

Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST)/Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Overview Briefing

03/01/2024



Nuclear Emergency Support Team NA-84 (NEST)

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Mission

NEST is DOE/NNSA's flexible, scalable, and tailorable capability to respond to nuclear / radiological incidents and accidents of any size or variety in the United States and abroad.

Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

- NEST protects major public events
- NEST supports WMD defeat operations
- Provides assessment, disposition and forensic exploitation of nuclear and radiological devices

Nuclear Weapon Accident / Incident Response

- NEST responds to accidents involving U.S. nuclear weapons
- NEST responds to incidents involving a lost or stolen U.S. nuclear weapon

Public Health & Safety

- NEST responds to protect the public from accidents, incidents or other concerns that involve radiological or nuclear material

Nuclear Forensics Response

- NEST maintains a forensics response capability in support of pre-detonation nuclear materials, pre-detonation device assessment, and post-detonation debris collections & device assessment



The Nation's Federal first responders providing technical leadership and operational expertise to plan, prepare, and respond to radiological/nuclear crisis operations and consequence management events.



- Agile, scalable, and rapidly-deployable Federal first response capability.
- Leverages DOE's scientific and operational expertise to enhance the Nation's integrated response capability:
 - Training and partnering with other Federal, tribal, State, and local agencies;
 - Technical leadership and assistance during planning, preparedness, and response operations.

RAP Personnel

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DOE Regions:

- Regional Program Manager
- Regional Operations Manager
- Equipment Coordinator
- Training Coordinator
- Outreach Coordinator
- Federal Team Leaders (FTL)
- Laboratory personnel - about 25 per Region

Approximately 305 total RAP Team Members across the country.



RAP Deployable Teams

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- Federal Team Leader (FTL): Federal leadership representing DOE/NNSA during deployment operations.
- Team Captain (TC): Contractor management during a response to an accident or incident.
- Team Scientist (TS): Provides technical data assessment and analysis.
- Health Physics Support Personnel (HPSP): Responsible for executing the response mission as directed by the TC.
- Standard team size of 8. Modified based on the event.



RAP Mission Areas

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Consequence Management: activities occurring after a known or suspected release of radioactive materials.

- Characterize extent of incident and assess any contamination.
- Advise decision-makers on courses of action to minimize danger to the public and property.



Crisis Response: key role in NNSA's counterterrorism response mission.

- Joint training and exercises with FBI, DHS, and DoD.
- Supporting mission partners at Special Events like the Super Bowl, National Political Conventions, and State of the Union Address.
- Support law enforcement searches for lost or stolen radioactive materials.

Regional Preparedness: Coordinate and conduct regional preparedness activities with other Federal, state/local/tribal governments for joint participation in meetings, training, drills, exercises, and support for domestic preparedness.

RAP Deployment Equipment

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Equipment suite can be tailored to mission and includes:

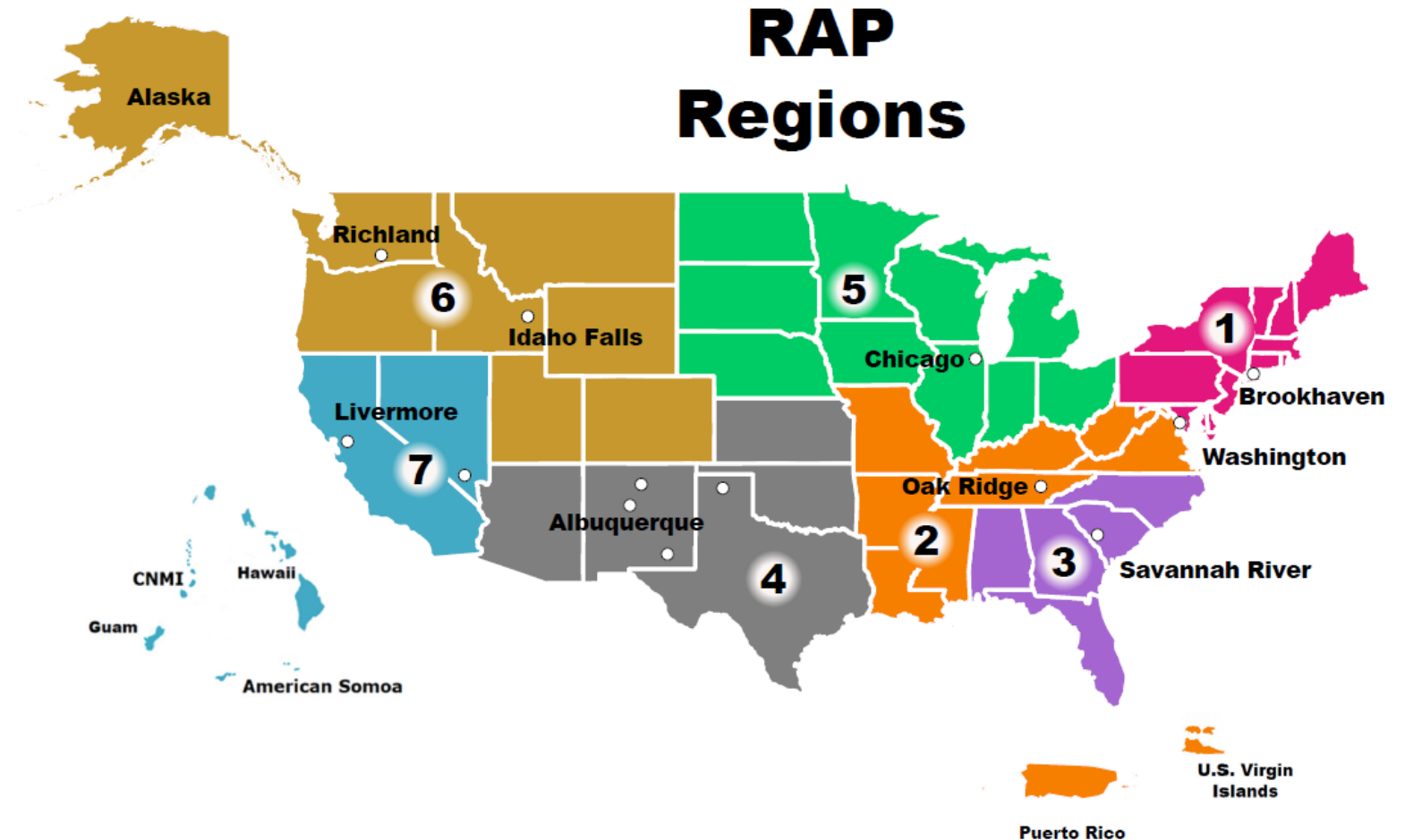
- **Crisis Response**
 - Radiological search gear (hand-held, back-pack, portable, vehicle) – Gamma & Neutron
 - Radiological identification or characterization (NaI, HPGe)
 - Advanced search and analysis tools (Search Management Center/Avid)
- **Consequence Management**
 - Contamination monitoring, air samplers and soil sample collection tools



Geographically regionalized to support rapid deployment in emergencies

Mobilized/Ready to deploy:

- within two hours of notification during normal working hours.
- within four hours of notification during off hours.



RAP Regional Alignment

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Radiological Assistance Program



Region 6: Richland

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RPM: Conrad Gilbert
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Region 5: Chicago

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RPM: Chris Allen
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Region 1: Brookhaven

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DOE/NNSA Headquarters

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Region 7: Livermore

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Region 4: Albuquerque

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Region 2: Oak Ridge

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Region 3: Savannah River

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