

Command Post Exercise “Vibrant Response” 2010

What is it? Vibrant Response 2010 is a U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) directed, U.S. Army North (ARNORTH) executed culminating training event (CTE) for Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) consequence management response force (CCMRF) 11.1. Vibrant Response 2010 focused on the Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) missions in a Consequence Management (CM) role. This command post exercise (CPX) was conducted at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in August 2010. This CPX which involved 800 people challenged the command and control aspects of a joint task force headquarters required to respond quickly to a domestic disaster.

What has the Army done? The Army stood up two CCMRFs to respond to large-scale, domestic disasters. The CCMRF is a Title 10 force comprised of both active component (AC) and reserve component (RC) forces. Each CCMRF is commanded by a major general and consists of three brigade-size task forces – medical, operations, and aviation – in addition to smaller, more specialized elements.

This exercise included Soldiers from the 3/30 MEB from Illinois, and 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade (TAB) from Kentucky (TF AVN C2 HQs) with down trace units from Maryland, New York, and North Carolina. The CCMRF falls under U.S. Army North, which is the Joint Forces Land Component Command (JFLCC), the Army Service Component Command (ASCC), to U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and the lead agency for Vibrant Response. As such, ARNORTH coordinates the federal military support for domestic operations on land. The CCMRF is designed to reinforce state/local responders when they request federal assistance.

Why is this important to the Army?

Potential CBRNE incidents are a serious threat to the security of our nation. Such an attack by terrorists on U.S. soil could produce catastrophic results overwhelming civil authorities and first responders. The CCMRF provides an answer to this challenge.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

CCMRF – One (AC) unit was assigned to USNORTHCOM on Oct. 1, 2010. CCMRF – Two (RC) will be on prepare-to-deploy orders (PTDO) status while assigned to USNORTHCOM through Sept. 30, 2011. The Department of Defense is working with the National Guard Bureau to field an additional, complementary, all-hazards capability through the designated Homeland Response Forces (HRFs). Ohio (FEMA Region 5) and Washington (FEMA region 10) will be the first two states to stand-up HRFs by October 2011.

Resources:

www.arnorth.army.mil

www.bctc.army.mil

Updated as of 9 Dec 10

Army National Guard
(703) 601-7586 7586 or OD (ARO)
www.arng.army.mil