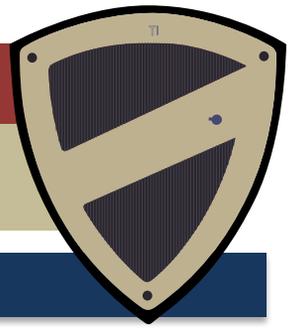


# Vigilant Guard 2015 Fact Sheet



## 55<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction)

### WHAT IT IS

The 55<sup>th</sup> CST identifies chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents and substances, assesses current and projected consequences, advises on response measures and assists with requests for additional support.

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Civil support teams are on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to respond. Advance teams deploy within 90 minutes of notification. The CST is federally funded with state-level control through the National Guard chain of command, which eliminates many restrictions against working with domestic emergency services. CSTs are restricted to domestic missions only and provide a free service to the communities they serve.

### UNIT COMPOSITION

CSTs are comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guardsmen and divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical/analytical and survey. [www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/55cst](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/55cst)

### SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

CSTs are equipped with cutting-edge field technology including military and commercial off-the-shelf equipment including two advanced communications platforms and a mobile chemical and biological analytical laboratory.

### LOCATIONS

There are 57 WMD-CSTs located in each state, U.S. territory and Washington D.C.; with two each in California, Florida and New York.

### TRAINING

Members receive more than 650 hours of HAZMAT and high-tech training tailored to their position and each CST conducts continuous unit training with local, state and federal emergency responders. Each CST is certified by the Secretary of Defense and undergoes external evaluations on an 18-month cycle to ensure they maintain their proficiency.

