

CDP Alumnus

Center for Domestic Preparedness — Anniston, AL



FEMA

Summer 2015
Issue 19

CDP Mission

The CDP develops and delivers training for emergency response providers from state, local and tribal governments and when appropriate the federal government, foreign governments and private entities.

CDP Vision

An emergency response community prepared for and capable of responding to all-hazards events.

CDP Training Tally

882,533 as of June 20,2015

Cost

Training at the CDP campus is federally funded at no cost to state, local and tribal emergency response professionals or their agency. All tuition, lodging, meals and transportation are covered.

Training focuses on incident management, mass casualty response and emergency response to a catastrophic natural or man-made disaster. For more information or to register for CDP specialized programs or courses, visit <http://cdp.dhs.gov>

Cover photo: Students in the Emergency Medical Operations for CBRNE Incidents course practice their skills during the Integrated Capstone Event (ICE).

Photo by Patrick Byrne

15 Las Vegas Valley Water District staffers train on Incident Command skills

Fifteen employees of the Las Vegas Valley Water District trained at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in May, taking the [Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning and Response Actions for All Hazards](#) (IC) course.

The Las Vegas Valley Water District, with its approximately 800-person staff, covers all of southern Nevada. The regional water district serves two million customers daily, as well as the 35 million visitors who travel to the district each year.

One concern for the district is the lack of water, according to the district's emergency manager, John Hines, one of the students taking the IC course. Las Vegas draws its water from Lake Mead, which is part of the Colorado River. Most of the water that flows into the lake is the result of melting snow. With less and less snow over the past several years, the lake's water level has dropped 100 feet over the past 10 years, Hines said. The district is installing a multi-million dollar intake pipe that will draw from the bottom of the lake, a project that won't be finished for a couple more years.

"We're kicking into high

gear on our conservation efforts now," Hines said. "So, we're hoping for some better weather. That project will come on line in a few more years."

Yet another concern that falls directly into Hines area of expertise is the potential for a terrorist attack or other incident or accident that

could affect the water district and the region's water supply.

"Our agency is critical because water and the water sector are identified as critical infrastructure. Just by being that, we're a target," Hines explained. "Everybody needs water to drink, to fight fires. Because of that, we need to be on our game."

In July 2013, the Carpenter 1 fire burned 27,800 acres on Mount Charleston, just 35 miles northwest



Fifteen employees from the Las Vegas Valley Water District took the CDP's Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning and Response Actions for All Hazards course. The diverse group of staff members range from lab technicians to Hines, the emergency manager, but they could all potentially be called to work in the water authority's emergency operations center.

of the Las Vegas strip. Wildfires are still considered a major risk in the Las Vegas area, according to June 24, article in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

The emergency management position is a relatively new one for the district and Hines is the first to fill it. He took the position after retiring from the Las Vegas Police Department where his last assignment had been as a sergeant in the All-Hazards Unit. While assigned to the All-Hazards Unit, Hines had taken a couple of the hazardous materials technician courses at the CDP. In his new role, his new supervisor asked him to get the staff trained on emergency management. The district has an emergency operations center on site, but most of the water authority staff does not have an emergency management background. Hines and the CDP are trying to fix that this week.

“One of my directions from bosses were to get the staff trained up on emergency management to help get them integrated into emergency operations centers, so that they will be able to work with first responders in our community when we’re called to the county EOC,” Hines explained. “The first thing that came to my mind was this facility.”

Hines emailed the CDP’s Western Region Training Coordinator, David Hall. “He called me back immediately. He said we have a course coming up. How many people are you looking to send?” Hines started with 10 seats in the IC course, but he had so many colleagues who were interested, that he asked Hall if he could have 15 seats.

Training along with Hines that week were a

diverse group from the district, ranging from lab technicians to security personnel.

“What we tried to do was get a cross-section of the company. Depending on the emergency, we’re going to have different people working in the EOC,” Hines said. “If the water is contaminated, we’re going to have lab and security people in there.”

In the end, Hines was able to bring some “fairly key” staff members to training with him. He hopes they will be able to go back and share their newly learned knowledge and instill an interest in CDP training in other employees. He also pointed out the added value for the staff back in Las Vegas that week that have the opportunity to fill a different role while their colleagues are here training.

To prepare for their CDP training, Hines made sure that everyone who was coming to the IC course went online and did their prerequisite work so they’d be familiar with the IC terminology. In addition, he was able to give everyone an informal CDP orientation.

“This was my third trip here, so I was able to give everyone a rundown of what would happen when we got here,” Hines said. “The first thing I said is everything is right there. The training facility is centralized. The food is fantastic and you never leave hungry.”

“And, the instructors have come from all over. They have worked real disasters. They were at 9-11; they were at Katrina; they were at Hurricane Sandy; and a lot of these guys have deployed to combat. These guys are the real heroes of the nation. So, we are being taught by the best.”

“The instructors have come from all over. They have worked real disasters.... So, we know we are being taught by the best.”

**John Hines,
Las Vegas Valley Water
Authority Emergency
Manager**

How would you like your news served?

The CDP’s *Alumnus* is a quarterly newsletter sent to all former CDP students. The intent is to keep CDP alumni informed on new CDP courses and programs that may be of interest to emergency responders.

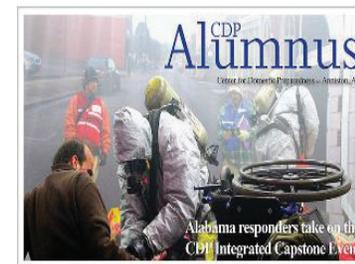
The *Alumnus* staff would like your feedback on your news preferences.

Would you rather receive a quarterly newsletter? Or, would you prefer to receive an email with headlines that are hyperlinked directly to news stories?

And, while you’re writing, please let us know what kind of news you’d

like to receive from the CDP.

Please send your response to:



Alumnus Feedback

alumnus@cdpemail.dhs.gov

35 Indian Health Service staffers train at CDP

Owen Le Beau stood in the hospital parking lot watching as members of his Hospital Emergency Response team tried to cut away the clothing from a man who was injured in a terrorist bombing and may have been exposed to sarin gas, a powerful nerve agent. It's not an easy task: personal protective suit hood limited their vision and the rubber gloves made something as simple as using a pair of scissors difficult.

Le Beau, the Chinle (Ariz.) Service Unit Emergency Manager, was one of 35 Indian Health Service (IHS) employees who traveled from their homes in New Mexico and Arizona to train on hospital emergency response skills at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), marking the first time IHS employees have trained as a group at the CDP.

The IHS staffers took the Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents course. The three-day course is open to members of the healthcare community. During the course, the students learned about the relationships between the Hospital Incident Command System and the Incident Command System. Most importantly, they received guidance on the development and design of a Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT). The HERT team is responsible for decontaminating patients before the patients enter the hospital.



Students in the Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents course decontaminate a "survivor" outside the hospital.

The students learned to select and wear the proper level of personal protective equipment and how to decontaminate survivors and staff during a mass casualty incident response.

The Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The 35 staff members who attended CDP training the week of April 6 work in various Navajo Area Indian Health Service (NAIHS) facilities on and near the Navajo Nation in the Southwestern United States. NAIHS is responsible for delivering health services primarily to the Navajo Nation and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe.

The staff members ranged from doctors and

nurses to an emergency manager and a housekeeping aide supervisor, but they all shared the common goal of wanting to be better prepared to serve their communities.

"I wanted this training because, according to our hazard vulnerability assessment, our number one threat is mass casualties in the Chinle Service Unit area," LeBeau said.

He further explained that some of the hazards could come

from ordinary, everyday occurrences, for example the derailling of a hazardous materials railcar on the east-west rail line that runs through Gallup, NM, or if one of the many tractor trailer trucks that cut through the Navajo Nation wrecked and spilled fuel or hazardous cargo.

"I considered us to be capable in our decontamination skills, but now I'm seeing a lot of areas in which we can make changes," he stated.

The Navajo Nation is the largest land-based Indian tribe in the United States. They have the largest reservation, which encompasses more than 25,000 square miles in northeast Arizona, northwest New Mexico, and southern Utah with three satellite locations in central New Mexico.

NAIHS provides comprehensive healthcare



Owen LeBeau, the Chinle Service Unit Emergency Manager, coordinated the CDP training for the 35 IHS staffers who trained at the CDP.

through inpatient, outpatient, contract and community health programs that are centered around four hospitals, eight health centers and other community based, smaller health clinics. Additionally, Tribal health organizations and private providers offer health care services. The total user population served by Federal and Tribal Service Units in the Navajo Area is more than 246,000.

Serving a rural area, many of the patients may travel 100 miles roundtrip to receive care. Some do not have electricity or running water in their homes. And, most of the elderly patients speak only Navajo and live according to traditional

Navajo cultural practices, Le Beau explained. Fortunately, NAIHS personnel from other facilities signed up for the training as well, including Anson Damon III, an occupational health and safety officer at the Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, NM.

“I wanted to get experience with the personal protective equipment and the Incident Command System,” Damon said. “The hands-on presentation gives you an opportunity to expand your skills. Working here with FEMA is a really great experience.”

Damon who has worked in emergency management and safety for about 10 years, first heard about the CDP while working in the private sector. He’s only been onboard at the Gallup center for about four months now, he said.

The CDP training directly related to Le Beau’s and Damon’s roles as emergency managers. But, the training was just as important for housekeeping aide supervisor, Teaira Francis, who explained that decontaminating incoming patients and helping the healthcare staff during a mass casualty incident is part of her job as a housekeeping aid supervisor at the Chinle Service Unit.

Francis said she was familiar with aspects of CDP’s training when she arrived. She had just completed her second hazardous materials training course in the past two years. In addition, she has taken most of the Incident Command System courses.

“I love this training! The staff is very experienced,” said Francis, who was looking forward to her last day of training when she and the other students would don personal



Teaira Francis, the housekeeping aid supervisor at the Chinle Service Unit: “This is as close to reality that we get in training.”

protective equipment, set up a hospital decontamination station, and decontaminate mannequins that replicated the hazardous-material contaminated patients.

“That is the closest to reality that we get in training. The instructors will be evaluating everybody: the nurses, the emergency management staff, and housekeeping,” Francis explained. “I don’t think anyone from Housekeeping – throughout the Navajo Area – has ever taken this training before.”

Le Beau coordinated with the CDP’s Western Region and Tribal Training Coordinator, David Hall. Working together, Hall was able to reserve every seat in the class for the IHS staffers.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to host 35 members of the Indian Health Service for this training,” Hall said. “Their mission to provide medical and public health services to members of federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Natives is critical to ensure their continued preparedness. They are a great group, who learned a lot and have a desire to return for continued training.”

Driving order through chaos: Univ. of NM Health Sciences Center personnel train on disaster response

By Luke Frank
Media Relations Manager
UNM Health Sciences Center

This would be no ordinary day for David Groth. He'd been advised that a disaster – natural, manmade or some assortment of both – was on his schedule. Groth could be confronted with a chemical spill, infectious disease outbreak, plane crash, tornado, terrorist attack, or any mixture of calamities, but he didn't know which or when.

A web administrator for the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (HSC),

Groth enrolled in disaster emergency training through FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). He and more than 150 of his peers from the HSC and UNM Hospitals joined 100 other New Mexico healthcare professionals from state agencies and hospitals in Anniston, Ala., in April to train for mass casualty incidents within the state.

"The number and professional diversity of our Health Sciences Center people who attended this year's training speak volumes to everyone's sense of duty and responsibility in caring for our community in the event of a disaster,"

offers Robert Perry, UNM Hospital's emergency preparedness manager who organized the trip. "We can always be better prepared."

The CDP's Healthcare Leadership week-long training began with classroom refreshers on FEMA's Incident Command System (ICS), which is designed to enable effective, efficient domestic incident management by integrating facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure.



Students filling the roles of the hospital leaders meet in the Emergency Operations Center to discuss the ongoing crisis during the Integrated Capstone Event.



A triage nurse working in the Noble Hospital waiting room inputs data about "patients" awaiting treatment.

It effectively creates order amid potential chaos by directing personnel and resources in major functional areas of command, operations, planning, logistics, intelligence and investigations, and finance and administration. FEMA provides the training at no cost to UNM. "This exercise reinforced how profoundly interested I am in emergency management," Groth says. "The more I become involved, the more I like it. I also think it's important to my job in developing communication methods that share vital information in a high-pressure, high-intensity environment."

Enrollees in the Health Care Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents course, of which Groth was one, already had ICS training under their belts as a prerequisite to this advanced program. Their day-to-day UNM jobs included everything from office supervisors to trauma physicians. Some were administrators, some managers, some directors and some vice presidents.

After two days of classroom training, attendees were asked to provide preferences



A University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center nurse cares for a “patient” in the Noble Hospital Emergency Department.

for specific roles in several unique systems – a hospital command center; an emergency department; general patient care; public health; and public safety. Some assumed roles with which they are familiar and experienced to hone their skills, like an emergency room doc or a hospital public information officer. Others branched out to gain a greater understanding – and appreciation – of the overall system.

The CDP Anniston Campus is ideal for assembling a fictitious community with the usual amenities, like public transportation, neighborhoods, schools, a business district and industrial center, an event venue, parks, museums and so forth.

The mock community also includes a hospital central to the week’s activities. The

Noble Training Facility, a former U.S. Army hospital, is a 100-bed complex with emergency room capabilities. The faux facility, now used as a training site for health and medical education in disasters, is the only one of its kind in the nation dedicated to preparedness and response. In addition to a simulated emergency department, the site includes classrooms and breakout rooms, exercise simulation areas, a television and radio broadcast studio, observation areas and more.

To complement Noble, there’s the COBRATF (Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological Training Facility), and the ARTC, or Advanced Responder Training Complex. All of these elements make the CDP campus a wholly



A University of New Mexico Hospital staff member taking the Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents attends to a severely injured patient during the Integrated Capstone Event.

unique place for disaster preparedness training.

As the week progressed, classroom instruction yielded to small exercises enabling teams to become familiar with one another and their roles within specific scenarios. Teams were instructed to develop on-the-fly, objectives-based Incident Action Plans – cornerstones to an effective response under the Incident Command System. Essentially the first four

Continued on next page

days ramped-up students for the Integrated Capstone Event finale. No more instruction – it was go time.

Groth was anticipating a full-blown exercise for some sort of mass casualty incident that would integrate the health care leadership team at Noble with emergency medical operations from COBRATF; Hospital Emergency Response Teams; and Disaster Medical Assistance Teams – all players in a single, large-scale event. His role would be hospital emergency department public information officer or PIO.

After a sturdy breakfast, participants assembled for the bus ride to the Noble and ARTC facilities. The exercise began before anyone stepped off the bus and ended hours later with a whirlwind of realistic injects, or curveballs, in a carefully designed and staged community disaster scenario. “What a day – clearly I didn’t know what I was signing up for,” Groth admits. “But I knew I needed and wanted to be there. The PIO position seemed the most appropriate to my current role.

“I found myself continually developing vital communications for numerous groups of people involved – from my internal hospital



University of New Mexico Hospital personnel in the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents course track the influx of patients and other variables in the Noble Hospital Emergency Operations Center during the Integrated Capstone Event.



The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and UNM Hospital staffers pose for a photo op while training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston.

staff to public health and safety leadership to EMS personnel to the public,” he adds. “Those communications had to be quick, accurate, consistent and helpful . . . and appropriately delivered. I needed to develop contacts, relationships, sources, verbiage – so many things I hadn’t considered in this role.”

Groth was consumed by hospital patient counts; saturation levels and supplies; decontamination activities and EMS field reports; news broadcast and health department bulletins – all important information to direct personnel and the public toward treatment.

Through his fevered response, Groth took the opportunity to observe others. “I was completely impressed with how quickly the teamwork kicked in,” he says. “The amount of knowledge in my team that percolated to the

surface was astounding, and the amount of support was equally amazing. This is training for people who have to run toward an incident and rely on one another for their own safety and effectiveness, underscoring the value of relationships I formed here among participants. I came away with a much broader and deeper understanding of the myriad resources and challenges associated with a natural disaster or terrorist attack.”

“We can never prepare or train enough for all the possibilities that exist,” Perry acknowledges. “But it’s training like this that advances our knowledge and builds our capabilities to respond when that event occurs. Ultimately we’re here to help our community and our families. We’re all leaving Anniston with more tools and confidence to do just that.”

CDP staffer receives recognition for her patriotism

To the Center for Domestic Preparedness students with whom Mellione Richards interacts, Richards is the CDP's equivalent of a help button. She's the person students turn to when they lose a piece of luggage. She's the one who arranges transportation to the clinic when a student's sick. And, she's the photographer who takes the ubiquitous class photos. Richards' actual job title is "Resident Training Team Lead," an APPRIO/Beacon contract employee here at the CDP. In addition to the various and diverse missions she carries out to support the students, she also supervises 10 employees, including Registrar Clerk, Amanda Clark.

Clark also has a diverse set of duties. Most days, Clark assembles student in-processing and graduation packets for up to 500 CDP students each week and performs quality assurance checks. But, on an occasional weekend and a few weeks during the summer, Clark trades her slacks and blouses for an Army Combat Uniform and becomes Sgt. Clark, ammunition specialist in the Alabama National Guard. That was the role she performed from November 2013 to October 2014 while deployed in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It's because of that role that Richards can now add "Patriot" to her job description.

On May 18, Dr. Dennis King, a member of the Alabama Employer

Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), along with Clark, presented Richards with the Patriot Award. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made by the civilian supervisor to support the Citizen Warrior through a wide range of measures. National Guard or Reserve Soldiers or Airmen nominate their supervisors for the award to show their appreciation for their supervisors' support.

"Mellione is someone who can relate to a service member," Clark said, speaking of the fact that Richards herself is an Army veteran who retired after 22 years' of active service.

"She understands the difficulties many of us face when duty calls and you are forced to drop everything. I am grateful to have her as my mentor and supervisor."

The CDP employs more than 900 federal and contract employees. The 74 APPRIO/Beacon contract employees provide student support services to CDP students. In FY 2014, the CDP trained 13,766 state, local and tribal responders, as well as 3,913 external partners on the Anniston, Ala., campus. This fiscal year, the CDP projects it will train approximately 14,000 state, local and tribal responders and more than 5,600 external partners on campus.

"Amanda is an asset to Student Services, Team APPRIO/Beacon and the CDP. She's an excellent employee and soldier," Richards said. "I am truly honored to receive this award. We are all proud to work alongside these patriotic men and women who risk their lives in defense of this great nation."

Thomas Buzan, the APPRIO/Beacon project manager, was also on hand when Richards received the award.

"I am extremely proud of Mellione and the job she does for us every day," he said. "She embodies the characteristics of service to others with regard to our students and staff that make training and working at the CDP a positive experience. It is fitting that Mellione receives this award as a 'Patriot Boss!'"



CDP employee Amanda Clark (left) and Dr. Dennis King of Alabama Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve present the Patriot Award to Clark's supervisor, Mellione Richards (right).

CDP now offers training on detecting vehicle-borne IEDs

The Center for Domestic Preparedness has added a new course to its catalogue of law enforcement courses.

The Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection (VBIEDD) course is a one-day, eight-hour course the CDP teaches both as a resident course on the Anniston, Ala., campus and as a non-resident course at host locations. It was developed by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Bombing Prevention in partnership with FEMA and the CDP.

"There is a need for a comprehensive, standardized vehicle inspection procedure capable of detecting IEDs and other threats," explained CDP's Assistant Director of Curriculum Development and Evaluation, Bernice Zaidel. "While other training exists for IEDs, this is the only course to provide education and training in the DHS-approved procedures for conducting comprehensive vehicle inspections."

The course provides responders and security professionals with a national guideline and practical application in a process consistently employed by

jurisdictions to prevent and manage potential and known vehicle-borne IED incidents.

"Homeland Security Presidential Directive 4 other and [Department of Homeland Security] policies highlight the overwhelming need to counter the improvised explosive device threat," Zaidel said. "The DHS Vehicle Inspection Guide, DHS Vehicle Inspection Video and this course provide the only DHS standards for conducting and training vehicle inspection procedures."

In addition to the need for law enforcement officers to be trained on the VBIED awareness,

Zaidel pointed out that many agencies follow the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards and other standards. In addition, many businesses and organizations require vehicle inspection and reporting to ensure critical infrastructure security. All of those agencies and organizations need personnel who are properly trained on vehicle-borne IED detection.

The VBIEDD course provides all of that. The course provides response personnel with knowledge and skill in the IED threat, identification of components and devices, methods for reacting to IEDs, and the procedures for inspecting vehicles to detect vehicle-borne IEDs. The course includes an overview of the vehicle-borne IED threat, fundamentals of IED and explosive effects, means for creation of homemade explosive

devices, vehicle-borne IED clues, vehicle inspection procedures and a comprehensive exercise for inspecting vehicles and identifying vehicle-borne IED threats, Zaidel explained.

One of the best features of the course is that, like most CDP training, there's more to the course than sitting in a classroom listening to lectures.

The course instruction includes a hands-on practical exercise where the students apply the knowledge and skills they have learned during the first half-day of training. During the hands-on phase, the students are



Training in Progress

Students in the Vehicle-Borne IED Detection course inspect a car for explosives during a practical exercise.



Students in the Vehicle-Borne IED Detection course use mirrors to exam the undercarriage of a car during a practical exercise. The course is an eight-hour, one-day course that is offered as part of several of the CDP's law enforcement training programs.

asked to perform inspections on a variety of vehicles against a performance standards checklist, Zaidel explained. The hands-on activities help the students to retain the knowledge and skills and – hopefully – will transfer this to their jobs, organizations and communities.

Based on the students' responses in their end-of-course evaluations, the students have indicated that after taking the course they have a high confidence level in their abilities to perform the inspection standards and have a greater sense of preparedness, Zaidel said.

CDP, partners conduct decon simulation

The Center for Domestic Preparedness' hometown fire department, the Anniston (Ala.) Fire Department, teamed up with the Center to host a simulated mass decontamination of people using the department's Ladder Pipe Decontamination System, May 21 and 22.

This event, which was held on the CDP campus, supported a decontamination study being conducted by the University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom and Public Health England for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The study is designed to test a new protocol

aimed at decontaminating a large number of people following a hazardous material incident or weapons of mass destruction attack, removing the majority of contamination in the quickest manner possible, according to CDP Training Specialist Grant Bissey. Anniston firefighters clad in yellow personal protective equipment escorted CDP role players through the high water pressure spray which was used to properly decontaminate the simulated survivors.

In a real situation where people had been exposed to hazardous materials, the responders would cut away the survivors' clothes before taking them through the decontamination line to clear away as much of the contamination as

possible. To simulate this feature, the clothed role players wore t-shirts indicating that the responders should treat them as unclothed. To add another touch of realism to the event, some of the role players feigned injuries or disabilities, adding another layer of complexity to the firefighters' mission.

The event illustrated the importance and benefits of collaborations between international, federal and local partners, Bissey said.



CDP role player, Hunter Amberson, portrays a survivor of a hazardous materials accident. He is escorted through the Ladder Pipe Decontamination System by an emergency responder while Anniston Firefighter, Sgt. Josh Cornett, observes the operation. Amberson is wearing black-out goggles so that he can simulate a blind survivor who must be walked through the decontamination process. In a real-world decontamination event, the survivors' contaminated clothes would be cut away. Amberson's shirt proclaims that he's naked to simulate that state of undress.

CDP recognized as county's small business advocate of the year

The Center for Domestic Preparedness was named the Small Business Advocate of the Year by the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

"The Larry K. Sylvester Small Business Advocate Award recognizes an individual or group that provides assistance and support to small businesses," said Linda Hearn, the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce manager. "Through their dedication to the growth of small business in Calhoun County, the CDP has demonstrated their awareness of how important small business is through their support of our local restaurants and small businesses."

The CDP's 176-acre campus is located in Anniston, Ala., within Calhoun County. The center provides unique, hands-on training to more than 45,000 emergency responders a year from local, state, territorial, and tribal agencies. It's training that most responders cannot get at their home agencies. The center is the only training facility in the country where civilian responders train in a toxic-agent environment. The center is also home to the Noble Training Facility, the only hospital

training facility dedicated solely to preparing healthcare, public health and environmental health professionals for mass-casualty events related to terrorism or natural disasters.

CDP Superintendent, Mike King, accepted the award on behalf of the center at the Chamber's Small Business Awards Gala, May 7.

"The entire Center for Domestic Preparedness family is delighted to be recognized by the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce with this award," King said. "We truly appreciate all of the support we receive from everyone in Calhoun County. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of such a great community and we look forward to contributing to the continued success of the county."

One of the services available to the CDP's resident students is a free evening bus service that shuttles students to various local restaurants and shops. For the students, it's an opportunity to break away from the dorms and experience the local ambience.

"We really enjoy it when [CDP] students come by Heroes," said

Marc Spaulding, the owner of Heroes American Grille, a frequent haunt of CDP students. Spaulding said the students enjoy Alabama cuisine, house specialties like chicken wings, fried pickles and "bottle caps," deep-fried jalapeno slices. The responders often bring patches from their department that the Heroes' staff displays on the walls. "Heroes was named after America's true heroes: the police officers, the firefighters and the military. They are the real heroes and we're happy to serve them," Spaulding said.

CDP student, Harry Gahagan, Jr., a driver/operator for the Orange County Fire Authority in Laguna Beach, Calif., used the shuttle service to ride to and from Cooter Brown's Rib Shack.

"The shuttle service is fast and effective. It provides us with an opportunity to interact with one another outside the CDP," Gahagan said. "We get to explore the city. It allows us an opportunity to unwind and it's a safe and free way to do so."

Cooter Brown's owner, Tim Johnson, said he and his staff look forward to serving the CDP students.

"I think it's pretty awesome how the students come in and we love the patches they leave at the restaurant," Johnson said. The patches have



The Small Business Advocate award presented by the Calhoun County (Alabama) Chamber of Commerce to the Center for Domestic Preparedness.



CDP bus driver Melonie Arthur shuttles students to shops and restaurants in the local area.



Heather Tiftickjian, an Emergency Preparedness Administrative Assistant at Providence Saint Patrick Hospital in Missoula, Mont., taking the Framework for Healthcare Emergency Management course, boards the shuttle bus bound for Cooter Brown's Rib Shack.

become a permanent part of the restaurant's décor.

Johnson said he was astounded when his friend, a Drug Enforcement Agency agent, told him how his fellow responders while on a training exercise in Thailand talked to him about training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness and eating at Cooter Brown's. "I couldn't believe people were talking about the CDP and Cooter Brown's in Thailand!" he said.

With just over 900 contract and Federal employees, the CDP is the fourth largest employer in the county. In Fiscal Year 2014, the CDP trained more 13,766 state, local and tribal responders, as well as 3,913 external partners on the CDP's Anniston campus. The CDP's external partners are agencies that host their own training on the CDP campus for which the center provides classrooms, dorms and meals. The CDP's external partners include

other FEMA components such as the Incident Workforce Management Division, Health and Human Services' National Disaster Medical System (whose Disaster Preparedness Medical Teams train at the center), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that trained more than 850 U.S. Public Health personnel and others who then deployed to West Africa to fight the Ebola epidemic.

This fiscal year, the center is projected to train more than 14,000 state, local and tribal responders and more than 5,600 external partners.

As the CDP's mission continues to grow, its contribution to the community's economy continues to grow along with it. Each year, the CDP spends an average of \$50 million on contracted services ranging from student instructors to facility maintenance and repair on the CDP's more than 930,000 square feet of

infrastructure.

The Larry K. Sylvester Small Business Advocate Award was named for a gentleman who served at the Chamber of Commerce between 1990 and 2002, first as the Chamber manager and later as the Executive Vice President. The award was started by the Chamber to recognize those who support, promote, and help small businesses as Sylvester did, Hearn explained.

"Each year, the Chamber recognizes small business advocates who support the overall mission of the Chamber: Promoting and sustaining the economic growth of the Calhoun County region, resulting in a community that is a dynamic place to work, visit and live," Hearn said.

In addition to the CDP's official involvement with the community, the CDP's Employee Association, a non-profit organization run by the Federal employees, raises money by selling CDP souvenirs and hosting such events as an annual golf scramble. The association uses the profits to benefit charitable organizations in Calhoun County. In the past three years, the association has donated more than \$57,500 to Calhoun County charities.

"The CDP is a national asset. We train responders from all over the country. Some of our students have used the skills they learned here to respond to some of the most serious incidents and accidents that have befallen our country in recent years, from 9-11 to the Boston Marathon bombing," King said.

"In 17 years, we have trained more than 880,000 students through our resident, non-resident and indirect training programs. The outstanding CDP staff and the incredible support we get from the local community make it possible for the CDP to continue to be so successful."

CDP news, courses now featured on YouTube

Responders interested in training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness can now view video descriptions of courses, as well as news stories and podcasts on CDP training and events on YouTube.

The CDP's primary mission is to train state, local and tribal emergency response providers, as well as the Federal government, foreign governments, and private entities, as available. A popular aspect of the courses is the hands-on training with a multi-disciplined audience. In addition, the CDP is the only civilian facility that trains with toxic chemical and live biological agents. The center also has the only hospital facility in the United States dedicated solely to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

The CDP's YouTube account features several one-minute videos on CDP courses that will give prospective students a better understanding of the various courses, as well as video news stories that show the value and impact of CDP training.

"The CDP has trained more than 880,000 students in our resident, non-resident and train-the-trainer courses,"

said CDP Superintendent Mike King.

"All of our courses are relevant, realistic and advanced. We strive to provide training that most departments cannot offer through their local and state training programs," King said.

A significant benefit of attending one of our resident training programs is the opportunity to network and exchange ideas with other responders from across the country and, sometimes, with responders from other countries.

CDP's YouTube account will give students a means to see CDP training in action, to see what they – America's emergency responders – will be doing when they attend training."

The center offers more than 40 courses covering 10 different disciplines of emergency response. All CDP courses are fully funded for state, local and tribal responders, including travel, lodging and meals. CDP training is also open to emergency responders working in private industry in the U.S. and other countries on a fee-for-service basis. Contact the CDP by calling 866-213-9553 or clicking <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. You can also connect with the CDP on Facebook, Twitter and at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>.



Indirect Authorized Trainers recognized for high performance

The CDP Indirect Authorized Training Program (IATP) is designed to efficiently offer courses in responders' home jurisdictions. Through qualified Train-the-Trainer (TtT) programs, CDP graduates deliver TtT course to their home organizations, and neighboring response units.

Recently, the CDP recognized 26 Authorized Trainers for their efforts and success to provide critical instruction to emergency responders in their home jurisdictions.

The CDP recognizes three levels of indirect trainers for each fiscal year: Gold for teaching 20 classes or 300 students in a year; Silver for 15 classes or 200 students; and Bronze for 10 classes or 100 students.

Gold

Ron Raab
Joseph Huber
Stephen Scymyck

Anthony Egan
William Melaragno
Dennis Terpin

Silver

James Adams
Paul Carr

Francis Califano
Joseph Martino

Bronze

Romano Amleto
Nicholas Ciminelli
Darcy Gollither
David Hogg
Peter Morici
James Roth
Kenneth Smith
Mark Van Dyke

Wayne Bullard, Jr.
Keith Fehr
Leonard Graczyk
William Mayfield
Robert Picciano, III
Glenn Schaefering
Robert Stewart
Harry Ward

Worth Repeating



Deputy Sheriff Brian McKenzie
Dane County Sheriff's Department
Madison, Wisconsin

"The [CDP] instructors really know their stuff. They have a lot of good information to pass along and I am happy to receive it."

Emergency Responder Hazardous
Materials Technician for CBRNE
Incidents

Julia Dalphin
Director of Accreditation &
Regulatory Affairs/Patient Relations
Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine

"The whole point of the HERT
team is that it's a standardized
process. You should be able to
swap out roles and take care of
patients."

Hospital Emergency Response
Training for Mass Casualty



Sgt. Felix Luyando
Division Director, Humacao
District
Puerto Rico Police Department
and Public Safety Office

"If there's a HAZMAT
incident in my area, I want to
be prepared to respond."

Emergency Responder
Hazardous Materials Technician
for CBRNE Incidents

Faith Olivera
Director of Nursing
Hale Ho'ola Hamakua Hospital, Big
Island of Hawaii

"The CDP is just amazing.... They
have so much to offer. And, all you
have to do is come here and want to
learn."

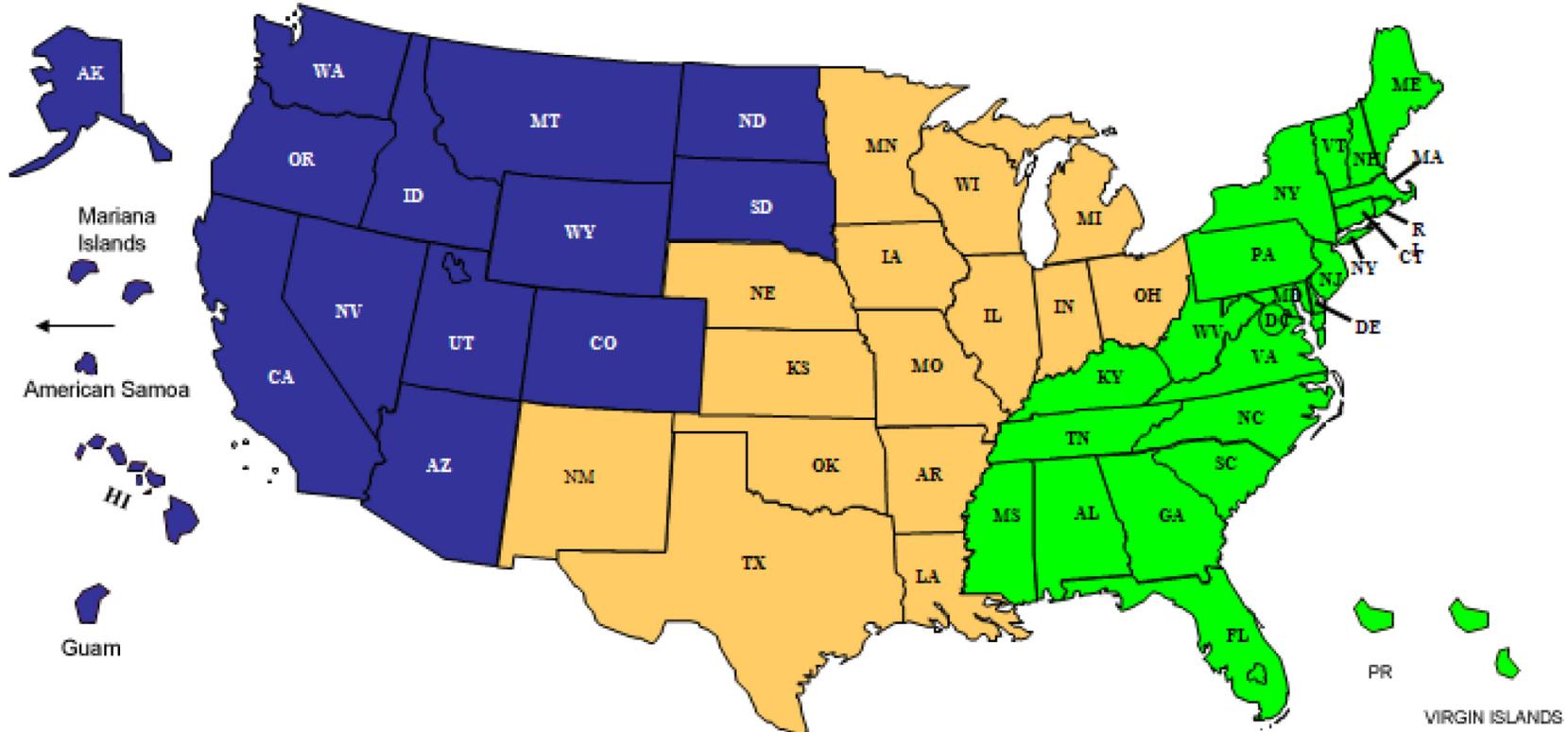
Healthcare Leadership for Mass
Casualty Incidents



CDP Region Map

Western Region
David Hall
1-866-213-9548
halld@cdpemail.dhs.gov
FEMA Regions 8,9,10

Eastern Region
Tom Tidwell
1-866-213-9546
tidwellt@cdpemail.dhs.gov
FEMA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4



Central Region
Dan Cody
1-866-213-9547
codyd@cdpemail.dhs.gov
FEMA Regions 5, 6, 7

**Federal, Private
Sector and International**
Dan Cody
1-866-213-9547
codyd@cdpemail.dhs.gov

The CDP wants to hear from you. How can we make this newsletter better? Please email suggestions to: Alumnus@cdpemail.dhs.gov