U.S. Coast Guard
Atlantic Strike Team

“Capabilities Brief”

LT Mike Weaver
Operations Officer, Atlantic Strike Team
National Strike Force
Anytime, Any place, Any hazard
Elements of the National Strike Force

- National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC)
- Public Information Assist Team (PIAT)

- **3 National Strike Teams**
  - Atlantic Strike Team (AST)
  - Gulf Strike Team (GST)
  - Pacific Strike Team (PST)
    - Over 200 Active Duty and Reserves
    - Standardized response equipment
    - Highly trained and experience personnel
    - 24/7, 365 recall status

- **A 36 year history:**
  - The National Strike Force (NSF) was established in 1973 as a direct result of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972.
  - The NSF’s role and responsibilities in supporting the National Response System have expanded under subsequent major environmental legislation, including the Clean Water Act of 1977, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the National Response Plan and numerous Presidential Directives.
  - The NSF was incorporated within the U.S. Deployable Operations Group (DOG) in July 2007
NSF/Strike Teams Case Load

- **Average Case Load:**
  - 35-40 cases per team
  - 60% Chemical Responses
  - 40% Oil Responses
  - Personnel average
    - 140+ days deployed per year
RESPONSE POLICY

• NSF Response Standards:
  – 4 members dispatched immediately
  – 10-person Hazmat Team and Heavy equipment on the road within 2 hours
  – We can call on other Strike Teams (PST or GST) for additional support

• Can Advise/Recommend Additional Federal Specialized Resources When Needed
  – DOE’s Rad Assessment Program Teams (RAP)
  – NOAA’s Scientific Support Coordinators
  – EPA’s Emergency Response Team
  – Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV)

• Facilitate Interoperability
  – Use standard and specialized equipment
    ▪ Law Enforcement / Emergency Management
    ▪ State / Federal Agencies
    ▪ Military (Incl. National Guard Civil Support Teams)
AST Facilities – Ft. Dix, New Jersey
A sampling of NSF support in the International environment
National Strike Force Mission

What We Do:

- Incident Command / Response Management Support

- Oil and Hazardous Chemical Response

- WMD Response including Radiological and Bio-Terrorism incidents

- Preparedness Exercise & Event Planning Support
Response Management Support

- Provide fully deployable ICS capability
- Can be tailored to fit any size of response
- Can be used in any type of event
  - Oil, Hazmat, WMD, Natural Disaster
- Provide/support mobile command post for communications and response management operations
- Command elements can serve as Incident Specific FOSC
- Serve as FOSC representative
- Logistical support, management, and coordination
- Evidence collection support
- Resource/cost documentation
- Modeling/trajectory - provide and use for decision making

Mobile Incident Command Post (MICP)
- 1 unit at each Strike Team
- Deployable by road or C-5 aircraft
- Fully self-contained:
  - Power, heat, air conditioning
  - Communications:
    - UHF, VHF, cell phones, computers, 32 phone lines, & 2 TVs
Site Safety and Monitor Services

- Site assessment and characterization
- Site Safety Plan development and enforcement
- Safety protocol development and implementation
- Supervise/monitor contractors
- Hazard identification (physical, chemical, environmental, radiological)
- Air monitoring for primary & secondary hazards
- Weather monitoring
- Multi-media sampling (air, water, soil)
- Emergency Medical Technician Support
- Medical monitoring
- Medical countermeasures for responders
- Isolate contaminated areas & support efforts to deny entry to unauthorized personnel
Oil Spill Response

Support and coordinate containment, removal, and disposal of discharges of oily substances, pollutants and contaminants that may pose unacceptable risks to the safety of the general public or that may potentially damage the environment.
WMD/HAZMAT Response

- Air & Road Response Ready Loads
  - Self Supportive 10-Person HAZMAT Team
  - 2-3 days before needing re-supply
- Carries required PPE to safely assess, mitigate, control, and remove hazards
- Containment/Decon Capabilities
- Remote Sensing Capabilities

23-ft Hazmat trailer can be deployed via vehicle or C-130 aircraft
Hazards Mitigation and Source Control

- Level A, B, & C capabilities (full hazmat team capable)
- Entry, Backup and Decon for responder
- Pre-stage equipment for threats of release
- Safe salvage & transfer operation oversight
- Damage control assessment/assistance (Railcars, containers, IMO tanks, tank trucks)
- Plugging/patching (Chlorine Kits)
- Lightering/pumping
- Waste characterization and disposal advice and coordination
WMD / RAD

• Natural extension of HAZMAT response – Crime Scene
• Field presumptive detection for chemical warfare agents
• Radiation detection instruments for alpha, beta, gamma and neutron (include isotopic identification)
Biological Response Capabilities

• **Field presumptive detection capability**
  – Multi-media sampling (air, water, soil) for laboratory analysis and conduct
  – Presumptive on-site field testing for initial response actions (Guardian BTA/Smart Tix)

• **Conduct**
  – Site assessment and characterization
  – Mitigation
  – Source control
  – Hazard removal
All Hazard Detection & Sampling

Confined Space Entry

Mini-ANDROS II Robot

32 Foot Utility Boat
Real World Experience: World Trade Center

Air Monitoring

Damage Surveys

Command & Control

Health & Safety
Real World Experience:
Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, & Ike

More than 8.5 million total gallons spilled
Real World Experience: U. S. Capitol Incidents
Anthrax & Ricin Threats
Real World Experience: Anthrax – 31 Downing Street
West Village, NYC
Real World Experience: Anthrax Decon- Danbury, CT

Danbury cleans up

Crews work to rid Padanaram Road house of anthrax
Real World Experience: Athos I Response (Delaware River)

265,000 Gallons of Venezuelan Crude
Real World Experience: Diaz Chemical – Holley, NY
Real World Experience: Binghamton Floods
Real World Experience: Container Ship Rio Puelo
Real World Experience: National Special Security Events

2009 POTUS Inauguration
Democratic and Republican National Conventions
Real World Experience: US Airways plane down in Hudson River
DOG
DEPLOYABLE OPERATIONS GROUP
THE FIRST YEAR OF THE DOG
MSRT MSST PSU STRIKE TEAMS TACLET NAVAL COASTAL WARFARE
Force Package / Joint OPS
LT Mike Weaver
Operations Officer
Atlantic Strike Team

Office: (609) 724-0008
Cell: (609) 351-7155