

# CDP Alumnus

Center for Domestic Preparedness – Anniston, Ala.

**FLETC & CDP  
take aim at joint  
training**



**FEMA**

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## 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

895,539 as of Sept. 26, 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 Law Enforcement Response Actions for CBRNE Incidents (LERA) respond to an incident during the Integrated Capstone Event.

# CDP's Student Portal provides a single, easy location for student training documents

So, you've signed up for CDP training. Now what? There is good news for state, local, tribal or territorial responders: your CDP training is fully funded. The better news is all of the information you need is now located at one convenient link, The CDP Student Portal.

The Student Portal (<https://cdp.dhs.gov/students>) is the epicenter for all CDP training, according to CDP Registrar, Mike Aguilar, the Portal provides students a single access point for all CDP training, travel and registration documents.

"The CDP continues to receive tremendously positive reviews about the Portal from students and alumni; and for good reason," Aguilar said. "The Portal provides our students with easy access to CDP training

registration and documentation. The Portal eliminates the need to maintain multiple usernames and passwords to access different training applications."

Once logged on, students may apply for training, retrieve important documents and download course material. Former students may use the Portal to view their training history and download or print training certificates from previous training. For a limited time following their training students may download a high-resolution copy of their class photo free of charge.

"The Student Portal is just another example of the CDP's commitment to serving our Nation's emergency responders," Aguilar said.

## 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](mailto:alumnus@cdpemail.dhs.gov)



# CDP teams up with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to take training to the next level

Terrorists attacked morning commuters at a subway stop, first spraying them with an unknown chemical and then shooting them as they fled, causing mass panic in the crowded station. Moments later, the police received a report that a suicide bomber had detonated, causing more injuries.

The hospital was quickly overwhelmed with chemically contaminated patients suffering from gunshot and shrapnel wounds. An already horrendous situation got worse. Gun shots rang out inside the hospital. Active shooters were on the hospital's second floor, indiscriminately shooting staff and patients. The staff rushed to evacuate the hospital as police officers rushed in, searching for the active shooters.

It's a nightmare situation that could happen in any community. The question is, is your community prepared to respond? The Center for Domestic Preparedness partnered with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to train state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) responders and receivers on skills that will specifically help them in such a situation and many others they may encounter during a natural or manmade disaster.

During the week of July 27, the CDP taught the [Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents \(HCL\)](#), [Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents \(HERT\)](#)



Students in the Active Shooter Threat Training and Basic Tactical Medical Training programs respond to an incident in the Noble Training Facility during the Integrated Capstone Event.

and [Law Enforcement Response Actions \(LERA\)](#) courses. During the same timeframe, one of the [National Disaster Medical System's \(NDMS\) Disaster Medical Assistance Teams \(DMAT\)](#) conducted their own training at the CDP. And, for the first time, the [Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers \(FLETC\)](#) trained some of their state and local courses at the CDP. The FLETC brought their instructors from Glynco, Ga., and Cheltenham, Md., to teach two of their signature SLTT courses: The [Active Shooter Threat Training Program](#) and the [Basic Tactical Medical Training Program](#).

The Law Enforcement Response Actions,

Active Shooter Threat Training Program, and Basic Tactical Medical Training Program courses are all law enforcement centric with different objectives. Those objectives include protecting public safety to include locating and eliminating an active threat, providing tactical medical care in austere conditions and performing law enforcement duties in a hazardous material contaminated environment, explained Chuck Medley, the CDP's Assistant Director for Training Delivery. The HCL course provides students the knowledge and skills to effectively manage hospital operations during a mass casualty incident, to include

patient surge, staffing, facility utilization and public information. The HERT course prepares students to don and doff Personal Protective Equipment and perform triage, decontamination, surveying and monitoring and tracking and treatment of patients. The HERT operates directly outside the hospital, preventing possible hospital contamination; however, it has the capability to move to other locations to assist in decontamination operations. Meanwhile, NDMS delivers the personnel, resources and equipment to establish and operate an alternate care site, providing



*A role player cries for help during one of several active shooter scenarios that were staged during the Integrated Capstone Event. During this scenario, active shooters had shot patients and staff in the hospital. Law enforcement officers in the Active Shooter Threat Training Program and Tactical Medical Training Program responded.*

medical support and care to survivors as appropriate. Additionally, the NDMS can support hospital decompression missions along with sheltering and care of special needs populations, Medley explained.

The training didn't stop there. After spending

several days in their respective classes throughout the week, the students all came together to test what they had learned, on Friday, during the Integrated Capstone Event (ICE). The ICE is a culminating, hands-on exercise that promotes an interdisciplinary response to a mass casualty incident. The CDP uses realistic training venues, such as a four-car subway setting and a city street scene in its Advanced Responder Training Complex and a former U.S. Army hospital, the Noble Training Facility, the only hospital facility in the United States dedicated solely to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. More than 50 role players added even more realism to the exercise, taking on the parts of the active shooters, incident survivors, elected officials and family members looking for loved ones.

For this ICE, the students were responding to the aforementioned domestic terror attack in the subway and a suicide bomber topped off with an active shooter that forced the evacuation of the hospital.

“The training partnership between CDP and FLETC provided unique opportunities to jointly train at a hospital - the Noble Training Facility,” said Dominick Braccio, FLETC’s Assistant Director of the Regional and International Training Directorate. “Because of their 24-hour operations, hospitals are not normally readily



*Law enforcement officers in FLETC’s Active Shooter Threat Training Program respond to the active shooter threat in the Noble Community Hospital.*

available as immersive training environments. By integrating complex scenarios, such as adding chemical agents and by making the hospital the scene of an active shooter, police officers become prepared to deal with different types of hot zones and learn how to operate successfully when called to action as a tragedy unfolds.”

While Noble provides the unique setting, the ICE provides the culminating event, both in terms of the actions and the responders’ roles, Medley said.

“What we try to do at every ICE is put the pieces together,” Medley explained. “Most disciplines are used to training on their own. At the ICE, we bring those disciplines together, the same way they respond to an incident together. It adds realism to what they are doing and gives them a better perspective of how other disciplines – Fire, EMTs, Law Enforcement, whoever, are all part of that response.”

“Adding in FLETC’s training and NDMS’s medical personnel takes that training to the next level,” Medley explained. “It makes it much more complex, but it also makes it all that much



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

more realistic. That's what we want, responders to be trained for what they will see and have to deal with during a real active shooter incident, earthquake or whatever the disaster is."

Medley said the CDP and FLETC trainers started planning the ICE more than eight months ago. The training staffs put in more than a thousand man hours to plan and coordinate the classes and the ICE. Based on the students' reactions, the hours of preparation paid off.

"This was a great learning experience for all the [response] disciplines involved," said Deputy Sheriff Donald Smith of the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Smith took the Active Shooter Threat Training Program. "I learned

a lot from the hospital side and the HAZMAT side."

Smith has attended CDP training before. While working as a bomb technician, he took several of the CDP's hazardous material technician courses. He is now assigned to the Emergency and Special Response Teams. As such, he trains the new deputies on "movement-to-contact," the department's active shooter program.

"I actually have some great take-aways from the instruction I received in the Active Shooter course to take back to my department as lessons learned," he said. "I also learned some concepts and ideas to better that training in the future."

Jose Rivera and Brian Newland both took the Basic Tactical Medical Training Program, the other FLETC course offered that week.

"This course put me on my 'A' game! It has taken me to a totally new level of law enforcement," said Rivera, a Senior Police Officer III Class with the Boise (Idaho) Police Department.

Rivera retired from the Los Angeles Police Department where he served as a SWAT team member for 25 years. He is currently assigned to the Boise Airport where he works side-by-side with TSA agents. Rivera took two of the CDP's Field Force courses earlier this year.

For this course, Rivera trained as the tactical medic, who went in right behind the police officers clearing the scene at an active shooter incident to treat the survivors and any wounded officers.

"This course should be a permanent part of the curriculum. This is what law enforcement needs," Rivera said. "And you meet new people. Who would have thought Florida and Idaho would work together?" Rivera said referring to his classmate, Newland.

Newland, a firefighter assigned to the Cape Coral (Florida) Fire Department, currently works as a SWAT medic for the Cape Coral Police Department. He also trains the SWAT team and assists in training the police department in first aid.

"This course was outstanding. I couldn't see more of a need for it right now," he said. "You can't turn on the TV without seeing an [active-shooter] incident going on and the first guys standing there are police officers."

Any time you have an active-shooter situation, until the scene is secured, [medical support] is not coming in," Newland explained. "These are our frontline guys and they need help right now. By bringing the other officers in

and training them, it's going to save lives.”

Newland spoke of how the police officers were learning to use basic lifesaving tools like compression bandages and tourniquets.

“So, now police officers are going in with the tools they can use to save somebody’s life. In some cases, a person could die from an injury in 90 seconds. But with some basic treatment, you could save that person’s life.

“What we had today, we know is coming,” Newland said, speaking of the ICE scenario.

“The last thing you want is to come in and not be prepared.”

Rivera added, “Tactical [medical care] is the wave of the future. This is where law enforcement and firefighters are headed. [The CDP] and FLETC are so far ahead of the game compared to other agencies.”

The CDP and FLETC have spent the weeks following the training event reviewing the students’ feedback. The Centers are already preparing the next joint training event, which is scheduled for April.

“This was a tremendous training experience,” Medley said. “A lot of people at both the CDP and FLETC worked really hard to bring this training event together. Our goal is to provide realistic training. If this training saves just one life – of a law enforcement officer, an innocent bystander, anyone – then it was all worth it.”

FLETC is the primary provider of basic and advanced law enforcement training to federal law enforcement agencies, as well as a significant contributor to advanced training for state, local, and international law enforcement officers and agents, FLETC trains more than 70,000 law enforcement officers each year. For more information on FLETC training, go to <https://www.fletc.gov/>.

The CDP operates the Nation’s only toxic chemical agent training facility using nerve

agents and biological materials to train civilian responders, as well as the only hospital dedicated solely to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

CDP training for state, local, tribal and territorial responders is fully funded by the Department of Homeland Security, to include travel, lodging and meals. For more information or to sign up online, go to <http://cdp.dhs.gov>.

Right: Students in the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents course console a firefighter who has lost a comrade during the Integrated Capstone Event.



National Disaster Medical System’s Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) members working out of tents start out treating overflow patients during the Integrated Capstone Event. When the active shooters enter the hospital, the hospital is evacuated and patients are diverted or transferred to the DMAT site, which resembles a MASH-type hospital set-up and is fully self-sufficient.

# Doctoral candidates tour CDP in search of research topics

Six doctoral students, including three international students, in the Jacksonville State University (JSU) Emergency Management program took a field trip to the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), Aug. 21, to explore possible research topics and learn more about employment opportunities in government, education and training.

“This visit provides them access to the Nation’s premier institute for first responder training,” explained Dr. Jeff Ryan, Associate Professor and Head of JSU’s Department of Emergency Management. “Doctoral student research must be conducted on meaningful and relevant topics, where theory informs practice,” Ryan said.

The CDP and JSU have a formal agreement that allows JSU doctoral students to become research fellows at the CDP. The formal partnerships are important because it gives the JSU Emergency Management program a direct connection with an important National asset that trains the same audience the university seeks to educate: first responders, emergency managers and healthcare professionals. In addition, JSU’s Emergency Management doctoral students have a need to demonstrate their ability to plan and conduct rigorous research that contributes to the body of professional knowledge,

noted Ryan.

The students gain access to a real-world training facility and credit for their doctoral program requirements. At the same time, the CDP gains valuable research data that can be used to improve curriculum, training and support CDP facility enhancements that would further improve training, according to CDP’s Assistant Director for Curriculum Development



Ian Jones, Medical Simulation Technician Team Lead, at the CDP’s Noble Training Facility, introduces three of Jacksonville State Doctoral candidates to “Granny” one of the Center’s most sophisticated human patient simulators. The students are (left to right) Peters Omorogie, a resident of Kansas and a native of Nigeria; Thomas Reimann of Denmark; and Manpreet Jaiswal of Canada.

and Evaluation, Bernice Zaidel.

“This is a great opportunity for the CDP and for JSU,” Zaidel said. “The CDP gains valuable research that will benefit our training, so responders across the country will benefit. And, the JSU students have the opportunity to conduct research. In fact, one JSU doctoral student is conducting research for his dissertation here now. Furthermore, the doctoral students gain practical experience for possible future employment with the government, a university or in other education or training fields.”

“The challenging, realistic and dynamic training venues at the CDP are unlike any other in the world,” Ryan said. “Many of our doctoral students are awestruck by all that the CDP has to offer and what important applied research projects they would like to have our help with.”

During their visit, the doctoral candidates, including international students from Denmark, Canada and Nigeria, toured the Center’s unique training venues. The 176-acre campus includes the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Training Facility (COBRATF), the only facility where civilian responders train in a toxic agent environment; the Advanced Responder Training Complex (ARTC) which includes an indoor street scene, a four-car subway and a remodeled industrial park complex with simulated office space; and the Noble Training Facility, a former Army hospital that is the only hospital facility in the United States dedicated to



Above: Jesse “Chip” Giddens, CDP’s Healthcare Training Manager, briefs the students in the Noble Training Facility’s Emergency Operations Center. Right: Thomas Reimann and Manpreet Jaiswal spend some quality time with “Granny” in the Noble Training Facility’s Emergency Department.



training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

Student Thomas A. Reimann of Denmark participated in the CDP tour. Reimann is researching operational communications and how to use data technology to track infectious diseases. He is very interested in the use of mobile phone apps to track infectious diseases and modeling data that will enable responders to redistribute their resources as needed during a response.

“I was very impressed with the Center,” Reimann said. “The [COBRA] training facility is obviously beyond anything I have seen before. I have seen other training facilities where they have tried to simulate and they have

gotten pretty imaginative. I was very impressed [with] that facility where they have to put their [personal protective equipment] on and really test their confidence.

“I was also very impressed with the hospital setting. A specific issue that is difficult for hospitals to handle is patients coming in with infectious diseases. It’s something that you can train and train in a table top exercise, but to have a physical facility to see that you handle the patient correctly and can trace the possible infection is imperative. The biggest threat is the infectious disease patient sitting in the ER for how many hours and people going back and forth before you identify what the disease is. It’s incredibly difficult to nurture that

environment at a table-top exercise, but with the staff and facility, I’m sure they make that a very lively and good learning experience for those [students].”

Manpreet Jaiswal of Canada is another of the doctoral candidates who toured the Center. She is focused on preparedness and response issues in emergency management and is looking forward to receiving more training in the Incident Command System.

“I would love to train here! I was surprised by how realistic the blood was on the ‘Legs’

simulator,” Jaiswal said, referring to one of the CDP’s most popular healthcare training aids. “Legs” is a prosthetic torso with amputated legs the CDP uses in its healthcare exercises. A live role player – usually screaming in pain – lies on a gurney. His lower body is tucked into a recess in the specially made gurney so that the prosthetic lower torso and bloody amputated legs are displayed. The “legs” are capable of spraying blood from the “fresh wounds” and the bleeding can be stopped when tourniquets are applied above the wounds.

“I was surprised by how realistic everything looked, not just the [human patient simulators], but also the backdrops, which I think just lends itself to making sure people are even more prepared for real-life scenarios,” she said. “As a fellow emergency manager in a different type of setting, I usually work with the Public Service. So I’m usually in an Operations Center,” Jaiswal said. “It’s good to know that my other colleagues who are doing emergency management, regardless of what their niche is, are being trained properly and taken care of. So that when they are helping other people, they’re also able to take care of themselves.

“I wish we had something like this back home. I think I can take some lessons learned back with me. Keeping in mind Canada is a different setting when it comes to emergency management. We’re not exactly in the same boat, but there is some good information in the community of practice that I can take back.”

John Fenn, a Continuity Manager at FEMA Region IV in Atlanta, is currently pursuing his Doctor of Science in Emergency Management degree with JSU. Fenn is conducting a pilot study at the CDP’s COBRA Training Facility to determine if training at that facility increases responders’ confidence in the use of their personal protective equipment in a



Jacksonville State University Doctoral candidates tour the Center for Domestic Preparedness: They are (from left to right): Robert Mann of Alabama); Thomas Reimann of Denmark; Manpreet Jaiswal of Canada; Peters Omorogie, a resident of Kansas and a native of Nigeria; Jenny Raspberry of Georgia; and Thomas Brecciaroli of Alabama.

contaminated environment, as well as increasing their abilities to perform their duties in that same environment.

“The staff of the CDP has been great! Their professionalism and dedication to training first responders was extremely impressive,” said Fenn. Fenn added the CDP tour was not available when he started his doctoral program

in 2011, but he wished it had been.

The tour has become an annual event, with this being the third year the doctoral students have visited the CDP.

JSU’s main campus is located in Jacksonville, Ala., a neighboring community and has a satellite campus on the former Fort McClellan in Anniston, the home of the CDP campus.

# More than 110 Calif. National Guard soldiers take CDP courses to train for state support mission

More than 110 California National Guard soldiers conducted their annual training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness this summer, honing their skills to better perform their Title 32 missions.

Under Title 32, National Guard soldiers and airmen can be called to service by their governors to support a state response. As state responders, National Guard troops' training at the CDP is fully funded by the Department of Homeland Security.

The soldiers all spent two weeks training at the CDP, taking the Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents (HT) one week and the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents (ERHM) the other.

HT is a demanding five-day course that challenges the hazardous materials technician with an extensive hands-on training experience. The technician demonstrates learned skills in response actions to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) weapons of mass destruction incident in both the Center's outdoor Northville training complex and the nation's only toxic chemical training facility (chemical and biological materials) dedicated solely to training the nation's emergency responders.

ERHM is also a five-day course. It provides training based on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards for hazardous materials (HAZMAT) training. Participants receive hands-on training in identifying HAZMAT, using advanced



Above: Soldiers from California National Guard's 140th Chemical Company don personal protective equipment.

Below: CDP instructor Doug Varner instructs California National Guard soldiers on how to use the Ludlum 2241-3 radiation detector in the Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents (HT) course.

surveying and monitoring equipment, selecting and using the appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE), and performing decontamination procedures. As an added benefit, graduates of the ERHM class are afforded the opportunity to take the Alabama Pro-Board certification exam for HAZMAT Technician certification.

The soldiers are all from the 140th Chemical Company or the 149th Chemical Company. Aside from being assigned to the same branch, the two companies have very different missions.

The 140th Chemical Company falls under the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, based in Long Beach, Calif. The company's Title 32 mission is to provide mass decontamination capability and conduct civil support operations in order to support civil and military authorities, according to Capt. Christopher Schoenwandt, the 140th Chemical Company Commander.

"I had no idea what to expect. I have only heard good things about it from soldiers that have been to the CDP in the prior years. But after training at the CDP for two weeks it had exceeded my expectations when it came to training," said 2nd Lt. Eric Kang, of Los Angeles, who trained at the CDP in July. "The classes went beyond the basic HAZMAT knowledge and provided in-depth information on the procedures of HAZMAT incidents and awareness. It is the best HAZMAT training you can receive."





Pfc. Oren Shaw, who is also assigned to the 140th, attended CDP training this summer.

“I went into these courses hoping and expecting to gain expert-level knowledge on the matters involving hazardous materials incidents... and I believe we received just that,” Shaw said. “I was surprised at how much hands-on time we actually did.”

The 224th Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Noland Flores, and the battalion’s senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Roddrick Pullen, flew from California to visit their soldiers and tour the CDP while their soldiers were training at the Center in July.

“Obviously, this is first-class training,” Flores said. “It would be hard to replicate this level of specialized training in California.”

The 149th Chemical Company has a slightly different mission. The 149th falls under the 579th Engineer Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade based in Fairfield, Calif. The 149th is part of a California National Guard CERFP Team. CERFP stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) enhanced response force packages. The CERFPs locate and extract victims from

a contaminated environment, perform mass patient/casualty decontamination, and provide treatment as necessary to stabilize patients for evacuation.

CERFP teams are specially trained to respond to a weapons-of-mass-destruction incident, according to the 2009 U.S. Army Posture Statement. The teams must be ready to deploy within six hours of notification. The Army National Guard chemical company – in this case the 149th – has the decontamination element of the CERFP mission. All of the units that serve as part of the teams maintain their original missions but receive additional training and equipment that build on their existing skills to accomplish the CERFP mission. California is one of 17 states that have CERFP teams.

“The CDP provides my unit with the all-hazards training that meets our training requirements and goes above and beyond by exposing my soldiers to live-agent training environments and showing them best practices from experienced professionals,” said 149th Chemical Company Commander, 1st Lt. Robert Allen.

“The no-cost training actually saves the California Guard more money than a home-station annual training event,” Allen said. “The CDP flew, housed, fed and transported my soldiers for their entire stay. The California National Guard paid the soldiers’ wages; every other expense was covered. The CDP truly cares about training our state-level responders.”

CDP training is fully funded for National Guard soldiers and airmen under Title 32. Just like state, local and tribal responders, their travel, lodging and meals are fully funded by the Department of Homeland

Security. For more information on HT, ERHM and other upcoming CDP training, go to <http://cdp.dhs.gov>.

“It was a great experience. I am definitely recommending this course and this school to other municipalities and agencies,” Shaw said. “The CDP has a lot of great information to offer. As America’s first responders, it’s important that we all learn as much as we can these days.”



Top left: Soldiers from the 140th Chemical Company attending training at the CDP take a moment to pose for a photo with their battalion leadership, Lt. Col. Noland Flores and Command Sgt. Maj. Roddrick Pullen.

Above: Soldiers from the 149th Chemical Company learn about detection devices in the Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents (HT) course. The HT course was the second course the 149th Chemical Company soldiers took at the CDP this year. During their first week, they took the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents (ERHM) course.

# CDP collaborates with State Dept., Turkish Ministry of Health

The Center for Domestic Preparedness gained a little more international flare July 23 and 24 when the Center's staff hosted two members of the Turkish Ministry of Health who had sought out the CDP as a partner to share ideas and best practices for a training and simulation center they are establishing in Turkey.

The CDP hosted Dr. Muzaffer Akkoca, Department President Emergency Health Services Directorate General, and Dr. Hassan Odabasioglu, the Director of Disaster Medicine Department, Izmir Provincial Healthcare Directorate, along with representatives from the U.S. State Department.

As part of the Urla Emergency and Disaster Training and Simulation Center, the Turkish Ministry of Health is developing what they refer to as a "simulation hospital," a facility similar to the CDP's Noble Training Facility (NTF) in that it will serve as a training venue that has the functionality of a hospital. The NTF is the only hospital in the United States that is dedicated to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

The "UrlaSim," as it's called, opened last year. It's located 24 miles from Izmir, Turkey. Much like the CDP, the center specializes in training emergency response personnel on teamwork and patient safety using scenario-based simulation training programs. Where the CDP focuses on primarily training

U.S. responders, however, the UrlaSim trains responders from Turkey and countries in the Balkans, the Middle East, Africa and the Caucasus.

"Dr. Odabasioglu first came up with idea of reaching out to the CDP. He's the genius behind all of this," noted Dr. Ted Thurn, one of the State Department organizers, when explaining how the idea of visiting the CDP first came about.



CDP's Director of Mission Readiness Integration (back row, left) accompanies members of the State Department delegation and the Turkish Ministry of Health. First row from left to right: Ellen Wynkopp, Department of State; Dr. Ed Thurn, Department of State; and Allen Cushen, Department of Defense liaison. Second row from left to right: Rick Dickson, CDP's Director of Mission Readiness Initiatives; Jason Krause, Louisiana State University; Dr. Muzaffer Akkoca, Turkish Ministry of Health; Dr. Hasan Odabasioglu, Turkish Ministry of Health; and James Dirgin, American Languages Services Interpreter.

Odabasioglu said he learned about the CDP from a FEMA instructor he knew. "We were looking for a model," Odabasioglu explained. "I discussed this with him and asked if he could please help me find a role model for a simulation hospital. He emailed me a week later. That was about two years ago."

Thurn had been speaking with the CDP's Director of Mission Readiness Integration, Rick Dickson, since November about a possible visit.

"We were looking to leverage CDP's expertise as a regional partner and have them understand and become aware of the Turkish vision and goals for their center; to try to find overlapping objectives and missions; and identify very concrete activities that we could do," Thurn said. "I think we have been very successful in that."

In May, when Thurn last visited Odabasioglu and Akkoca in Turkey, they set everything in motion for their visit to the CDP, along with other sites during their trip to the United States.

"The Turkish Ministry of Health selected the CDP as an organization they believe could provide them strategic guidance and mentoring as they develop their Center, which is a great honor," Dickson said. "Hopefully, we will gain mutual benefit as the relationship matures. My experience has been no one entity has all the answers; we only get better when we collaborate."

The visitors spent a day and a half touring the CDP and speaking with members of the CDP staff.

"This visit absolutely met our expectations," said Akkoca. He said he was very impressed with the NTF's emergency operations center that is used

by healthcare personnel and other emergency responders during training. The 4,500-square foot EOC includes three command areas, a conference room, two private offices and a break room. It serves as the hospital's central command and control during student training exercises.

"We were very impressed by the simulation stations and the simulation hospital in general," said Akkoca, speaking of the NTF's emergency department where the center employs human patient simulators (sophisticated, robotic mannequins) to enhance the training experience. The students use the complex simulators during training. Some of the simulators can be intubated and receive IVs, while others can be used to practice life-saving procedures. Akkoca continued, "We would like to increase our collaboration going forward and establish the same set-up [for our center] going forward."

Akkoca and Odabasioglu both stated that they were impressed at how well all CDP training was planned, with nothing left to chance. Odabasioglu was also very complimentary of the CDP staff. In describing the CDP, he used a Turkish expression that translates to "everything smelled like success," explaining that it was obvious that long and successful experience was engrained in everything that the CDP staff does.

"This visit reaffirmed the need for the emergency response community to build partnerships and institute best practices and lessons learned," Dickson said. "A partnership of this nature will always provide new techniques, tactics and technologies for us to consider implementing in our training or operations."

The CDP currently has standing partnerships with agencies within the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human

Services, as well as the Veterans Health Administration and the United Kingdom's Hazardous Area Response Teams. These partnerships are always beneficial to both parties, Dickson said. "I and everyone involved with the visit were very impressed with the Turkish Ministry of Health's Urla International Emergency, Disaster, Training and Simulation Center [UrlaSim] and their vision for its expansion," said CDP Superintendent, Mike King. "We look forward to sharing ideas and best practices to the benefit of both the Urla Sim Center and the CDP. As with our other domestic and international partnerships, we value the experience and innovation of other training programs and believe these collaborations result in increased effectiveness and efficiency of both training operations. The obvious intent is to identify ways both organizations can increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the emergency responders we train."

Next steps in the partnership could include having the Turkish Ministry of Health send a few staff members to the CDP for a couple of weeks to observe operations or potentially attend CDP courses. "The goal of this exchange would be for their team to become familiar with our operations and begin to identify what aligns with their strategic path," Dickson said. "As with our other partnerships, we know that their experience and innovation will help us to improve CDP training."

The CDP provides unique, hands-on training to more than 53,000 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.

## Tribal training week set for March 20-26

The CDP is hosting a special training week for Tribal responders, March 20-26.

"Tribal responders receive fully funded training at the CDP," explained David Hall, the CDP's Tribal Training coordinator. "That funding covers their travel, meals and lodging while training at the CDP."

"Tribal responders train at the CDP all the time, but during this week, they will have an opportunity to train with other tribal and Native Alaskan responders, which gives them the opportunity to train and network with others who may be facing similar challenges."

During the upcoming Tribal training week, the CDP will offer the following programs:

- Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualties with Integrated Capstone Event (ICE)
- Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents combined with ICE
- Emergency Medical Operations for CBRNE Incidents with ICE
- Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning and Response for All Hazards with table-top exercise
- Law Enforcement Response Actions for CBRNE Incidents; Law Enforcement Protective Measures for CBRNE Incidents; and Hands-on Training for Law Enforcement with a table-top exercise.

For more information on any of these courses, go to <http://cdp.dhs.gov> or contact Hall at [david.hall@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:david.hall@fema.dhs.gov) or (256) 847-2081.

# Worth Repeating



Victor Faconti  
Environmental Health Supervisor  
St. Lucie and Okeechobee Counties

“This is awesome training! I’ve worked in environmental health for 29 years. I wish I had known about this training 25 years ago. I’m going to recommend to my boss that we send all our staff here”

Environmental Health Training in  
Emergency Response Operations

Jessica Ball  
Emergency Dispatch Center Supervisor  
Harris County Sheriff’s Office  
Houston, Texas

“It is interesting meeting first responders from all over the world. Agencies handle scenarios differently and I hope to take some of their approaches back to my department. I continuously strive to better my techniques.”

Technical Emergency Response  
Training for CBRNE Incidents



Kirstin Davies  
Radiation Control Specialist  
Connecticut Dept. of Energy and  
Environmental Protection

“I have learned a lot about the [hazardous materials] side and decon lines, which are something we don’t normally drill on back home,” said Davies. “I now know how to setup the Hot Zone, Medium Zone and the Cold Zone which are beneficial in an actual event.”

Radiological Emergency  
Response Operations

Ramon Sergovia  
City Manager  
City of Palmview, Texas

“I think it’s very important to always be prepared in the event of any type of disaster. This course has really opened my eyes to the possibilities of what could happen and also how to prepare for it, how to plan for it and what to do in the event that it does occur.”

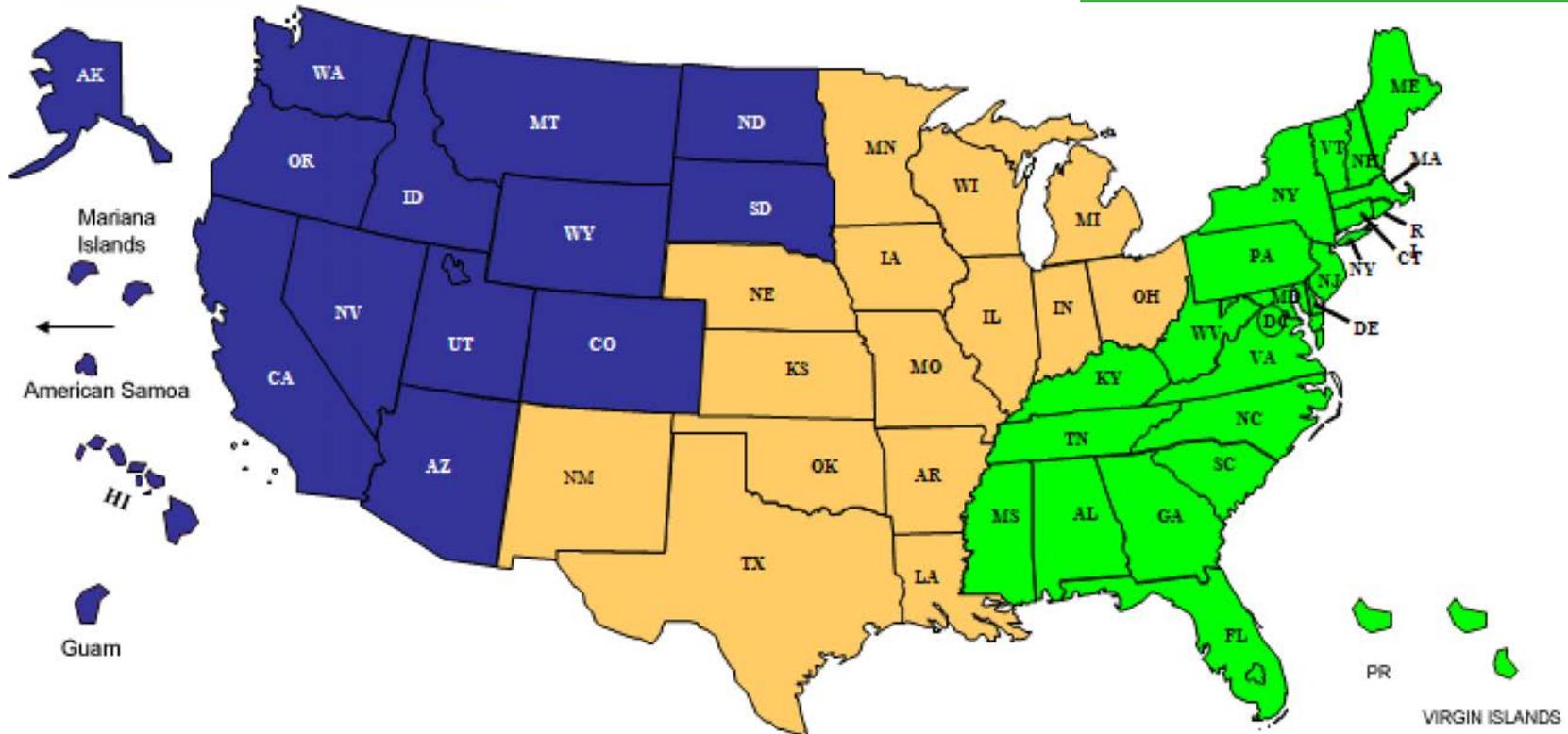
Technical Emergency Response Training for  
CBRNE Incidents



Western Region  
David Hall  
(866) 213-9547  
[david.hall@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:david.hall@cdpemail.dhs.gov)  
FEMA Regions 8, 9 & 10

# CDP Region Map

Eastern Region  
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FEMA Regions 1, 2, 3 & 4



Central Region  
Dan Cody  
(866) 213-9547  
[dan.cody@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:dan.cody@cdpemail.dhs.gov)  
FEMA Regions 5, 6 & 7

Federal, Private-Sector & International  
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FEMA Regions 1, 2, 3 & 4

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