Terrorism, Civil Disobedience, and Natural Disasters: How Leidos Supports CDP Training

Today’s domestic preparedness threats include a comprehensive spectrum of possible events: terrorist attacks, natural disasters, industrial accidents, and infectious diseases that pose definitive and measurable risks for our nation. In response, there is a growing need for comprehensive, integrated, multidisciplinary community, regional, and national preparedness training that is relevant to the threats of today and tomorrow.

What do these events have in common? Whether the cause is terrorism, civil disturbance, or natural disaster, there is a need for comprehensive and innovative all-hazards planning and response training at the community or regional level and the necessary exercise opportunities to integrate their community or regional response capabilities and capacities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) Training and Exercise Program provides the nation’s premier opportunity for local officials, emergency managers, law enforcement officers, first responders, and medical professionals to deal with any challenge that may confront their community or region. Government authorities at every level need training in how to interact and coordinate an effective community, regional or national response and maintain civil order during disaster events or civil unrest, in support of local officials and community representatives.

PREPARING FOR CRITICAL SCENARIOS

The CDP is the unique venue, and Leidos is the prime contractor, fulfilling the CDP Training Delivery Services mission.

Located in Anniston, Ala., FEMA’s CDP campus is home to 124 acres and 48 buildings offering realistic training scenarios for law enforcement, first responders, and medical professionals. Since its founding in 1998, CDP has turned to Leidos as its primary training delivery services contractor. Leidos deploys 236 full- and part-time staff and 333 subcontractors to provide training and support in tactics, logistics, and safety exercises at CDP. Additionally, Leidos draws upon the resources of more than 300 Department of Homeland Security-certified instructors based in 42 states across the nation to provide additional instruction tailored to local conditions. Over the past two years alone, Leidos has conducted CDP training courses across 38 states and the territory of Puerto Rico.

Leidos’s staff are experienced in replicating realistic training scenarios simulating everything from natural disasters to terrorist attacks to civil disturbances such as those anticipated before the Republican or Democratic National Conventions. As a result of the CDP training by Leidos instructional professionals,
responders at the most recent conventions kept demonstrations small and manageable. Moreover, Leidos has accumulated nearly two decades of experience training government employees at the state, local, tribal, and territorial levels in how to conduct a comprehensive, integrated, multidisciplinary community response to multi-faceted and fluidly changing conditions on the ground -- and in validating participants’ skills after completion of training.

For the past 19 years, Leidos has assisted FEMA in its training mission at the facility, gaining insight into what the customer requirements are and providing the services that meet and exceed those requirements. From an initial offering of five courses in 1998, Leidos has grown alongside CDP, and today supports more than 40 of the 50+ separate courses offered by CDP.

**RELEVANT TRAINING FOR TODAY’S RISKS AND TOMORROW’S EMERGING THREATS**

Leidos tailors its training and exercise programs to the local, state, tribal, territorial, and CDP federal training partner requirements, rapidly developing courses to keep current with the full spectrum of possible threats that the nation’s first responders and first receivers may encounter. At CDP, Leidos employees provide:

> hands-on training to elected officials, emergency managers, law enforcement, first responders, and medical professionals in approximately 16 different disciplines.

> training and exercise specifically tailored to address anticipated local, regional, or national threats.

> subject matter expertise and input for the agile development of training curricula, exercise requirements and operational concepts and techniques in response to changing conditions.

**TRAINING & EXERCISE PROGRAMS**

Leidos provides simulated protestors, fabricates training aids, and updates the materials used in training in response to current events. For example, within one week after the Boston Marathon bombing of 2013, Leidos built simulated pressure-cooker bombs for use in training exercises. Leidos also supports the Integrated Capstone Event (ICE) Exercise Program at CDP. This event simulates an integrated multi-disciplinary community or regional response to a Mass Casualty Incident.

To support these training exercises, Leidos also provides logistics support that includes maintaining over 50 human patient simulators, 400 manikins, 4,000 non-expendable pieces of equipment, and over 1,000 types of consumable products. In addition to utilizing equipment, technologies, and products at CDP, Leidos provides training aide fabrication and transportation of equipment sets in support of resident training at the CDP and in support of mobile training teams across the nation.
FIELD FORCE TRAINING

Leidos also conducts field force training to assist local law enforcement and community stakeholders in preparing for specific, high profile events where civil unrest is possible. Leidos assisted, for example, in training local authorities ahead of the 2016 Democratic Convention in Philadelphia and the Republican Convention in Cleveland. Both events were widely expected to attract political protests, and indeed, tens of thousands of protesters showed up in both Cleveland and Philadelphia. Similarly, the CDP and Leidos have helped communities successfully prepare for nearly all recent National Special Security Events, including the Super Bowl and G8 summit.

In preparation for such events, and for general field force preparedness, Leidos provides instruction and support for three primary courses in field force training:

> Field Force Command and Planning: Designed for emergency management and law enforcement leadership, FFC is a three-day course that prepares management-level personnel to serve as members of incident management teams during demonstrations and civil disturbances.

> Field Force Operations: Leidos trains law enforcement and security officers in conducting mass-arrest procedures.

> Field Force Extrication Tactics: Leidos trains police officers, firefighters, medical personnel, and other responders in how to extricate protesters from devices.

Through years of conducting field force operational training in support of the CDP, Leidos has developed the nation’s field force cadre’s capability and reservoir for lessons learned and best practices. A critical component of the CDP-Leidos field force training and exercise program is Leidos’ understanding of community, regional, and national field force training and exercise requirements and how to work closely with jurisdictions in accomplishing their specific goals and objectives.

As new threats emerge, Leidos stands ready to assist the CDP in rapidly responding to events in support of the nation, providing current concepts, processes, procedures, and techniques necessary for elected officials, community stakeholders, first responders, and first receivers to effectively respond to whatever the requirement. Since 1998 Leidos has demonstrated its unique capability and capacity to meet the nation’s domestic preparedness training and exercise requirements in support of the DHS-FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness.