

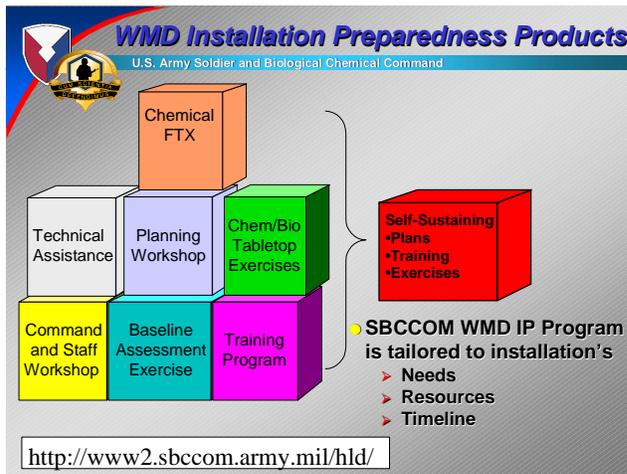
Are You Prepared for the Unthinkable?

WMD Installation Preparedness
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Tuesday is a typical day on the installation. Children have returned from a day at school, and many families are taking advantage of the recent payday to buy items at the Base Exchange (BX). On their way home, many families and sailors stop by the food court for a snack. A backpack that had been left in the food court under a table begins to release an aerosol mist. Suddenly, employees and shoppers in the vicinity of the food court begin to experience difficulty breathing and a slight loss of vision. Several people fall to the ground and some begin to experience convulsions. Others begin screaming and run for the exits. Emergency responders from throughout the installation quickly arrive on the scene to provide assistance, and they too become casualties of the unknown substance.



Your installation has just become a victim of the unthinkable – a terrorist attack using a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). While the threat to any one installation is minimal, the threat to U.S. installations collectively is a major concern to our nation's leaders. Of all asymmetric threats that could be levied against US forces, terrorist incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear WMD are the most feared. Depending on the WMD agent used and the method of dissemination, casualties could be in the hundreds to even thousands. And, there is no question that installations will be on their own for the first critical hours after such an incident, particularly overseas installations. But, the situation is not hopeless, and there are many ways that installations can prepare for a WMD terrorist incident.



The U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM), recognized as the center for the nation's chemical and biological defense expertise with over 80 years of experience, has developed and implemented a comprehensive WMD Installation Preparedness (WMD IP) program that includes planning, training, exercises, and technical assistance. This program is based on the highly successful Domestic Preparedness program, where SBCCOM trained 105 cities, over 28,000 emergency responders, and conducted over 230 WMD exercises from 1997 - 2000.

This program was piloted at Pope Air Force Base and Fort Bragg in 1999 to demonstrate its

effectiveness in assisting military installations with their WMD AT/FP efforts. The WMD IP program is conducted with small highly skilled teams of emergency responders and WMD experts who travel to the installation thus promoting synergy and interoperability among the military and civilian responders on the installation. By conducting the program at the installation, not only does the entire installation emergency response system have the opportunity to participate, but so does the local, state/territory, federal, and host nation mutual aid agencies, making this integrated approach very cost effective. The WMD IP program can be delivered in its entirety or in a modular fashion depending on each installation's unique requirements, time constraints and available funding. For example, SBCCOM is providing Responder Awareness and

Operations courses to all ten US Coast Guard districts to develop an awareness of the impact of a WMD incident on maritime operations.

One of the goals of the program is to provide the tools for the installation to become self-sufficient. This is a critical need given the nature of the high personnel turnover rate at many installations. This avoids the problem of creating a dependent relationship where the installation constantly needs to send new personnel on TDY trips to receive training, since all the WMD IP train-the-trainer and exercise materials (CDs, videos, training equipment) will remain with the installation. This process was a proven success during the Domestic Preparedness program, since each city was able to continue their training programs on their own, after the SBCCOM team had left.

OCONUS WMD Installation Preparedness – Case Study – U.S. Navy

“Commanders at all levels shall take appropriate measures to protect DoD personnel, families, facilities, and materiel, and reduce the vulnerability to terrorist use of WMD.”

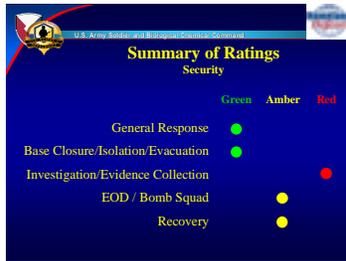
DODI 2000.16 (DoD Antiterrorism Standards)

Commanders of overseas installations are well aware of the increased threat and vulnerability to terrorist attacks that are inherent at their locations. The U.S. Navy has taken a proactive role in preparing its

“The threat is real. This course questions the “readiness” of the installation to respond to WMD. The course is a perfect guideline/checkpoint for evaluating and developing our WMD response plan.” Yokosuka, Japan

overseas installations, and for the past year, SBCCOM has been working with three CINCPACFLT installations in Japan (Yokosuka, Sasebo, and Atsugi) to assist them with their WMD preparedness efforts. This effort began in late February 2001, when key command and staff personnel at the bases participated in WMD workshops led by SBCCOM facilitators. As AT/FP planners know, command involvement is critical to ensuring that the right agencies

and participants are involved in all planning, training, and exercise efforts. These workshops developed a greater awareness in key leaders of the impacts of a WMD incident on their installation and its mission, and demonstrated the need for integrated planning and response efforts.



The next phase of the WMD program, conducted in May 2001, involved a baseline assessment of each installation’s current WMD response capabilities and limitations.

The assessment tool used by SBCCOM involved a chemical weapons tabletop exercise with installation response agencies. Four response groups were used in each exercise: medical, security, command and control, and fire/hazardous materials. These exercises brought together representatives from the primary response agencies at each installation. Each response function received a green, amber, or red rating to highlight areas of strength and areas requiring improvement.

“Discussions revealed a large number of areas that need to be addressed. I believe we were given a realistic picture of our capabilities and shortcomings.”
Sasebo, Japan

In July 2001, SBCCOM brought a multi-disciplinary team of WMD and emergency response experts to CINCPACFLT in Japan. In less than three weeks, this team conducted 38 courses and trained almost 800 responders at three naval installations. One of the biggest challenges of this training effort was that close to 99% of the Fire Department responders were Japanese master labor contractors who spoke very limited English. A total of 17 classes were taught with interpreters, using slides and course manuals that had been translated into Japanese specifically for this effort. The courses that were translated into Japanese were Awareness, Operations, Incident Command, and Hazardous Materials -

Technician. Two medical courses were provided in English only: Emergency Medical Services – Technician, and Medical Facility Provider. Specific comments from students are provided below:

背景

- ナンパガードメニチ対策プログラム (1996～2000)
 - 105都庁で実施：230+ 実施
- ボーオブラック研究 (1998)
- ボーオブラックパイロット計画 (1999)
 - WMDテロ攻撃が軍事機密活動目標と与えるインパクトを45%軽減

WMD RESPONSE

- This is one of the best courses that I have attended and the instructors were outstanding.
- It was great to have instructors with such a vast knowledge base.
- Very knowledgeable instructors. Outstanding teaching techniques!!!
- The information means more when it comes from people who have actually dealt with CBR [WMD].
- All military installations should invest in this training to better prepare for a WMD incident.



These first three phases of the WMD IP program that took place at the bases in Japan required extensive coordination by the installation AT/FP planning teams. By involving as many members of the installation's emergency response community in the planning and training effort, the Navy guaranteed a successful program. Of particular note, were the tremendous efforts of the Disaster Preparedness Officers and their staffs at each base for making the training program as effective as possible.

The next step for these installations will be an integrated planning effort to complete their WMD response plans. This planning module involves a small group of SBCCOM subject matter experts who will assist the installation planners with the WMD portion of the AT/FP plans. This approach was successfully used at Fort Bragg, where their installation was the first U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) installation to receive a "Green" rating on their WMD plan from the FORSCOM Force Protection Assessment Team in March 2000.



The final phases of the WMD IP program for the Navy installations in Japan will involve chemical and biological weapons tabletop exercises, and a chemical weapons field training exercise. These exercises will allow the installations to work through their WMD response plans with all of the installation agencies that would be involved in the response to ensure that their plans are executable. The entire effort is scheduled for completion in May 2002.

The steps that the U.S. Naval installations are taking in Yokosuka, Sasebo, and Atsugi will provide the critical mass each installation needs to be better prepared for a WMD incident. Through judicious WMD planning, training and exercising, these bases are working to ensure the safety of our military and civilian personnel abroad. In addition, these bases are providing a model for CINCPACFLT to apply to the rest of their Area of Responsibility (AOR) to effectively deal with the unthinkable - a WMD incident.

"Preparation is itself a deterrent"

*Former SECDEF, William S. Cohen
Preparing for a Grave New World
Washington Post, July 1999*

For more information about the SBCCOM WMD IP program, contact Karen Quinn-Doggett at 410-436-1483, or visit our web site at www2.sbccom.army.mil/hld/.