the Crisis and Consequence Management of a WMD incident or designated National Security Special Event. Focused on domestic, but responsive worldwide.

### **Highlights.**

Located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; the CB-RRT provides a technical support package specifically tailored for WMD incident response. The CB-RRT is composed of members of the Armed Forces and employees of DoD with specialized chemical, biological, medical and explosive ordnance disposal expertise who are capable of providing technical assistance to aid Federal, State and Local officials in the response to, and mitigation of, incidents involving WMDs containing chemical or biological materials (or related hazardous materials). The CB-RRT can be under the operational control of a Geographic CINC, JSOTF, other designated Joint Task Force or in direct support of a Lead Federal Agency. The unit is co-located with the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command's (SBCCOM) 24-hour Operations Center.

The CB-RRT is designed to provide forward elements to assist the Lead Federal Agencies (Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Secret Service, United States Public Health Service, and others) with technical expertise and contingency development options during times of crisis. In addition, through the state of the art SBCCOM Operations Center, the CB-RRT brings together some of the nation's leading Chemical and Biological technical experts without the need for the experts to be deployed to an incident site.

Technical elements that are managed and coordinated by the CB-RRT include,

but are not limited to, the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit (TEU); the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center Forensic Analytical Center (FAC), U.S. Army MEDCOM Special Medical Augmentation Response Teams (SMART) and Regional Medical Commands (RMC), U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (USAMRICD); U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (CHPPM), U.S. Navy Medical Research Center (NMRC), U.S. Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC), U.S. Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Units (NEPMU) and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL).

The CB-RRT deploys with two primary communications systems: the Deployable Response and Graphics Operation Network (DRAGON) and the Deployable Communications System (DCS).

- **DRAGON** - A local area / wide area computer network (LAN/WAN) designed for multiple users who gain access either by hard wire, satellite or Internet access. The system is used to provide situational awareness to users and also serves as the main information management tool for the CB-RRT staff.
- **DCS** - A self-sustaining mobile satellite communications system which supports the forward deployed elements with telephone (secure and non-secure) interface; video teleconference interface; SIPRNET (dial up); and digital cellular telephone service that is separate from local networks.

The CB-RRT communications system uses the T1 satellite reachback capability to link command and control nodes with the SBCCOM Operations Center and other Operations and Technical Centers.

Additional assets that may support, or be supported by, the CB-RRT include, but are not limited to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), U.S.M.C. Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF); National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST), U.S. Army 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD), and the National Capitol Render Safe Organization (NCRSO).

The CB-RRT can deploy using U.S. Army SBCCOM organic air assets, U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM) assets or commercial air transportation. The CB-RRT is self-sustaining for 72 hours.

For more information contact the SBCCOM Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-4345.