**Army National Guard (ARNG) Crisis Action Team (CAT)**

**What is it?**

The ARNG Crisis Action Team (CAT) is the main effort for the ARNG staff to respond to domestic crises and high profile events. The CAT immediately supports ARNG with centralized operational and decision-making capabilities to effectively source, allocate, and apply ARNG resources to the requesting State(s). The CAT may be elevated for incidents due to terrorist threats or attacks, major disasters, other emergencies, or planned events. The CAT works closely with the National Guard Coordination Center (NGCC) and is comprised of subject matter experts (SMEs) from all of the ARNG Divisions. Under normal conditions, the CAT maintains a 24/7 Watch Team, CAT Level Alpha. During a crisis, the CAT may elevate to a robust posture at CAT Level Delta, represented by all functional areas providing 24/7 operational assistance including sourcing solutions to the affected States/Territories. The CAT responds to Requests for Assistance (RFAs) and Requests for Information (RFIs) from the States, the NGCC, HQDA, and other Government agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**What has the National Guard accomplished?**

Prior to Hurricane Irene making landfall, the CAT was elevated to fully-staffed(Level Delta) and executed 24-hour operations (for a period of over 96 hours). During that time the CAT was proactive in pre-planning force packages to provide to States should the need arise. Two Aviation Task Forces (ATFs) were assembled. The ATFs prepositioned rotary-wing capabilities in Initial Staging Bases (ISBs) where they were readily available to provide assistance upon State request. The ATFs provided required aviation assets to augment the existing capabilities of the coastal States. A similar concept was used to develop Ground Task Forces (GTFs) based on essential capabilities that ARNG staff projected might be required. Ultimately, the GTFs were directed to stand down before occupying the ISBs due to a weakening storm and a reduced expectation of State requirements. In addition, the CAT maintained high frequency radio communications, telephone, and email contact with the affected States to ensure that ARNG could communicate and meet any State requirements.

**Why is this important to the National Guard?**

Maintaining the CAT provides constant visibility and communication regarding threat conditions and significant events. The CAT also provides planning and operational capacity for the ARNG staff to support State and Federal requirements. Support is developed to meet any capability gaps in the ten essential functions of mission command, medical, communications, logistics, transportation, engineering, civil support, maintenance, security, and aviation.

**What continued efforts does the program have planned for the future?**

The ARNG CAT conducts exercises on a quarterly basis ensuring team members are trained in the programs used by the CAT. This includes the Joint Information Exchange Environment (JIEE) and Defense Connect Online (DCO). Periodic exercises integrate the functions of the ARNG Staff into a combined effort to support an event. Future improvements include the incorporation of Public Affairs and Legal subject matter experts (SMEs).

**Resources:**

<http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=13580>

<http://www.defense.gov/news/d20100603HRF.pdf>