

## 53<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team (WMD)



### Fact Sheet

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) is one of 55 National Guard teams established under a Presidential Directive. Every American state and territory now has a joint force, Army and Air Guard Civil Support Team, with 22 members of highly trained professionals in various fields of expertise. The unit is full-time active duty, stationed at Stout Field in Indianapolis, IN. The 53<sup>rd</sup> CST (WMD) will **NEVER** replace First Responders, but will augment local resources with our unique capabilities as the First Military Responders.

**Mission:** The mission of the CST (WMD) is to respond to known or suspect incidents involving a WMD, and assisting the civil authorities on scene. Whether police, fire, EMS, or public utilities, we are here solely to work for the Incident Commander as a resource, and provide subject matter expertise in the full spectrum of a CBRNE response. Specifically, the CST will help the IC through the following:

***Assess*** a CBRNE scene using our team's 22 subject matter experts in support of the Incident Commander and his staff.

***Identify*** the CBRNE agent(s) utilized using state-of-the-art technology and years of specialized training and experience.

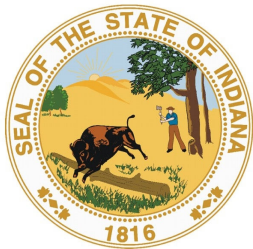
***Advise*** civilian responders regarding recommended life saving actions and potential mitigation.

***Facilitate*** Local, State and Federal assets with greater expediency and knowledge of our National Resource Inventory.

These tasks are accomplished through the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS). We will integrate with the local responding agencies under the control of the IC, and provide a critical span between the initial local response and follow-on federal response. A WMD attack poses very unique obstacles—such as identification of an unknown agent, multiple casualties of unknown cause or spread of deadly contamination. All of which could easily overwhelm local and state resources.

**Requesting the CST:** The 53<sup>rd</sup> CST (WMD) may be contacted at any hour, and any time of the year. Contact should be made by the Incident Commander. This allows us to immediately respond and avoid critical time delay. The Incident Commander will need to answer specific scene oriented questions, which is why we encourage the phone call be directly from the scene instead of the dispatch center.

**CST CONTACT**  
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#### Operations:

- Upon Request, the 53<sup>rd</sup> assembles and responds within 90 minutes.
- Local, State, and other Federal resources (DTRA, CDC, etc) are notified.
- Current weather data and atmospheric conditions are captured.
- Computer model created to show potential movement of the agent.
- Downwind hazards are analyzed and evacuation or sheltering is recommended.
- The 53<sup>rd</sup> CST arrives by ground, sea or air.
- IC linkup occurs and the 53<sup>rd</sup> receives the support objectives from the IC.
- Verification of the exclusion zones and perimeter is conducted on request.
- Commo assets—Secure phone, fax and internet provided to the IC.
- All agencies can use their own radios and cross talk through our ACU 1000.
- Entry teams conduct recon, identification and sampling missions.
- Using state-of-the-art technology (GC/MS, PCR) samples are analyzed.
- Identification of chemical, radiological, biological or explosive is completed.
- Life saving recommendations and destination, and treatment options are made.
- Projected medical surge, epidemiological surveillance and other assets offered.
- Evidence protection, photographic survey and intelligence analysis conducted.
- Technical decontamination initiated and conducted for our team and samples.

### 53<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team Mission Statement

“Support civil authorities at domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and (High) Explosive (CBRNE) incident site(s) by *assessing* current and projected consequences, *identifying* CBRNE agents/substances, *advising* on response measures and *facilitating* appropriate requests for state and federal support.”



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