Virginia Department of Emergency Management

WMD Support to Military Installations

Brett A. Burdick

Director, Technological Hazards Division

Virginia Department of Emergency Management
VDEM is Virginia’s Consequence Management Agency

- Tasked by Executive Order
- Planning
- Training
- Exercising
- Equipping
Terrorism Courses

- Training since 1995
- Public Safety Response to Terrorism
- Course Levels
  - Awareness
  - Tactical Considerations
  - Management Considerations
Developed Plans

- Virginia’s Terrorism Consequence Management Plan
- Sample jurisdictional plan
- Congruency with federal plans
Exercises

- ILL WIND
- TERMINAL BREEZE
- Several CLASSIFIED Exercises
- Regional WMD Drills
- SERTEX 2001
Major Issues

- Command and Control
- Communications
- Logistics
- Decontamination
- Federal understanding of own plans
Command and Control

- Incident Command System
- Unified Command System
- Governor's authority
- VDEM coordination role
- Too many command centers
Communications

- Not interoperable
- Black box fix for tactical control
- Heavy reliance on cell phones
- Vulnerable to cyber attack
- Still room for pencils and paper
Logistics

- Local response will starve after 8 to 10 hours
- State response will not arrive in force for 24 hours
- Federal response will come much later
- National Pharmaceutical Stockpile
- Security
- Lessons from Oklahoma City
Decontamination

- Identifying need
- Immediate
- Effectiveness
- Water-based
- Don’t use bleach
- “Decontamination in depth”
Federal Understanding of Own Plans

- Generally poor
- Don’t follow what is written
- Make it up as you go along
- Change with the “phase of the moon”
- Understanding of other agency plans is nonexistent
- Leads to conflict, inefficiency, multiple mission assignments
Solutions

- Talk to each other
- Work out Command and Control issues
  - Military support
  - Multiple levels of government
  - Problem doesn’t stop at fence
- Communications interoperability
  - IAB efforts
  - Find appropriate level of linkage
Solutions (cont’d)

- Logistics
  - Capabilities inventory, not resource lists
  - Understand personnel requirements
  - Improve civilian capabilities
  - Collective Protection/Force Protection

- Decontamination
  - Everyone needs to know how
  - Implement immediately
  - Can’t get too much or too good!
Solutions (cont’d)

- Federal understanding of plans
  - Cross-training
  - Exercising
  - Can’t support what you don’t understand
State Assets

- VDEM
  - 13 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams
  - 10 Hazardous Materials Officers statewide
- SAR
- Command vehicles
- Emergency Management expertise
- Legal authority
- Training, Planning, Exercising
State Assets (cont’d)

- Virginia State Police
  - 1600 Troopers
  - 350 Investigators
  - Bomb Technicians
  - Motor Carrier Troopers
  - Legal authority
  - Command vehicles
  - Rapport with local law enforcement
State Assets (cont’d)

- Virginia Department of Health
  - Epidemiological surveillance
  - EMS Task Forces
  - Laboratory capabilities

- National Guard
  - Liaison
  - WMD-Civil Support Teams
  - Traditional guard missions
  - Security clearance
End