

Fast Facts

- Can identify chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences. Can also advise on response measures and assist with requests for additional support

- Mandated by law
- Receives more than 600 hours of high-tech training by agencies such as the 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 and Washington D.C.

- Are on alert and on standby 24/7

- Are deployable within 90 minutes (advance team); regular team deployable within three hours of notification

- 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 of Nevada's 92nd CST Operations

- 2008 Las Vegas ricin incident; Hurricane Katrina recovery; 2008 Miss America pageant; 2007 NBA All-Star game; NASCAR events at Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Funding

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



What is the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST)?

The Nevada Guard's 92nd CST assesses hazards, advises civil authorities, and facilitates military support during emergencies and incidents involving suspected weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the team 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. They work extensively with Nevada's first responders to ensure a seamless integration during exercises and real world events.

How is the CST called to action?

The Adjutant General employs the CST to support the state response either under the direction of Governor Jim Gibbons or to support another state's response under its supported governor.

What skills and equipment do they bring to the table?

The WMD CST consists of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guardsmen divided into six sections including command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical, and survey teams. Each unit includes airmen and soldiers skilled in 14 Army and 57 Air Force occupational specialties.

Unit equipment includes 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 WMD CST normally deploys using its assigned vehicles, but can be airlifted if required.