

## **BOARD OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

1:30 TO 2:30 PM

GEMA/HS HEADQUARTERS

TRAINING ROOM

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Homer Bryson, Vice Chairperson  
Philip Peacock, Secretary  
Col. Mark McDonough  
Chris Carr  
Gary Black  
Calvin Rhodes  
Kyle Sapp  
Bill Cowsert  
Chief Erika Shields (via conference call)

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Vic Reynolds  
MG Thomas Carden  
Mark Williams  
Kathleen Toomey  
Richard Woods  
Russell McMurry  
Alan Powell

#### **Representatives Present:**

Major Stephen Adams  
Larry Barnes  
Col. Marc Belscamper  
Scott Dutton  
Garry McGiboney  
Scott Minarcine

The Board of Homeland Security held the board meeting on February 5, 2020 at the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. A List of Attendees, the Agenda, and the Meeting Presentation are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2, and #3. Director Homer Bryson called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

All board members are present except Director Vic Reynolds with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Adjutant General Thomas Carden with the Georgia Department of Defense, Commissioner Mark Williams with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner Kathleen Toomey with the Georgia Department of Public Health, Superintendent Richard Woods with the Georgia Department of Education, Russell McMurry with the Georgia Department of Transportation, and Representative Alan Powell with the Georgia House of Representatives.

Vice Chairperson Homer Bryson welcomed everyone to the GEMA/HS Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

## **Roll Call**

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Vice Chairperson Homer Bryson presented the minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting for discussion and approval. Sheriff Kyle Sapp made a motion to approve the minutes. Attorney General Chris Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

Vice Chairperson Homer Bryson asked the Board for discussion on any old business. No further business to discuss.

### **New Business:**

Harlan Proveaux introduced the newest employee for the Homeland Security Division, Dennis Valone, Operations Intelligence Manager. The presentation today is being presented by Mike Goelz with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), Tod Keys with GEMA/HS, Christopher Cooper with the Georgia Department of Defence (DOD), and Seth Perry with the DOD.

#### **a) Multi-Agency Response**

Mike Goelz provided information about the GBI and their All-Hazard Response. Bomb Disposal Units primary responsibility is to support state and local authorities in response to IED's, clearing suspicious packages, hazardous material, helping with post blast investigations and supporting SWAT and tactical teams. We do that in a couple different ways, first is assault support, integrating our bomb support into a tactical team. Provide them with a robotic platform to help with their operations and with explosive breaching. Areas that we cover include all parts of the state that doesn't already have a bomb squad, 11 bomb squads currently statewide. GA is a pretty unique state in that the EOD community really works well integrating together.

Our assets with the bomb disposal unit, there are 27 agents assigned, the idea is to have them spread across the state so there is a 30 to 60-minute response time. There is a pretty good blanket across the state. Our technicians receive a lot of advanced training, the full list is attached in the packet. Another key thing about the bomb technicians have a response vehicle that they work out of daily. The vehicles include equipment such as x-ray machines, render safe equipment, different tools so if there is a need for them to go straight to a scene, one that would be a category A situation involving imminent loss of life, then they can go straight there without any other assets.

Once we get past a quick response, there are six large response vehicles and three quick response vehicles spread out across the State. The six large response vehicles have a variety of equipment and tools needed for response such as: chemical biological monitoring equipment, bomb suits, decontamination stations built into the side of the vehicle, and we have those placed around other large populations across the state. With Metro-Atlanta, we have a few more simply because of the area and population we must cover. Three QRV vehicles which are smaller, but essentially

carry the same supplies. They are a little less capability simply because of size, they don't have the decontamination station, they aren't as equipped for a chemical/biological situation. There are four containment vessels, two of them are what we call, total containment vessels. They can contain chemical and biological; they are a special pressurized system. There are only 12 of these teams right now nationwide, GA is team 10 and it provides a lot of resources. It includes many additional tools and resources that typically we wouldn't have such as electrical counter measures. The military would have that, but this is GA's first access to it and other high end render safe tools. The Bomb Disposal Unit provides tactical support for EOD integration, robotics operations, and explosive breaching. During special events, the Unit provides on scene bomb technician support to minimize response time and utilizes a strike team approach. Bomb Disposal Unit includes Awareness Training, Analytical Support through the Georgia Information Sharing & Analysis Center (GISAC), EOD Paging System, and the Stabilization Program.

There were additional questions about the Hazards response. It was clarified that it is a regional response based here in Georgia. So, if surrounding states requested assets, half would go aid. The next phase of that response after the stabilization team does their portion, what they do is try to mitigate the problem or minimize the problem, so it doesn't progress any further. Next is the render safe unit, which is a group that fly's down out of DC that provides a ton of equipment and expertise in dismantling those types of devices (WMD's).

There were also questions about frequency that these teams are called to dismantle bombs. Recently, changes were made to the data collection process, but it would be an underestimate to say about 200 calls a year. That covers anything from a suspicious package or an unattended package. It all depends on threat assessment, right so if there is something that is in an open area with not too much around, that is less urgent. Pipe bombs are a frequent occurrence and it's just people experimenting and don't know what they are doing. Many times, these are tied to drug cases, old explosives, and old military equipment.

Tod Keys discussed the EOD K9 Program with GEMA/HS. The program began in 2008 to help support the bomb squads in the State. There is a one-hour response rate for eighteen teams spread out across the State in 2008. Each team received a vehicle, training aids, and storage. Today there are sixty-eight teams through the local sheriff department, police departments, other state agencies, got them new vehicles, training aids, bunkers to store training aids, and bomb equipment that they would need to respond. Training, if you request assistance, anyone that we send you is trained the same way. There is an annual certification for the K9s, and they are trained on twenty-one different odors. We went out and offered grants, we will help with equipment and training, if you help us respond to events. We have teams with Georgia Department of Corrections, University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern, and Georgia Department of Public Safety (etc.).

Training is an important part of the EOD K9 response, every week there are a least 3 days on which we are providing some sort of training across the state. We must make sure they are staying proficient. There are 3 training facilities, one in Richmond County, Chatham County, and our Metro-Training facility. We have 6 instructors with these. Quarterly we bring more of the teams in together to provide advanced training and then annually we bring in about 45 of those teams to recap the basics and work our way up to the advanced throughout the week. The EOD

K9 Teams are capable of sterility sweeps, bomb threats, search warrants, suspicious packages, post blast, VIP details, Presidential visits, and special events strike teams. Over 5,000 sterility sweeps last year: schools, dignitaries, bomb threats, search warrants. Also do a lot of post blast training, to teach the dogs to work through the odor to ensure there isn't a secondary device. This year there will be sixty-five teams at the NCAA Final Four in Atlanta, GA. Had 171 teams for the Super Bowl last year. For 2020, they have already received eighty-five requests to help. We do strike team training so when we go to a special event, we form as a strike team. Gun searches, you would be surprised how many gun searches we perform. It is a valuable tool for Georgia.

Bomb dog code State Certification Standards through POST, teams must come back and certify annually. They have to attend a basic handler's class and apprenticeship. We want to take our standards and get the buy in from the teams. We did this back in 2008 and again 6 months ago when we updated the standards. These standards are not just something thrown together. We have an all hazards working group that meet quarterly to discuss these and other issues. We want to make those State Standards with POST.

Captain Christopher Cooper and Lt. Seth Perry presenting on the overall response capabilities for weapons of mass destruction Civil Support Team (CST). There are 57 teams across the country, 22 on each team (18 Army; 4 Air Force). The way we operate once we are notified of an incident, we have 90 minutes for the advanced party to get out and move towards the incident. From that point we have 3 hours to get the rest of our main body out to the site. We are based out of Dobbins Air Force Base, so depending on where the incident is, will influence the duration of travel to site. Takes about 3 years to get a CST person trained to minimum standards. Getting to the larger response capabilities such as the CERFP (6 hours to get off ground) and HRF (6-12 hours response time). CST is full time while CERFP and HRF are part time and have guardsmen, hence the longer response time. If an incident is something we can't manage on our own, we reach out through the State JOC for additional assistance.

The mission of the CST is to support the civil authorities at a domestic incident site during specified events. We are a tool, a resource, and an asset. We do this through four different key tasks. Their key tasks are to identify, assess, advise, and assist. The capabilities of the CST are reconnaissance, sample collection, lab analysis, research, nationwide communications connectivity, voice, data, and imagery, limited medical support, decontamination, modeling, and can operate for up to seventy-two hours. They use a few different types of vehicles depending on the event. The team is broken down into six sections: command, operations, admin, logistics, medical and analytical, communications and survey. There are twenty-two members on the team, and they can split into two teams if needed. For special events, can break down into six- two-man teams, but equipment is limited. Response equipment overview as all as the number of missions by year. You will see a spike in 2012 and 2017, the first is when the CST first began working the GA Dome and the 2017 is when Atlanta United opened. The resets occur after that year when they figure out sustainment operations with that number of events.

The next Board of Homeland Security meeting will be on April 1, 2020 at GEMA/HS in the Training Room.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chairperson Homer Bryson adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM.

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Presentation

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Chief Erika Shields

**Representatives:**

Major Stephen Adams  
Larry Barnes  
Col. Marc Belscamper  
Scott Dutton  
Garry McGiboney  
Scott Minarcine

**Others Attending:**

Christopher Cooper  
Mike Goelz  
Joey Greene  
Gary Kelley  
Eric Kennedy  
Ashley Larrow  
Steve Nichols  
Seth Perry  
Laura Pfister  
Tina Piper  
Harlan Proveaux  
Ashley Seay  
Mark Sexton  
David, DHS



# Board of Homeland Security Meeting

## AGENDA

*February 5, 2020*

*1:30 - 2:30 P.M.*

**GEMA/HS Headquarters**

**Training Room**

**Atlanta, GA**

<b><u>Agenda Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker</u></b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	Homer Bryson, Vice Chairperson GEMA/HS
<b>Roll Call</b>	
<b>Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2019</b>	
<b>Old Business</b>	
<b>New Business</b>	Harlan Proveaux, Deputy Director GEMA/HS
<b>a) Multi-Agency Response</b>	Mike Goelz, GBI Tod Keys, GEMA/HS Christopher Cooper, DOD Seth Perry, DOD
<b>Adjournment</b>	



**Georgia Emergency Management  
& Homeland Security Agency**

**Board of Homeland Security**

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5 February 2020  
All-Hazards Response


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**Georgia Emergency Management  
& Homeland Security Agency**


**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

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SABT Mike Goelz  
All Hazard's Response  
5 February 2020

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

- The mission of the GBI Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) is to:
  - support public safety agencies by responding to calls for assistance related to the recovery and disposal of explosive material
  - identify and clear suspicious packages
  - render safe destructive devices
  - assist and conduct post blast crime scene investigations
  - work with SWAT teams to enhance teams' capabilities by providing assault support, robotic operations and explosive breaching
- The GBI Bomb Disposal Unit has statewide jurisdiction and assists communities not already covered by a local jurisdiction. However, GBI routinely works with the other squads and integrates seamlessly with them.

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

- Assets:
  - 27 Agents assigned to GBI BDU
  - Bomb techs are spread throughout the state with the intent to have a 30-60 minute response time
  - Techs receive training related to hazardous materials, advanced electronics, military ordinance, improvised explosives, threat assessment, assault support, post blast investigations, etc.
  - Bomb techs maintain emergency render safe tools as well as HAZMAT equipment within their vehicles



4

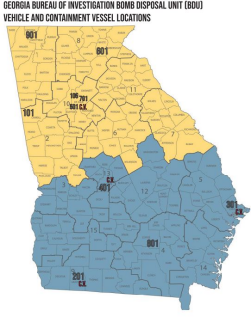


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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

Assets:

- 6 large response vehicles

GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION BOMB DISPOSAL UNIT (BDU)  
VEHICLE AND CONTAINMENT VESSEL LOCATIONS

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

Assets:

- 3 quick response vehicles




GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION BOMB DISPOSAL UNIT (BDU)  
VEHICLE AND CONTAINMENT VESSEL LOCATIONS


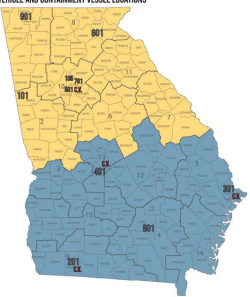
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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

Assets:

- 4 containment vessels

GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION BOMB DISPOSAL UNIT (BDU)  
VEHICLE AND CONTAINMENT VESSEL LOCATIONS

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

• Tactical Support:

- EOD integration
  - Maintain the momentum of the assault team
  - Clear a path when necessary
  - Identify and determine the hazard of any booby traps or improvised explosive device in the pathway of the assault team
  - Mitigate/render safe any explosive hazards or determine if it can be bypassed
  - Clear hostages for booby traps or IED threats
- Robotic operations
  - Barricade situations
  - Negotiations – two way audio
  - Surveillance platform
  - Breaching
  - Distraction and other uses
- Explosive breaching



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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

- Special Events
  - Provide on scene bomb technician coverage for large events, protests and incidents that are potential targets for terrorism - minimizes response time
  - Typically utilize a strike team approach that provides a comprehensive multi-discipline response



Bomb squad sweeping venues for National Championship

HAPPENING NOW  
Championship Countdown  
#GIBOMBDISPOSAL

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

- Awareness Training
  - GBI BDU provides training for other law enforcement agencies, first responders, school administrators and crime scene investigators
  - Results in a more knowledgeable and alert group of first responders
  - Provides a plan and understanding of how to react to bomb threats



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GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
BOMB DISPOSAL UNIT  
GBI

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**



GISAC  
GEORGIA INFORMATION SHARING & ANALYSIS CENTER

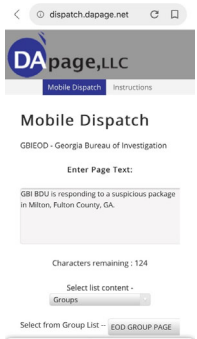
- Analytical Support
  - GISAC assigned analyst assist GBI BDU and other bomb squads throughout the state
  - Regularly provides information related to criminal threats and homeland security issues/threats
  - Additional liaison and information sharing with other bomb squads

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

- EOD Paging System
  - Provides statewide situational awareness
  - Assists with allocating resources
  - Promotes additional information sharing and cooperation amongst EOD counterparts



dispatch.dspage.net

DApage, LLC  
Mobile Dispatch Instructions

Mobile Dispatch  
GBIEOD - Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Enter Page Text:  
GBI BDU is responding to a suspicious package in Milton, Fulton County, GA.

Characters remaining: 124

Select list content - Groups

Select from Group List - EOD GROUP PAGE

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**GBI- Bomb Disposal Unit**

- Stabilization Program
  - WMD identification, diagnostics and mitigation capabilities
  - Primary focus is IND and RDD
  - Provides access to additional intelligence information, equipment and training
  - Marble Challenge



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**Questions?**

www.gema.ga.gov (404) 635-7000 @GeorgiaEMA

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**Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency**

**GEMA/HS: EOD K9 Program**

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Tod Keys  
All Hazard's Response  
5 February 2020

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**EOD K9 Program**

- History of the Program
- 2008
- 1 Hour Response
- 18 teams
- Augmented Existing Teams
- Vehicles
- Training Aids
- Storage Bunker




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**EOD K9 Program**

- 68 team
- Local-Sheriff Department, Police Department
- State
- GSP, Capitol Police, MCCD, GaDOC, UGA, GTPD, Georgia Southern



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**EOD K9 Program: Training**



- Richmond County Sheriff Office
- Chatham County Sheriff's Office
- Department of Public Safety-GSP/Capitol Police
- Weekly
- Quarterly
- Annual
- Specialty Event Training
- 81 Training Events-2019

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**EOD K9 Program**

- Annual Certification
- Teams Trained on 21 Odors



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**EOD K9 Program: Capabilities**

- Sterility Sweeps
- Bomb Threats
- Search Warrants
- Unattended/Suspicious Packages
- Post Blast
- VIP Details-Presidential Visits




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**EOD K9 Program: Capabilities**

- Special Events-Strike Teams
- Mercedes Benz Stadium-Final Four
- 65 Teams
- Master's-10 teams
- Saint Patrick's Day Parade 12 Teams
- NASCAR
- Atlanta Braves




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**EOD K9 Program: Capabilities**

- Georgia World Congress Center
- Georgia Port Authority
- 75 Events-2020
- Gun Searches



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**EOD K9 Program**

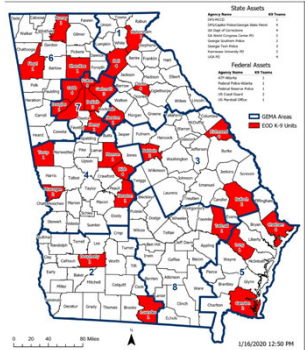
- Bomb Dog Code
- State Certification Standards-POST

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**EOD K9 Program**

- Handout Packet
- Team Map
- List of Teams
- State Standards
- Explosive Odors
- Bomb Dog Code
- 2018-2019 EOD K9 Program Stats



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# Questions?

www.gema.ga.gov
(404) 635-7000
@GeorgiaEMA

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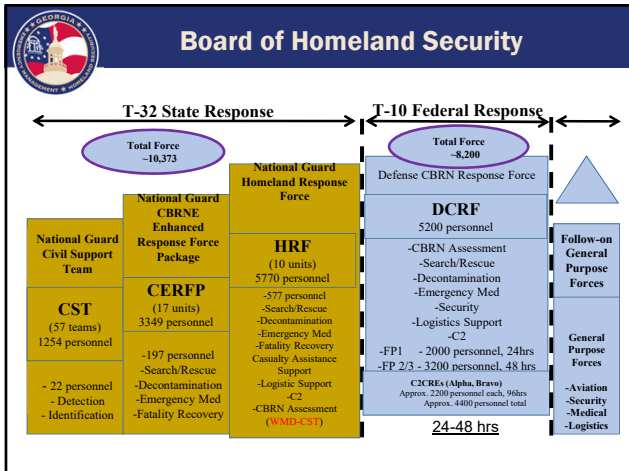
## Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

### DOD- 4<sup>th</sup> Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team

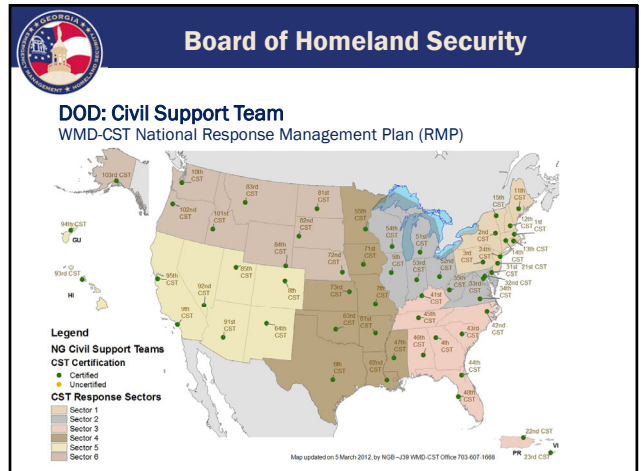


Christopher Cooper, CPT, GANG  
Deputy Commander  
All Hazard's Response  
5 February 2020

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**DOD: Civil Support Team**

- WMD-CST Mission: Support civil authorities at a domestic incident site during specified events, which include:
  - Use or threatened use of WMD
  - Terrorist attack or threatened terrorist attack
  - Intentional or unintentional release of CBRN, toxic, and poisonous chemicals
  - Natural or manmade disasters in the U.S.




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**DOD: Civil Support Team**

- Key Tasks:
  - IDENTIFY Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear hazards.
  - ASSESS current/ projected hazard consequences to responders and local pop.
  - ADVISE the Incident Commander on additional response measures.
  - ASSIST with requests for additional State and Federal support (CERFP/ HRF).




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**DOD: Civil Support Team**

- Capabilities:
  - CBRN reconnaissance and survey operations.
  - CBRN sample collection.
  - Mobile Analytical Laboratory analysis of CBRN Samples (on scene).
  - CBRN agent research/ reach-back to additional SMEs.
  - Nationwide Communications Connectivity
  - Voice (Secure/non-secure), Data (Secure/non-secure) & Imagery
  - Limited medical support (1 x PA and 1 x Medic (68W))
  - Technical / emergency decontamination (small scale; 6-10 pax)
  - Modeling and downwind hazard predictions
  - Designed to operate for up to 72 hours




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**DOD: Civil Support Team**

**SURVEY** **MRV** **UCSB2** **ADVON**

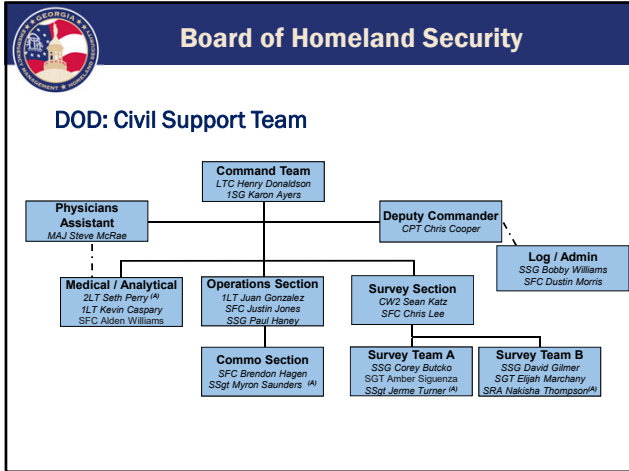




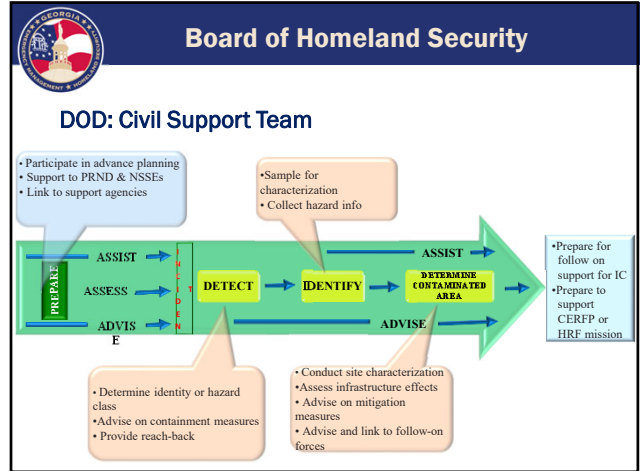

**ALS** **DECON**




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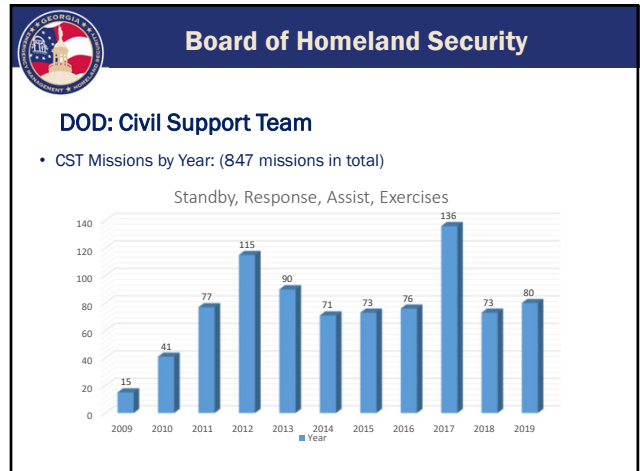
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#### DOD: Civil Support Team

- JHAT Response Equipment

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### DOD: Civil Support Team

- Points of Contact:
  - Commander LTC Henry F. Donaldson  
678-569-3706  
[henry.f.donaldson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:henry.f.donaldson.mil@mail.mil)
  - First Sergeant, 1SG Karon J. Ayers  
678-656-3819  
[karon.j.ayers2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:karon.j.ayers2.mil@mail.mil)

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# Questions?

[www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov) (404) 635-7000 @GeorgiaEMA

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