

Fast Facts

Command & Control Team

- Directs and deploys the overall activity of the CERFP
- Reports to the JTF-State and the incident commander

Search & Extraction Team

- Conducts casualty search and rescues at incident sites
- Extracts victims
- Lifts and moves debris and heavy items using ropes, chains, wires or cranes (rigging)
- Uses equipment designed to support the sides of an excavation and prevent cave-ins (shoring)

Decontamination Team

- Conducts site selection
- Establishes log-in and log-out procedures
- Conducts clothing removal
- Ambulatory and non-ambulatory decontamination

Medical Team

- Performs medical triage and initial treatment
- Provides emergency medical treatment
- Provides medical transport
- Stages for military and civilian evacuation
- Provides medical support to patient decontamination and search and extraction

Locations

The initial establishment of CERFPs placed at least one in each of the 10 FEMA regions. As of May 2008, there are currently 16 validated CERFPs.



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WIGILANT GUARD

CERFP is the much-needed military acronym for the National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (hence CERFP).

The CERFP is able to provide immediate response capability to a governor by searching an incident site, including damaged buildings, rescuing casualties, decontaminating them, and performing medical triage and initial treatment to stabilize them for transport to a medical facility.

The CERFP teams from Hawaii and California are taking part in Nevada's Vigilant Guard exercise.

A state's CERFP is comprised of four elements including search and extraction, decontamination, medical, and command and control.



The CERFP command and control team directs the overall activities of the team and coordinates with state's military joint task force and the incident commander. The search and extraction, decontamination and medical elements are usually respectively assigned to military

engineer, chemical and medical units. The security duties are performed by the state quick reaction force, often comprised of military security forces.

When an incident occurs within a team's response area, it is alerted through its state headquarters and mobilized. If the incident is located outside of the state, state headquarters coordinates with the receiving state under the terms agreed to in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

The search and extraction element of the CERFP conducts casualty search and extraction at an incident site. The element is trained and certified at the basic operations level with emphasis on rescuer safety, breaching/breaking, debris lifting and moving, rigging techniques, and basic shoring concepts, which is the same type of training that civilian urban search and rescue teams receive. This allows the search and extraction element to work closely with civilian urban search and rescue teams.

The decontamination element of the package conducts patient decontamination under the supervision of medical personnel. The decontamination element also assists the security element with local zone monitoring for force protection.

The medical element of team provides sophisticated, pre-hospital emergency medical treatment during a chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear or explosive response mission. The team works with decontamination and/or casualty extraction teams to provide emergency medical triage, treatment, and stabilization prior to evacuation.