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THE CANADIAN COUNTER-TERRORISM TECHNICAL CENTER (CTTC) AS A MECHANISM TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND OVERSIGHT THROUGH FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

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Background

1. Defence R&D Canada (DRDC) Suffield is the Canadian center for chemical biological (CB) defence expertise and is internationally recognized for its research and development in these domains. DRDC Suffield is a declared facility under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and is the only Canadian site approved under Canadian legislation and the CWC for the use of scheduled chemicals. DRDC Suffield conducts annual CB training for the Canadian Forces and the Nuclear Biological Chemical (NBC) Response Team.

2. In support of urgent domestic requirements, DRDC Suffield has developed and provided awareness and consequence management training for first responders in Canada. DRDC Suffield has also provided first responder training, including live agent training, to international partners from the United States and Australia, and more recently to NATO allies under the auspices of the Prague Initiative. Other countries have expressed an interest in this training capability. Originally, DRDC Suffield responded to requests by user communities in Canada to develop and provide the needed training and advice. This was done on an urgent basis to fulfill demands in preparation for major international events or for metropolitan communities that identified the need for a CB counter-terrorism response capability (e.g. Summit of the Americas).

3. The requirement for training and expertise in CB counter terrorism is growing across many jurisdictions. Experience and discussion with first responders and with responsible Canadian departments and agencies proves that training is only one component of response and preparedness. It was deemed that CTTC was needed to provide an identifiable delivery agent, to facilitate coordination and cooperation, to enhance capability and to reduce duplication among the responsible Departments and Agencies. For that reason, initial funding was provided in the federal 2001 budget.
CTTC Participants

4. The CTTC is being established by the Department of National Defence (DND) at DRDC Suffield with the support of the Solicitor General, Health Canada, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIPEP) program, which has a mandate or role in developing a CBCT capability and in protecting Canadian national security interests.

Key Activities of the CTTC

5. Training: develop and provide training in CB counter-terrorism preparedness for military and civilian first responders (awareness lectures, instruction in consequence management and practical, live agent training in both laboratory and field conditions). For civilians, this training will be conducted under the aegis of the federal CBRN Training Program at the Advanced Level.


7. Certification: develop certification standards for civilian first responder equipment for detection and protection against CB hazards.

8. Test and Evaluation: test and evaluate detection and protective equipment for efficacy against CB hazards.


10. Advice: facilitate and support the requirements of participant departments and agencies for specialized information and advice.

Facilities

11. It is anticipated that the following facilities will be established as parts of the CTTC.

- Learning and Resource Center
- Live agent Training Center
- Equipment Assessment and Certification Center
- Reference Laboratory for Forensic and Unambiguous Identification of CB Agents.

Organization

12. The CTTC will have an initial five-year mandate, and a budget to address the key activities and support for needed facilities. In light of the fact that live chemical agent will be used, it is assumed that safety and security would require that the government (i.e., DND) remain in overall control of the Center. CTTC will have a Director and a small core of staff specialists supported by Center funding. Contributing / participating federal member departments and agencies will appoint representatives to a governing Executive Committee. It is anticipated that some
activities could be supported through cost recovery mechanisms, e.g., equipment testing and certification for industry, training sessions, and so on.

**Current Status:**

13. Planning activities for the CTTC are now complete, and a Bio-safety Level 3 (BL 3) laboratory that will serve as part of the reference facility for forensic and identification functions has been installed at DRDC Suffield. The containment laboratory will be certified during the summer of 2003 and it is anticipated that full forensic capability will be in place early in 2004. Staffing of subject matter experts, trainers and support personnel has been initiated.

**Conclusion**

14. That it took the devastating terrorist event on September 11, 2001 to demonstrate generalized lack of emergency preparedness and public security is, indeed, unfortunate. However, delineation of deficiency gaps has permitted Canada and certainly many other nations to develop remedial solutions that hopefully will be sustained and sustainable. The CTTC described above is a unique Canadian facility in that it brings together elements for incident response training, equipment certification, forensic and unambiguous agent identification and provision of advice for the first responder communities, both civilian and military.