Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) Aug. 22 where she delivered remarks to CDP staff and students about the value of preparedness training.

"DHS and its partners across the federal, state and local government have worked since 9/11 to build a new homeland security enterprise to better mitigate and defend against dynamic threats, minimize risks, and maximize our ability to respond to and recover from attacks and disasters of all kinds," Secretary Napolitano said. "Our challenge, looking forward, is to continue to engage the public in our shared security and build strong and resilient communities throughout our country."

During her remarks, Secretary Napolitano highlighted the importance of improving our nation’s preparedness, and encouraged the more than 130 students in attendance who were enrolled in CDP courses to take their training home and help their own communities improve their preparedness.

"Homeland security starts in our hometowns and communities, with first responders, health professionals, and law enforcement working on the front-lines to protect our country—and the CDP has played a critical role in helping us achieve this goal—making our nation more prepared, and resilient at the federal, state, tribal and local levels," she said.

Secretary Napolitano also received a tour of the CDP’s unique training facilities that provide advanced training for emergency responders and other state, local and tribal government officials for mass casualty events related to terrorism or natural disasters.
Ten years ago Stephen Graves and 29 of his fellow Washington, D.C. fire fighters sat in a classroom at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) ready to begin their day of training. Shortly after 9:30 a.m., on Sept. 11, 2001, their training day would be cut short as news of airline hijackings and terrorist attacks in New York City, and their hometown of Washington, D.C., became a reality. Later details about a plane crash in Shanksville, Penn., would add to the list of terrorist hijackings.

Graves was the guest speaker at the CDP’s September 11th remembrance ceremony. He recounted the events of that day to an audience of some 300 CDP staff and students, and shared how CDP training improved his department’s response capabilities.

“At first I did not believe it. I thought it was part of the CDP training exercise,” Graves said.

As news headlines consumed the airways it became apparent this was not part of any training scenario.

“We were under attack,” Graves added, “And the CDP training staff began making arrangements to fly us home.”

As all flights within the United States were suspended, air travel was out of the question.

“The CDP chartered us a bus, and it was a 12 to 13 hour trip,” Graves said. “I don’t remember stopping…. Police officers and first responders in every state, from Alabama to Virginia to the District of Columbia, provided us an escort as word of our trip home crossed state lines.”

Since that tragic day the District of Columbia has changed many operating procedures. According to Graves, now an emergency training and exercise specialist with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), fire fighters are more prepared because of the training offered at the CDP. “We focused on three-story basic structure fires,” Graves said. “Nothing that would measure up to the Pentagon attack or World Trade Center. CDP training expanded our knowledge and made us more prepared. CDP training has been a cornerstone for first responders. It is an honor to represent first responders and share my CDP training experience here today.”

“Today’s event recognized and honored our nation’s responders,” said CDP Superintendent Todd Jones. “It is very appropriate to recognize our students and the contributions and sacrifices responders made ten years ago.”

“The CDP offered three courses in 2001, and had trained just over 2,500 emergency responders prior to September 11th,” Jones added. “That number climbed to more than 14,000 the following year and now we offer more than 40 courses and have surpassed 680,000 trained. The events of 9/11 have defined us a country and by recognizing and remembering the sacrifices emergency responders make, and for those who have lost their lives, this is a small gesture of our gratitude.”
JOPLIN, Mo.—In May 2011, as tornado sirens sounded, hospital workers at St. John’s Regional Medical Center, in Joplin, Mo., rushed to pull 183 patients to safety as one of the largest tornadoes on record bared down on their southwestern Missouri city. Breaking glass and the roar of the powerful storm deafened the dark hospital as power was lost.

Dennis Manley, the hospital’s director of quality and risk management, played a critical role as the hospital’s incident commander following the deadly tornado. Guiding his hospital through a chaotic disaster was challenging but not completely unfamiliar territory thanks to training he received two years prior at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Ala.

“The CDP training is about as close as you can get to the real thing,” Manley said. “I wanted realistic training and the CDP delivered. There is no substitute to real-life experience, but the CDP training mimicked very closely.”

Manley attended the CDP’s Healthcare Leadership (HCL) for All-Hazards Incidents training in 2009, followed by Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass-Casualty Incidents later that year.

According to Manley, the training not only enhanced his ability to respond to a mass casualty incident, but also provided an example of the many emergency roles his staff would tackle because of the tornado.

“The CDP training helped me fulfill my role with more confidence,” Manley said. Manley stressed the hands-on portions of training were most helpful and has recommended CDP training to his leadership and colleagues in the healthcare community.

He also stated that by training in an actual hospital, the Noble Training Facility (NTF), better prepared him for the disaster and ultimate response.

“By training in a hospital, the experience is more life-like and real,” Manley said. “You feel like you are actually participating in a disaster, not just pretending. That makes it easier to apply what you have learned to the real thing.”
Stories From the Field

CDP Training Pays Off for Montana Civil Disobedience Team

HELENA, Mont.—The city of Helena, Mont. garnered national attention in mid-July when approximately 70 environmental activists from Montana and other states gathered at the state capitol to dispute construction of a planned pipeline from Alberta, Canada through Montana. Thanks to training through the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), the local Civil Disobedience Team (CDT) was prepared to respond and end the situation peacefully.

“We make it mandatory that every officer or deputy selected to be on the CDT has to attend the CDP training courses on Field Force Operations and Field Force Extrication Tactics at least once, preferably within a year of being appointed to the team,” said Dave Jeseritz, assistant chief of police for the Helena Police Department.

“The CDP training not only helped us start bonding as a joint team, it also helped us build up our confidence by learning how to defeat the various protester devices.”

The CDT, which includes officers from the Helena Police Department and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff’s Office, has sent 47 officers to CDP training since 2006. The courses included techniques to defeat the exact devices the protestors used to lock themselves together inside the state capitol.

Nationally, CDP has trained more than 17,000 law enforcement personnel in field force extrication and operations.

“Our joint CDT felt very prepared for this event,” Jeseritz said. “The training our team members received from the CDP was undoubtedly one of the main reasons that this event went as smooth as it did. From the Chief, Sheriff, and the commanders in charge down to team members themselves, everyone was confident the team was well trained and equipped to handle the situation.”

The protestors used five devices to link themselves together. Each device would have to be removed before police could arrest anyone. All the while, chants and loud drumming from the other 60-plus protesters radiated through the state Capitol. After removing two devices and extricating two protestors the remaining three unlocked themselves, Jeseritz said. According to Jeseritz, despite the protestors’ disruption, the officers were confident as they worked to defuse the situation.

“That confidence was apparent to the protestors, who appeared surprised by our knowledge and organization in handling the event,” Jeseritz said “We believe that they were shocked to see our knowledge and expertise in the devices they brought in.”

The CDP offers three Field Force Courses. Field Force Operations prepares law enforcement to employ crowd control measures and civil disorders; Field Force Command and Planning is designed for management-level personnel who may serve as a member of a incident management team during civil action or disorder; and Field Force Extrication Tactics (as demonstrated in Helena) that provides law enforcement and other emergency personnel with the knowledge, skills, and tools to safely remove protester devices designed to interrupt and delay operations.
Stories From the Field

CDP Training Vital to North Dakota Flood Response

MINOT, N.D.—As Bill Brown received flood condition updates in June 2011, city officials were preparing for the worst overflow in more than 130 years. Brown, a retired captain with the Minot Police Department and now the Southwest Regional Emergency Response Coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, was making arrangements to staff the city’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and coordinate state resources to assist in the flood response.

Brown, a veteran of 19 courses at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), has trained in a variety of subjects to include law enforcement protective measures and response to a mass casualty event involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

However, during this event, it was not terrorists or domestic criminals threatening the streets of Minot, it was water—a lot of water. Brown found his Incident Command training at the CDP most helpful, and ultimately played a large role in the EOC response, coordination, and decision making. Most notably, the Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning, and Response Actions for All Hazards (IC) course provided a solid foundation for planning and response, he said.

“I found the course of instruction at the CDP to be more of a real-world scenario allowing me to better retain the information,” Brown said.

“The IC class gave me the opportunity to better understand the roles of each division within the incident command structure as well as understanding the diverse perspectives of different responder disciplines. Having had this training allowed me to have a more effective understanding and better line of communication with the private, local, state, and federal organizations.”

Brown said his experiences as a law enforcement officer and Regional Response Coordinator also made a difference. Although his CDP training is combined in those experiences, Brown attributes his training directly to his city’s response.

“As far as decisions, when we were first assigned to the EOC, requests for resources were made to anyone who was available to take a note or a call,” he added. “I decided early on to implement the use of the ICS request for resource form and advise all personnel that request for resources would be made at one central location. By doing so, resources and assignments were better assigned and tracked, status of existing personnel and equipment was monitored, and a written documentation of all requests was available in the event federal reimbursement was approved.”

More than 10 feet of water from rivers surrounding Minot and other North Dakota communities poured through the streets, sweeping homes and store fronts away and forcing the evacuation of more than 12,000 people. Brown said a large scale evacuation always experiences problems, but added, his training “kicked in” and provided a sense of calm to a turbulent situation.

“Having been a police officer for over 30 years, I never really truly embraced or utilized the ICS concept until this flood,” Brown said. “I was very surprised and pleased to see that it does work and it can make things run more smoothly and reduce your workload. I think all management staff including first line supervisors from every first responder organization as well as public works, highway department, city hall, finance and elected officials should attend the IC class.”

Thanks Missouri, Montana, and North Dakota for sharing your success stories. If you have used CDP training during a real world event we want to know about it. You might be featured in future Stories From the Field.

Email: pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov or call (256) 847-2212.
USCG National Strike Force Trains at the CDP

The United States Coast Guard National Strike Force (NSF) responds to hazardous events across the country to protect public health and the environment. Since 2008, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has assisted their mission by training more than 90 of the 200-plus men and women who make up this specialized strike force.

The CDP, located in Anniston, Ala., focuses training on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. It is the only facility in the country where civilian responders can train using actual nerve agents.

The NSF is comprised of three Strike Teams—Atlantic Strike Team, Gulf Strike Team, and Pacific Strike Team—and the Public Information Assist Team. Four Strike Team personnel, representing the Atlantic and Gulf Strike Teams, recently completed the CDP’s Hazardous Material Technician for CBRNE Incidents (HT) course.

“I found this training extremely enlightening and would recommend it to other strike teams,” said Chief Petty Officer Kevin Cronin, from the Atlantic Strike Team. “This is a very unique facility; and to work with nerve agents in a scenario response is not training you can get anywhere else. I feel more confident.”

The HT course provides students an overview of the international and domestic threats with a spotlight on identification and decontamination of biological or chemical hazards. The course also includes hazardous materials technical training for operating in an all-hazards environment and preservation of crime scene evidence. HT training incorporates advanced competencies, technology, and tactics that focus on the specific threats associated with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) material.

Strike teams specialize in hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction incidents and, according to Cronin, working with a variety of agencies representing state and local jurisdictions, made a difference in his training.

The HT course culminates at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) training facility—the only training site of its kind for civilian emergency responders. Working with nerve agents GB (Sarin) and VX the students continue the scenario to rescue and protect citizens, preserve evidence, and locate and identify the toxic substance.

The course runs three days and quickly moves students from the classroom to hands-on experience—responding to a potential crime scene involving hazardous substances. These drills allow students to practice and reinforce their new skills and knowledge in a realistic training environment. The exercise areas are enhanced with realistic props, loud and confusing noise, alarms, and theatrical smoke. The responders enter with just the assistance of their response equipment and a handheld flashlight.

“I was impressed with the outside, diverse expertise from the instructors,” said Lt. j.g. Jason Scott, Chemical Response Officer for the Gulf Strike Team. “This is a great introduction to WMD response and focuses on all facets of CBRNE type materials. If you don’t train, you aren’t going to be ready, and a facility like this offers an opportunity to train for hazardous or WMD events realistically. Strike team members need to come here as early as they can in their strike team career.”

The CDP is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The center develops and delivers 55 advanced training courses for emergency response providers, emergency managers, and other government officials.

For more information visit http://cdp.dhs.gov.
The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Ala. is known for its realistic, emergency response training. Responders attending the Hands-On Training for CBRNE Incidents (HOT-I) course will now have an added level of realism thanks to a school bus the CDP recently added to the simulated mass casualty exercise for each class.

Complete with smoke and child-size mannequins crowding seats and aisles, the school bus will resemble a potential emergency scene. This training element is typical of many CDP courses, which remove first responders from the classroom for a unique hands-on training experience that focuses on response to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incident.

“It was intense. When I first entered the bus visibility was good but as the smoke thickened the level of difficulty increased,” Heather Jenkins, an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) from California, said after completing her training scenario. “My ultimate goal was to find the most critical patient, but it was not easy. This is something I have never experienced before, but it gave me an idea of what to expect—I feel more prepared. This is crucial knowledge anyone in emergency response should experience.”

“Incorporation of the school bus into training scenarios lends an element of realism that keeps our student-participants motivated,” Mick Castillo, CDP technology integration specialist, said. “The scenario incorporates over 20 lifelike pediatric mannequins, an implementation that assists in simulating a mass casualty incident involving two dozen children. Whether caused by simple accident or at the hands of a terrorist, this scenario is as lifelike and realistic as we can make it.”

At a recent training session, students prepared for the exercise as they received information explaining the circumstances and potential victims or survivors. As they departed the classroom setting a series of

Continued on Next Page
explosions were heard from the nearby fictional city known as “Northville.” As the smoke rose, instructors commanded responders to “go on air,” prompting the class to quickly don their breathing apparatus and divide into multiple response teams.

When the first team entered the bus they noticed child-size mannequins with a variety of symptoms. The students had to quickly assess the dangerous situation, triage victims, and remove survivors from the smoky bus. The first survivor was quickly passed through the bus’ emergency exit to waiting responders—only to find out from instructors the injured child was not viable. The response team inside the bus carefully re-examined the scene and symptoms of other passengers and discovered a survivor. The survivor was quickly passed through the emergency exit and emergency responders rushed the child away to a safe area to begin decontamination procedures.

“Where I work there is always a chance for a mass casualty event, and incorporating a training aid like the school bus creates a more realistic environment that requires students to perform,” said Chris Dew, a fire fighter/paramedic from the District of Columbia.

“There is a reason I have returned here five times. The training is invaluable. Experiencing triage like this and decontamination during a CBRNE response has increased my confidence 100 percent.”

For more information regarding the HOT-I course click here or find all CDP training courses at http://cdp.dhs.gov. The HOT-I course is an eight-hour course commonly combined with other CDP training allowing students to build on the previous day’s exercises in a CBRNE setting. As part of the course, the responder enters the CDP’s toxic agent training facility and performs hazardous materials technician operations in a CBRNE response environment using nerve agents GB and VX.
Introducing...
Spotlight on CDP Instructional Staff

Hal Sherman
− Instructor: Eight Years (Law Enforcement)
− Experience: 20 years with the New York Police Department (NYPD).
− Significant portion of public service has consisted of Crime Scene Management.
− Instructor in the Hazardous Materials Evidence Collection (HEC) for CBRNE Incidents and Crime Scene Management (CSM)

CDP Instructor’s Ground Zero Experience Sets Stage For Training and Teaching Crime Scene Investigation

What is your favorite part of your job? I love learning and when a student or emergency responder in my class finds the information useful and is able to put it into action on the job that makes my job that much better—sharing knowledge that makes a difference. I also love traveling to other locations and teaching our courses to professionals who may never get the training.

What do you hope to accomplish in your position/what do you want students to walk away with at the end of the day? I hope that every time I stand on the platform I am able to use my training and experience to make an emergency responder better at what they do and more prepared. If I can provide information, no matter how small, to a responder and it has an effect on saving lives or preserving evidence, I have accomplished my goal. Although the courses I teach focus on crime scene investigations, I want our students to never become complacent and understand that the most routine call could be the most dangerous. Always be ready. Timothy McVeigh was pulled over for a ‘dangling’ license plate and Eric Rudolph was dumpster diving.

How have your experiences impacted the way you train? As a skilled crime scene investigator, in 2001, I responded to the site of the World Trade Center (WTC). It wasn’t long after, I was assigned to a newly formed Bio-Terrorism Task Force within the NYPD. Previously I had responded to 2,300 crime scenes and approximately 1,700 of those were homicide scenes. Although the job I was about to assume was painful, I had never felt more prepared. I worked at the WTC for several weeks helping to identify a variety of objects and other artifacts in an attempt to identify the deceased. That was the largest crime scene I had ever experienced. That experience and the 2,300 previous crime scenes have made a difference in not only the way I train, but the way I teach. When any responder walks onto a crime scene they can have a major impact on the case through proper collection procedures, safeguarding evidence, and chain of custody. Defense attorneys are not forgiving of mistakes and mistakes can cost the prosecution of a guilty person.

Did you know? The Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility uses approximately 50 gallons of bleach a week, a COBRA instructor averages 47 entries into nerve agent operations a year, the M-40 protective mask takes approximately 24 hours to fully reconstruct, and the Lanx protective suits are good for 22 uses in nerve agent operations.
Confidence at a Whole New Level
“I am a firefighter/operator in Louisiana. I have attended both the Hazardous Material Technician for CBRNE Incidents (HT) course and Hazard Assessment and Response Management (HARM) course. The level of training I received surpasses any that I have ever obtained. Just the fact we trained with live agent makes your confidence go through the roof. It shows you ‘hey, I can do this.’ I have brought what I have learned back to my brothers and sisters and they along with my officers were impressed. I will return to train again. Thanks for wonderful training.”

Corey Price, Fire Fighter, Louisiana

The Tools for Preparedness
“I have never experienced training like this. This training gives me the skills, knowledge, ability, and tools that I need to be prepared during a real-life incident.”

Marci Flores, Emergency Department Assistant Manager, California

Best Hands-On Experience
“I just returned and would like to remark that this was the best hands-on training I have ever experienced. As a 28-year police sergeant in public transportation, the training was right on. It was worth the time.”

John Drapiewski, Police Sergeant, Chicago

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Out and About

Below is an abbreviated schedule of conferences the CDP will attend through January 2012. Please stop by and see us if you are attending one of these conferences. And don’t forget to bring a friend!

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<td>COPSWEST</td>
<td>Nov. 8-9, 2011</td>
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On the Horizon

CDP Facility Upgrades Will Create Better Training and Living Experience

Over the next year and beyond, responders attending Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) resident training in Anniston, Ala. will notice improvements to our training venues.

The improvements will enhance the training environment CDP students have come to expect in Anniston. The upgrades are part of our overall strategy to focus our limited resources during these challenging economic times on maintaining and supporting the CDP’s unique resident training facilities.

As the home of the nation’s only toxic agent training facility for civilian responders and the only hospital dedicated solely to training for mass casualty incidents, CDP has focused our resources and efforts on keeping these unique venues modern and relevant.

Here’s a summary of the changes that are coming to our training venues:

**Noble Training Facility**

**Project:** Emergency Department (ED) renovation  
**What’s changing:** The ED at Noble will be renovated to include the addition of a non-ambulatory patient entrance, two hazardous material patient isolation rooms, nurse triage stations and vital signs collection points.  
**Target completion:** January 2012  
**Training impact:** When completed, the Noble ED will be a modern, state-of-the-art treatment area that will enhance the student experience and add greater realism.

**Hazardous Materials Training Lanes**

**Project:** Hazardous Material training lanes upgrade in the CDP Main Training facility  
**What’s changing:** An advanced smoke delivery and exhaust system, training cameras, and sound system will be installed.  
**Target completion:** March 2012  
**Training impact:** The addition of these systems will enhance the realism of a typical hazardous materials scene.

**West Side Addition**

**Project:** The west side of CDP’s main building renovation  
**What’s changing:** The space brings more than 37,000 square feet of additional training space. The addition is expected to offer a training venue for executive level employees, throughout state, local, tribal, and federal government.  
**Target Completion:** Spring 2013  
**Training Impact:** Following completion, the annex will consist of approximately 48 rooms offering classrooms, a conference room, auditorium, teleconference areas, computer labs, and audiovisual additions that provide a professional environment for emergency managers and executive level personnel throughout government.

**Lodging**

**Project:** Dorm renovations  
**What’s Changing:** The new dorm renovation will include new flooring, light fixtures, sinks and vanities, wall finishes, and a fire-sprinkler system with notification alarms.  
**Target Completion:** Spring 2012  
**Training Impact:** These renovations will improve living conditions and offer a modern appearance for students attending CDP courses.

**Dining Facility**

**Project:** Expansion of the lodging dining facility  
**What’s Changing:** The dining facility will be expanded to offer additional seating in a full glass sunroom. The interior of the current space will also receive new flooring, ceiling, paint, and serving equipment to improve appearance and efficiency for responders dining at the CDP.  
**Target Completion:** December 2011  
**Training Impact:** The CDP will be able to accommodate more emergency responders in the dining facility. Additionally, the improvements will offer a more pleasant dining experience and additional space.

The CDP recognizes the need for increased training that prepares emergency responders for catastrophic or mass casualty incidents, regardless of size. The CDP intends to offer its students a training experience unsurpassed. The CDP training staff consistently measures its performance by the needs and feedback of emergency responders—these needs are not only met through delivery, but also by the training venues. Additionally, quality of life is also important and CDP facilities will continue to provide excellent service through lodging and dining.