



Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Team (CST)

Highlights

- Identify CBRN agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with requests for additional support
- Operations mandated in statute
- Members receive more than 650 hours of HAZMAT and high-tech training from agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency
- Today, 57 WMD-CSTs are located in each state, U.S. territory and Washington, D.C.; with two each in California, Florida, and New York
- On standby 24/7/365 days
- Advance team deploys within 90 minutes; the main body within three hours
- Operates a unique equipment set including a specialized/secure communications vehicle (Unified Command Suite), and a mobile analytical laboratory system with a full suite of chemical, biological, and radiological analysis equipment

WMD-CST Operations:

- In FY15, there were 1,251 deployments for immediate response and stand-by support missions
- Units prepositioned to support the Boston Marathon, Super Bowl 49, papal visit, State of the Union Address, United Nations General Assembly, along with conducting numerous National and State Special Security Events and sports venues

Funding:

- Federally resourced, trained, and sustained
- State controlled



A broad range of capabilities at a moment's notice

Mission: To support civil authorities at a domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current or projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for additional follow-on state and federal military forces. Units can also provide immediate response for intentional and unintentional CBRN or hazardous material (HAZMAT) releases and natural or manmade disasters that result in, or could result in, catastrophic loss of life or property.

Overview: The Adjutant General may employ the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) to support the state response under the direction of the governor or to support another state's response under a supported governor. Each WMD-CST is comprised of 22 full-time, Title 32 Active/Guard/Reserve (AGR), Army (ARNG) and Air National Guard (ANG) personnel. The distribution of personnel on average is 18 ARNG and 4 ANG personnel, employed in 14 Army Military Occupational Skills or comparable Air Force Specialty Codes. The unit is divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical/analytical, and survey.

A unit's assigned transportation includes a command vehicle, operations trailer, a communications vehicle called the Unified Command Suite (which provides a broad spectrum of secure communications capabilities), an analytical laboratory system vehicle (containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the complete characterization of an unknown hazard) and several general purpose vehicles. The WMD-CST normally deploys using its assigned vehicles, or can be airlifted as required.