

THE NDPC NEWS

The Newsletter of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dr. Karl Kim, Chair

How do you measure preparedness?

One of our biggest challenges involves not just developing and delivering training to increase our nation's preparedness against all hazards, but measuring success. Truly, one of the big conundrums we face is to identify gaps in capabilities and ensure that we are working towards increased preparedness and resilience.

Resilience is, to borrow from a recent National Research Council Report, a "national imperative." Resilience is our

capacity to absorb and withstand a shock, to respond and provide relief quickly, to restore and rebuild systems, services, and communities and to learn from harm-causing events so that we are better prepared the next time we face a threat or hazard.

The NDPC develops and delivers training courses to ensure our nation's safety and security in the face of natural, man-made, and technological hazards and threats. We build capabilities across different disciplines and strive to train our nation's first responders, emergency managers, professionals, and others called upon when disaster strikes. Working in partnership with FEMA, state and local governments, territories, tribal entities, and others involved in all phases of disaster response, recovery, and mitigation, we build preparedness through training, exercises, and education. The NDPC is the premier training alliance for all-hazards disaster risk reduction.

In addition to tracking the number of emergency management professionals we have trained by state and discipline, we are also developing indicators of preparedness. This is not a new effort. There are rating systems for hazards such as ISO (International Standards Organization) for fire, NFIP's (National Flood Insurance Program), CRS (Community Rating System) as well as NOAA's Storm Ready or Tsunami Ready designations for communities. The building industry also has its Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) for assessing how well communities enforce building codes with an emphasis on mitigation of losses from disasters.

We are also working on developing better metrics for identifying training needs and requirements, using the Readiness Training Identification and Preparedness Planning (RTIPP) approach, developed and led by LSU's NCBRT. This team-based approach allows agencies to identify training gaps, translate them into goals and priorities, and develop a multi-year training plan. The key to understanding preparedness involves focusing on core capabilities and ensuring that the "right people receive the right training."

Together, with other efforts such as the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the National Preparedness Report (NPR), and also State Preparedness Report (SPR), we as a nation can better understand, measure, and strengthen preparedness. We need to ensure that the NDPC continues to provide high quality training throughout the U.S. and its territories. Preparedness is a shared responsibility. We must work together to build and maintain a culture of preparedness.

Karl Kim, Ph.D.
Chair, NDPC • Executive Director NDPTC

NCBRT INDIRECT COURSE DELIVERY PROGRAM

Detective Prepares Philadelphia Police Department



Train-the-trainer class for indirect course delivery enables academies, agencies or departments to train participants.

Detective Joseph Rovnan, a 26-year veteran with the Philadelphia Police Department, is doing his part to make sure law enforcement officers will be ready when Pope Francis attends the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia Sept. 26-27 and when the Democratic National Convention rolls around next year as well.

He has trained almost 1,000 law enforcement officers in NCBRT's Site Protection through Observational Techniques and Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts courses combined in the last year through NCBRT's indirect course delivery program.

NCBRT's indirect course delivery program allows instructors or trainers in academies, agencies or departments to train participants after successfully completing select train-the-trainer versions of NCBRT courses. After completing the train-the-trainer class, participants are eligible to instruct the indirect delivery version of the course using class materials provided by NCBRT, at no direct cost.

"In taking these courses and now instructing them gives me the ability to prepare that someone who just might be the person who thwarts the next attack," says Rovnan.

The Site Protection through Observational Techniques course provides participants an overview of threat and vulnerability analyses and how these can be used to establish effective defenses. Participants are also provided with an overview of security operations that can be applied for prevention and detection of potential terrorist acts. Participants can incorporate this course into planning for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) component and device interdiction, conducting behavioral assessments, implementing screening operations, conducting non-intrusive inspections, scene control, evacuation, and media relations.

In short, "SPOT gives us the ability to take that patrol mentality out of the officer and post him or her up at a special event/site, and they are taught to look at things with a different eye to point out the possibilities and how terrorists operate, to look at the surroundings, observe the out of the ordinary, and focus their efforts on the out of the norm," says Rovnan.

The Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts course trains law enforcement personnel on actions they can take to prevent, deter and respond to terrorist

NDPC HOLDS THIRD NATIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) hosts the December, 2014 SAA Training Symposium



A total of 140-plus SAAs and other representatives took part in the symposium which was organized by the NDPC. The [NDPC] provides specialized training to the nation's response force. Photo by Shannon Arledge, CDP/FEMA

State Administrative Agencies oversee and manage preparedness training for state and local response agencies. This was the third symposium organized by the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) that provides specialized training to the nation's response force. The NDPC is a partnership of seven nationally recognized organizations that provide preparedness training for first responders for all hazards, including natural, chemical, biological, radiological and explosives including counterterrorism. "This symposium is about demonstrating the training and capacity-building available through the seven-member consortium," said Dr. Karl Kim, Chairman of the NDPC. "Each member has a specific focus or specializes in a certain range of hazards. Each brings a different expertise and we work very closely as a group to ensure we are developing and delivering the right training for the right people."

The NSAA symposium was a three-day event that highlighted collaboration, enhanced training opportunities and training priorities to ensure the nation's level of preparedness continues to improve. NDPC members include FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama; New Mexico Tech's Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center in Socorro, New Mexico; Louisiana State University's National Center for BioMedical Research and Training in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Texas A&M University's National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center in College Station, Texas; Counter Terrorism Operations Support/ the Nevada Test Site in North Las Vegas, Nevada; University of Hawaii's National Disaster

Preparedness Training Center in Honolulu, Hawaii; and the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI), Pueblo, Colorado.

"The symposium is designed to educate everyone about the high-quality training that is available and we hope everyone walks away with knowledge about the training that is available: Where to get it; how to access it; and how the training can be used to improve and increase the safety and security of their communities," said Kim.

State Administrative Agencies coordinate all training through the NDPC and must remain fully aware of the threats, hazards and risks that may impact their states. The NDPC provides advanced training to those who may be involved in response to any catastrophic event or hazard.

"Since its inception [in 1998], the consortium has trained well over two million first responders and emergency managers across all 50 states and U.S. territories," said Kim. "We gather every two years and demonstrate the latest training we've developed and the new courses that are available to help build the preparedness of our nation."

In addition to providing greater insights into NDPC training, the symposium helped training representatives from each state learn about the valuable training opportunities at NDPC partner institutions, including the Emergency Management Institute, Naval Post Graduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium and the Office of Bombing Prevention. ■

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 24 - 25, 2015

PRIMO - Pacific Risk Management Ohana 2015 Conference - Honolulu, Hawaii

April 15 - 16, 2015

Ohio EMA Spring Conference, Columbus, Ohio

April 22 - 24, 2015

NDPC Consortium Quarterly Meeting (Principals +1)
Host: TTCI - Pueblo, Colorado

May 19 - 21, 2015

National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) Training
Emergency Management Institute (EMI) - Emmitsburg, PA

May 28 - 31, 2015

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conf.
Baltimore, MD

June 1 - 4, 2015

Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium
Emergency Management Institute (EMI) - Emmitsburg, PA

June 8 - 11, 2015

National Homeland Security Conference
San Antonio, TX

July 13 - 17, 2015

NDPC Consortium Quarterly Meeting - SAA Council
Host: NDPTC - Hawaii

UNMANNED AIR VEHICLES (UAV)

Imagine the Possibilities - UAV's fly over Anniston, Al



Spectators watch as a UVA flight vehicle (circled) demonstrates it's moves in front of the United States Department of Homeland Security building in Anniston, Alabama.

December 11, 2014, was the perfect opportunity to demonstrate the flexibility and possibilities of UAVs at the SAA Symposium in Anniston, Alabama. Equipped with sensing devices, from cameras to thermal infrared, UAVs are making changes in how the world of Remote Sensing helps us understand the environment around us. Miniaturization, microelectronics, precision manufacturing, digital processing, math modeling, and even printed structure – have all contributed to the rise of affordable, effective, capable, reliable UAV's. It is immediately apparent that UAVs can be of great assistance to our efforts in Disaster Operations, gathering essential data and imagery to inform our decision process – more precisely, at lower risk, and at a faster tempo.

In the US, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is in the process of creating certification and operating rules that will provide a level of safety, security, and standardization of the practice of UAV operations – good news for those of us who have been waiting for this guidance to appear. Nevertheless the change from Manned to Unmanned vehicles will be a complex path for all of us, FAA, Industry, and the using agencies since the entire context of air operations is based on a pilot in the cockpit. Developing awareness through training will be important now and throughout the future, especially as the FAA rulemaking moves forward and more agencies and people get involved.

The term UAV brings up a visual of a small aircraft or helicopter but it is important to see the UAV as part of a larger 'ecosystem', operating in a cycle, in conjunction with some larger enterprise such as Search and Rescue. The 'ecosystem' is called Unmanned Air System (UAS), to including flight planning, sensor selection, operating personnel, communications, ground control system, the flight vehicle (UAV) itself and its operation, and the analysis of collected information. The FAA will deal with rules for the minimum amount of 'system' for the UAS to become operational. . . it is up to the users, operators, and developers to fine-tune and turn art into practice for the Ecosystem to find its place in mainstream operations.

Everyone agrees that UAS will be found to be highly functional and useful in the domain of Disaster Operations, just as helicopters and cellphones found their place in prior decades. For that reason the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) has taken on the task of providing UAS training that will help design the future of UAS in disaster operations. In disaster operations, HD video, HD color imaging, and Thermal Infrared sensors will likely provide 90% of what is recorded. These data are passed thru analytic software on the UAV, in the ground station, or by internet to specialists off the front line for the particular analysis required. Sensors are developing rapidly in capability and miniaturization while the power of analytic software to provide useful assessments increases with every release of an upgrade - while the price keeps coming down. This all bodes well for widespread use of UAS in disaster operations. ■

NDPC TRIBAL LIAISONS MEETING

Discuss Unique Training Needs



Dr. Karl Kim, Chairman of the NDPC, opened the meeting with ten of the representatives of tribal nations and territories from across the nation.

Representatives from ten Tribal Nations and Territories (TNTs) met with the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the National State Administrative Agency (NSAA) in December 2014 to discuss their unique training needs. NDPC Chairman Dr. Karl Kim highlighted the importance of better engagement between NDPC, FEMA, and the TNTs. Each representative talked about the issues of his or her tribal nation or territory and the need to for localized NDPC training. Issues ranged from the geographic remoteness and diversity of some TNTs to the unique challenges and opportunities for training people raised in a culture of strong oral tradition and cultural practices. The meeting achieved its goal of improving communications and understanding among the TNTs, NDPC, and FEMA. The discussions allowed NDPC to gain greater insight into the diverse needs of each TNT in order to better tailor future training programs. NDPC will continue building this collaborative effort and further assist TNTs in capability building. ■



PRiMO

THE RISING PACIFIC:

**CURRENTS OF CHANGE AND SOLUTIONS
FOR RESILIENCE**

March 24 - 26, 2015 • Honolulu, Hawai'i

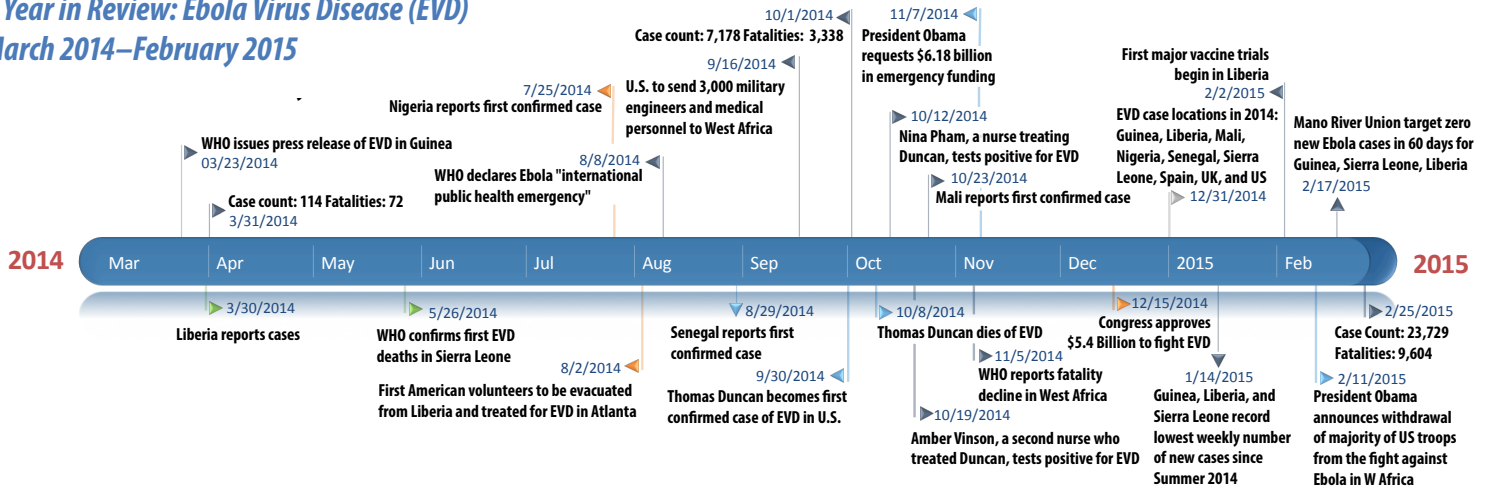
Pacific Risk Management Ohana 2015 Conference

The annual PRiMO Conference is the premiere venue for disaster risk reduction, hazards, and emergency professionals to share ideas, strategize, and help inform solutions that address the varied challenges facing Pacific Island communities working toward resilience goals. Themed, The Rising Pacific: Currents of Change and Solutions for Resilience, PRiMO 2015 will highlight communities and projects that are engaged in finding solutions to disaster management, climate change, and sustainability challenges in the Pacific region. Over 300 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds are expected to attend, including representatives from state and federal agencies, non-profits, conservation groups, and the business, health and industry sectors.

THE EBOLA VIRUS CRISIS

How NDPC Consortium members responded to the need

A Year in Review: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) March 2014–February 2015



The Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa required the nation's first responders to assess their preparedness for an infectious disease outbreak and revealed that preparedness is bigger than any individual training center—it requires team effort. In order to meet preparedness needs, NDPC partners joined together to discuss training strengths available through each partner. As a consortium and in partnership with the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, our training centers were able to promote and deliver courses on Ebola awareness, isolation and quarantine, containment measures, and personal protective equipment. When there is an overwhelming request for a course, consortium members offered a helping hand to meet the demand. A notable

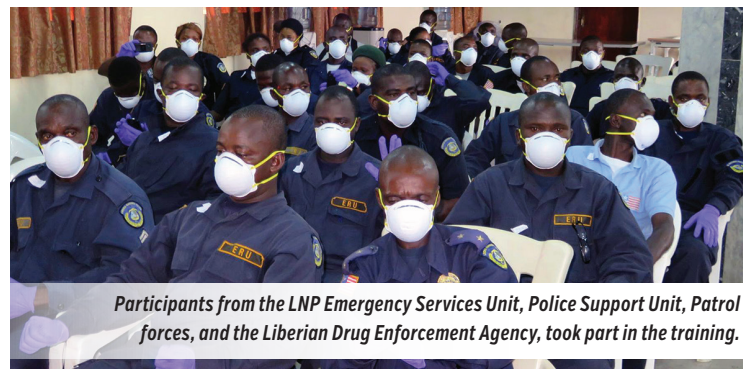
example, PER-320 Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events, was developed and delivered by CDP in October 2014 to first responders in Dallas/Fort Worth. Upon initial release, the course quickly received a high demand of training requests across the U.S. and its territories. By November 2014, CDP received 110 course delivery requests for 4800 students. In order to quickly train the nation's responders, NDPC members joined efforts by committing personnel and resources from each training center to deliver this course via a national and territorial distribution plan. As a result, all NDPC training centers are currently capable of delivering this course nationwide to help ensure preparedness of domestic first responders. ■

NCBRT DELIVERS EBOLA TRAINING TO WEST AFRICA

The National Center for Biomedical Research and Training at Louisiana State University implemented a training program on behalf of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Security and Counter proliferation's Biosecurity Engagement Program. The program was focused on training officer survival skills in relation to the current Ebola public health crisis. The three partner nations initially identified were Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. NCBRT has completed two engagements, one in Liberia and one in Guinea.

NCBRT deployed a five-person team led by Associate Director of Internal Operations and Plans, Jason Krause, to Monrovia, Liberia on September 18, 2014. The training was conducted at the Liberian National Police Headquarters, where 15 one-day classes and multiple operational observations were performed beginning on September 22. Participants from the Liberian National Police (LNP) Emergency Services Unit, Police Support Unit and Patrol forces, as well as the Liberian Drug Enforcement Agency, took part in the training. Approximately 1,275 participants were trained during the delivery, which represents 28% of the LNP total force.

On January 29, 2015, NCBRT deployed a team of three to Conakry, Guinea, and then to Maumo, Guinea, to train Guinean security personal, from local, national and the Gendarmerie, who might be assigned to Ebola task forces or come into contact with potential Ebola situations. The goal of the delivery, held at the U.S. Embassy, was to strengthen officer survival capability. The training provided information and skills practice regarding signs and symptoms of the deadly viral disease, proper protective measures, and situational security operations. Additionally, the NCBRT team performed operational observations of some



Participants from the LNP Emergency Services Unit, Police Support Unit, Patrol forces, and the Liberian Drug Enforcement Agency, took part in the training.

security personnel in the country. During the delivery, a total of 509 security personnel were trained.

"Without question our training provided the knowledge and skills to West African officers that will result in many of them making individual life saving behavioral changes. NCBRT instructors instilled the confidence necessary for the officers to not just maintain the continuity of operations of their respective agencies, but to also act as public messengers to their community. Diffusing behavioral change throughout the populace, continuity of policing operations and community support will help maintain stability across West Africa, which directly effects the national security of the United States," said Jason Krause, NCBRT Associate Director of Internal Operations and Plans. ■

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

Responders Train to Safeguard Against Ebola



Personal protective equipment and decontamination considerations, protect first responders and receivers from biological agents.

On Sept. 30, the Centers for Disease Control confirmed the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States. Thomas Duncan, a Liberian citizen who had traveled from Liberia to Dallas, died in Dallas, Oct. 8. What added to the tragedy was the news that two nurses who had attended to Duncan at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital also contracted Ebola.

The news that the two nurses had contracted Ebola even though they had worn personal protective equipment (PPE), brought to light a very real need: Emergency responders and receivers needed better training in protecting themselves against biological threats, such as Ebola. With that objective in mind, curriculum writers at the Center for Domestic Preparedness rolled up their sleeves to write a course that would address that need.

In less than three weeks, the seven-person team developed and wrote the Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events (PPMB) course, an eight-hour course that could be delivered by a mobile training team anywhere in the country.

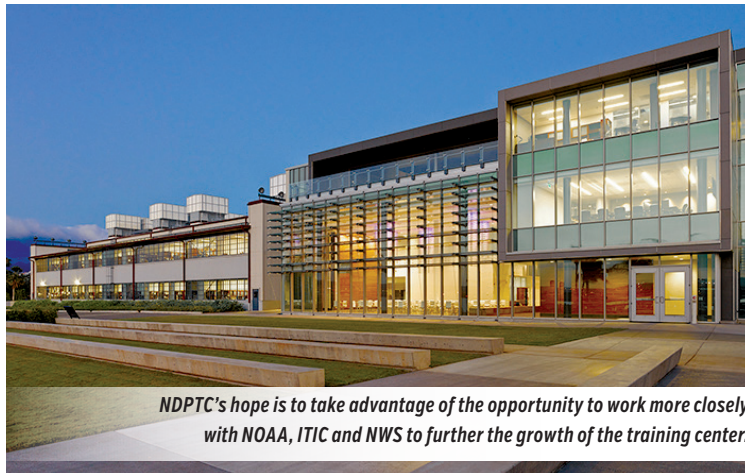
“PPMB was developed when a training gap was recognized in protecting first responders and receivers from biological agents, specifically dealing with personal protective equipment and decontamination considerations,” explained Mallory Lowe, one of the CDP’s technical writers who worked on the project. “The CDP already provides training that involves different types of PPE and decontamination to various hazards; however, PPMB strictly focuses on biological factors to include the different relevant biological threats, appropriate PPE, and decontamination protocols.

“The PPMB course provides first responders and receivers with vital information and hands-on experience with working in PPE and conducting decontamination in order to keep themselves and others safe from potential biological contamination,” Lowe explained. CDP instructors first taught the course to members of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Department of Public Safety Fire Services on Oct. 23. From there, other members of the consortium started delivering the training, as well, in order to deliver the training to as many responders and receivers as possible in a short time.

To date, the CDP alone has trained more than 1,000 responders and receivers on PPMB across 12 states from Nevada to the Virgin Islands, according to Bernice Zaidel, the CDP’s Assistant Director of Curriculum Development and Evaluation, who also worked on developing the course. Seven members of the CDP’s Curriculum team worked long hours to put the course together in such a short time in order to meet responders’ need. In addition to Lowe and Zaidel, the other team members to receive the award are Mark Mitchell, Elizabeth Harman, Jamie Johnson, Brad Smith and Jeremy Guthrie. ■

NDPTC EXPANDS PARTNERSHIP WITH NOAA

Course Development Moves to Inouye Regional Center



NDPTC’s hope is to take advantage of the opportunity to work more closely with NOAA, ITIC and NWS to further the growth of the training center.

In 2013, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) moved into the newly built Inouye Regional Center (IRC) on Ford Island. The new research and administrative facility was built on a 30 acre parcel combining two refurbished World War II aircraft hangers connected with a building between them. The modern facility was designed as a smart/sustainable building allowing for efficient use of resources and lower energy consumption. For more about the center go to: <http://www.hok.com/design/type/government/national-oceanic-and-atmospheric-administration-noaa/>

NOAA, NDPTC, and the University of Hawaii signed a joint project agreement (JPA) to collaborate on training course development and delivery by utilizing NOAA instructors and delivering training to NOAA partners. This partnership allows for NDPTC to work closely and interact directly with NOAA, the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), and the National Weather Service (NWS), all organizations that NDPTC has had long standing relationships with for collaboration on the development of NDPTC courses. NDPTC headquarters remains at 828 Fort Street Mall in downtown Honolulu. ■

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT MASTER’S PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Flooding is the costliest natural disaster in the United States. Demand for experienced floodplain management professionals is expected to rise with climate change and the increasing impacts on the built environment. Recognizing the growing need for professionals trained to meet this challenge, the University of Washington (UW) has joined forces with the University of Hawaii’s National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) to launch a master’s degree program in Floodplain Management. The program incorporates the myriad of fields related to flooding, including engineering, geology, geography, and planning, as well as several NDPTC courses. The result is a comprehensive body of knowledge and direction in floodplain management.

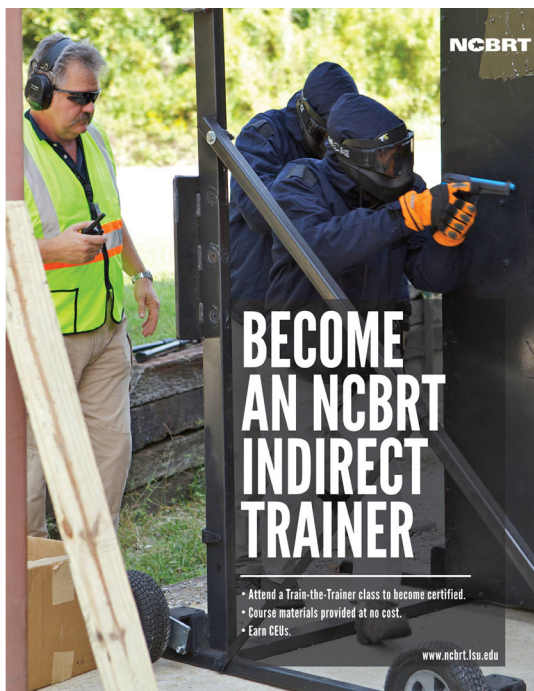
For more information contact UW Professional & Continuing Education. (<http://www.pce.uw.edu/>)

Classes begin in summer 2015

NCBRT INDIRECT COURSE DELIVERY PROGRAM

Detective Prepares Philadelphia Police Department

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acts. This awareness level course focuses on the recognition, prevention, and deterrence of terrorist activity and crime related high consequence events for law enforcement and other public safety professionals. Subject areas covered in the course include intelligence gathering, threat recognition, community-oriented policing, counterfeit identification detection, information sharing among agencies and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) agents or materials that can be procured either legitimately or illegally to produce a WMD.

“The prevention and deterrence course has great resources we provide to the students and instruct the students that if it seems to tickle your senses we want to know about it. We relate a lot of jobs we respond to allow the students to understand when we say we are there to answer your suspicions we do. Shared stories within the classroom on stops, reports written, are discussed with entire classroom benefiting from dialogue,” said Rovnan.

The indirect course delivery program has many benefits. The course materials are provided at no cost, scheduling is convenient, and participants earn CEUs, just as they would in all NCBRT courses. Detective Rovnan also noted that course materials are regularly updated, and courses are presented by fellow law enforcement, “which makes a great lasting impression on the audience who can relate to the instructor and the instructor to the student

NCBRT is currently accepting applications for the indirect course delivery program. If you are an established trainer/instructor in an academy, agency or department who is seeking to train your colleagues in the latest preparedness courses, please contact us at: trainer@ncbrt.lsu Indirect trainers are an integral part of our team. Our success in preparing the nation depends on spreading this training to as many participants as possible. ■

ONLINE COURSE IN BASICS OF HAZMAT INCIDENT RESPONSE

Now Offered in Spanish



The number of students taking the Spanish version will also be significant as more groups become aware of its availability.

TEEX has rolled out a new online course designed to help Spanish-speaking emergency responders recognize a hazardous material incident, protect themselves, notify others and secure the incident scene. The new four-hour course is based on AWR-160-W, “WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders,” which TEEX has offered since 2009 at no cost to qualified personnel through the DHS/FEMA’s National Training and Education Division as part of the Homeland Security National Training Program.

The Spanish course is also available at no cost. “Almost 15,000 students will take advantage of the English version of this course this year, and we expect that the number of students taking the Spanish version will also be significant as more groups become aware of its

availability,” said Program Director Rick Comley. “The Spanish language version of this course will allow an underserved population access to critical awareness information so they are better informed about the dangers associated with hazardous materials.” Focusing on prevention and deterrence, the course takes an all-hazards approach to Hazardous Material (HazMat) incidents, including acts of terrorism where Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) materials may have been used, Comley said.

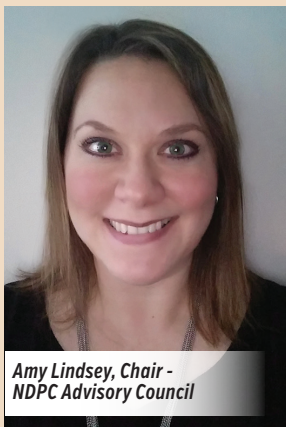
The course also meets awareness training requirements and competencies under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472 (2008 ed.), Chapter 4, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 28 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.120. “Thousands of people take this course each year to meet a national requirement for HazMat awareness” said Rebecca Tate, Training Manager with TEEX’s National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center. “Offering this course in Spanish in a web-based format expands access to this vital information to the large number of Spanish-speaking responders across the U.S. and its territories. ■

Almost 15,000 students will take advantage of the English version of this course this year, and the number of students taking the Spanish version will increase as more groups become aware of its availability

The best link for web-based training is: www.teex.org/nerrtconline

MEET THE NEW CHAIR OF THE NDPC SAA ADVISORY COUNCIL - AMY LINDSEY

Dual Roles Provides a Holistic Perspective on the Needs of State and Local Response Agencies



Amy Lindsey, Chair -
NDPC Advisory Council

Amy Lindsey joined the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in 2002 after gaining an appreciation for emergency management as part of the Ball State University Storm Chase Team. While scouring the Great Plains for severe weather, Amy experienced the devastating effects of Mother Nature and was hooked on disaster management. These experiences were further heightened when responding to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, MS.

Amy has served as the State Training Officer since 2005 and SAA Training Point of Contact (SAA TPOC) since 2007. In 2009, Amy earned her Certified Emergency Manager® recognition through the International Association of Emergency Managers. She began serving as the FEMA Region 5 representative to the NDPC Advisory Council in 2012 and became Chairperson in 2014.

Amy holds a Master of Science in Operational Meteorology and Climatology and teaches Emergency and Disaster Management at the University of Indianapolis.

Q. What is the NDPC Advisory Council?

A. The SAA Advisory Council is tasked with providing guidance and support to identify and prioritize the NDPC's training development focus areas, assist in developing processes and procedures for efficient program management, and promotion of the NDPC's mission. Each FEMA region has a representative on the Council that speaks for their region as a whole. It is that member's responsibility to also convey information from the providers to their respective states and locals. Bringing together a multitude of perspectives from around the country helps the training providers see a comprehensive picture of the needs of America's first responders.

Q. What is your goal as Chair of the NDPC Advisory Council?

A. My goal is to educate other State Training Officers and SAA Training Points of Contact about the great work the NDPC does in designing and delivering world-class training programs. As state public safety training representatives, it's vital we provide the NDPC members with feedback from our responders; that feedback helps drive the curriculum of the providers. It's our job to ensure we are meeting the needs of our responders and they are able to use the skills learned in class to protect our communities and keep themselves safe.

In the last two years, the Advisory Council has provided feedback to the NDPC members which has helped create a unified training catalog that can be searched by core capability, delivery method, provider, course level, and target audience. I see this program continuing to expand until we have all federally-supported emergency management and homeland security courses in one place. The Council has also been pushing for a single training application (currently each provider has their own application) as well as a single transcript for each person who completes federally-sponsored training. We're getting there!

Q. How does your position as Indiana SAA and/or previous positions help you in your role as Chair of the NDPC Advisory Council?

A. I started at my agency as the State Training Officer (STO) back in 2002. In that role I managed FEMA's Emergency Management state curriculum which tends to focus more on natural hazards and FEMA programs. In 2007, I also took on the role as the State Administrative Agency Training Point of Contact (SAA TPOC). I coordinated training from the NDPC providers which was more specialized in counter-terrorism training. Serving as a unified STO/SAA TPOC has allowed me to see how the courses complement each other and what each provider can bring to our responders. This is beneficial to the Advisory Council because not every state has a single person serving as both the STO and SAA TPOC. It has helped me connect both the FEMA and NDPC courses into one unified training program in Indiana.

Q. What do you think the NDPC is doing right with it comes to national preparedness training? How can the advisory council make the NDPC even better

A. I firmly believe the Advisory Council is a great asset to the NDPC and FEMA providers. We are able to reach back to our local and state partners to find out their needs. We have a perspective that may otherwise go unseen by the providers. The training they develop, based on feedback from the Council and students, is among the best in the country. To provide it to states and local responders at no cost is an incredible benefit. It's our job to ensure we use those resources in an effective and efficient manner by putting the right people in the right courses.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add?

A. I find the USDHS-funded training programs to be extremely beneficial to our responders. In Indiana, those courses make up over 60% of our emergency management training curriculum. Because the courses are mostly free to requesting entities, we are able to use our USDHS grant funds to round out our preparedness programs with planning, exercises, and equipment to build and sustain a comprehensive set of capabilities which helps ensure our communities are ready to respond when called to action.

We are building a new business model for preparedness integration in Indiana based off the Readiness: Training Identification and Preparedness Planning (RTIPP) class offered by LSU and TEE. This process will allow us to show a better return on investment of our grant funds to USDHS. I'm very excited about this new business model and hoping it will become a national best practice. We couldn't do it without support from the NDPC ■

TEEX, LSU HOLD JOINT INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

Meets Increasing Course Demand



Training sessions enable participants to prioritize training efforts, develop improvement plans and implement a course of action.

Communities and agencies across the country are evaluating their readiness to activate their Emergency Operations Plan. The assessment should identify gaps in training and result in an effective training plan that involves the whole community, including the public and private sector and Non-Governmental Organizations. TEEX's National Emergency Response

and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) and the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) at Louisiana State University are partnering to deliver the Readiness: Training Identification Preparedness Planning program to assist states and their communities with this planning process and ultimately improving their emergency preparedness. "A number of states have requested the course, which facilitates the identification of needed training for their jurisdictions, as well as aids in the development of their 3-year training plans," said Jesse Watkins, NERRTC Director of Operations. The 13-hour workshop teaches participants a training assessment process that involves creating a jurisdictional profile and then identifying and cataloging training goals. After the training sessions, participants should be able to prioritize training efforts, develop improvement plans and implement a course of action. The course is offered at no cost to qualified personnel through the DHS/FEMA's National Training and Education Division as part of the Homeland Security National Training Program. NERRTC and NCBRT recently conducted training for the cadre of instructors who will be delivering the course to a host of requesting states. "The training was held over a two-day period in Houston and enabled both organizations to ensure that all instructors are delivering the course content consistently to our customers," Watkins said. ■

THE NDPC IS COMPRISED OF SEVEN MEMBERS POSSESSING CORE COMPETENCIES THAT SPAN THE ENTIRE HOMELAND SECURITY ENTERPRISE DOMAIN.

• CDPC • CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

Expertise: Prevention, deterrence and response to CBRNE hazards and healthcare/public health mass casualty

• LSU-NCBRT • NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Expertise: Biological, law enforcement, and agroterrorism response

• NNSA-CTOS • NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION/CTOS-CENTER FOR RADIOLOGICAL/NUCLEAR TRAINING AT THE NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITE

Expertise: Prevention, deterrence and response to radiological/nuclear attacks

• NMT-EMRTC • THE ENERGETIC MATERIALS RESEARCH AND TESTING CENTER AT NEW MEXICO TECH

Expertise: Explosive and incendiary attacks

• TEEX-NERRTC • TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE, NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

Expertise: Cybersecurity, crisis communications, executive and elected officials education, hazardous materials awareness and operations, health and medical services, incident management, infrastructure protection, search and rescue, threat and risk assessment, and training gap analyses

• UH-NDPTC • NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER AT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Expertise: Natural disasters, coastal communities, islands & territories & underserved at-risk populations

Center for
Domestic
Preparedness



FEMA



New Mexico Tech
ENERGETIC MATERIALS RESEARCH AND TESTING CENTER

