

Elements

- Identify Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with requests for additional support
- Mandated by law
- Receive more than 600 hours of high-tech training by agencies like: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency
- 55 CSTs are located in each state and U.S. territory; two in CA
- 49 certified CSTs, remaining six in certification program as of 6 April 2007
- Alert and on standby 24/7
- Deployable within 90 minutes (advance team); regular team deployable within three hours
- Operates specialized equipment including a specialized communications vehicle (Unified Command Suite), and an analytical laboratory system with a full suite of chemical, biological and radiological analysis equipment

Example CST Operations:

- Hurricane Katrina recovery, 2001 World Trade Center Attacks, Space Shuttle Columbia recovery, Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and various Political Party Conventions

Funding:

- Federally resourced, trained equipped and sustained, yet state controlled

CST



Broad range capabilities at a moment's notice

CST Mission: Assesses hazards, advises civil authorities, and facilitates military support during emergencies and incidents of suspected weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In addition, the CST advises civilian responders on appropriate actions through on-site testing and expert consultation, and assists and facilitates in the arrival of follow-on state and federal military forces.

Overview: The Adjutant General either employs the CST to support the state response under the direction of the governor or to support another state's response under a supported governor.

The CST is comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical, and survey. Each unit encompasses 14 Army Military Occupational Skills and 57 Air Force Specialty Codes.

Units are assigned vehicles including a command vehicle, operations trailer, a communications vehicle called the Unified Command Suite (which provides a broad range of communications capabilities including satellite communications), an Analytical Laboratory System vehicle (containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the determination of the hazard) and other general purpose vehicles. The CST normally deploys using its assigned vehicles, but can be airlifted if required.



“Homeland Defense is mission one for the National Guard. Governors count on the National Guard to be the first military responder and call on Guard assets at their disposal within the first hours of an event.”

~LTG H Steven Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau

Learn More: <http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/HomelandDefense/cst/factsheet.html>

For more information contact NGB Public Affairs (Media Desk) 703-607-2584