

WMD-CST Information

General

- The Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST) are one of the ways the Department of Defense supports local, state, and federal civil authorities in the event of an incident involving weapons of mass destruction in the United States.
- WMD-CST support civil authorities at a domestic CBRNE incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support.
- Each team consists of 22 highly skilled, full-time members of the Army and Air National Guard who are federally resourced, trained and evaluated, but fall under the command and control of the state governors.

Equipment

- The WMD-CST is equipped with high-end detection, analytical, monitoring, and protective equipment.
- The unit possesses satellite, secure digital and voice communications to provide connectivity with both civil and military forces within the operational conditions.
- WMD-CSTs are equipped with leading edge technology in order to provide a rapid assessment and advice to the incident commander when responding and operating in an area suspected of containing unknown contamination.
- Additionally, high-end detection equipment is available to detect a greater range of substances, including toxic industrial materials, organic substances, chemical and biological warfare agents, and radiological materials.

Operations

- WMD-CSTs have already served in several high-visibility critical operations, demonstrating their unique and vital capabilities to incident commanders. These operations include, but are not limited to New York City on Sept 11th; suspected Anthrax discoveries; Challenger recovery support; nearly all high profile events such as the Olympic and the Super Bowl; National Security Special Events such as the Global Economic Summit (G8, 2004, Savannah GA), Republican National Convention 2004, and Democratic National Convention 2004; and a multitude of state and local missions.