FBI HMRU

- FBI Laboratory
  - Operational Response Section
- Located at the FBI Academy
  - Laboratory Building
Mission

- Provide technical and scientific response to FBI Investigations involving Hazardous Materials, including Weapons of Mass Destruction.

- Provide training for FBI personnel involved in “down range” HazMat or WMD operations.

- Provide safety oversight at “high hazard” FBI Crime Scenes.
HMRU Staff

- **Supervisory Special Agents**
  - Expertise in ERT/HMRT Team Management and National WMD policy.

- **Hazardous Materials Officers, Paramedics & Specialists**

- **PhD Scientists & Radiological Specialists**
  - Career professionals with backgrounds in Biological, Chemical and Radiological Sciences.

- **Operational Support Staff**
  - Program Analysts and Logistics Specialists to support HMRU Administrative and Operational Missions.
FBI Field HMRT’s

- 27 Teams
- Respond with HMRU to Incidents
- Collect Evidence at WMD or other Hazardous Crime scenes
- FBI Special Agents and Professional Support Employees
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAMS

WESTERN REGION
- Anchorage (Satellite)
- Seattle
- Portland
- San Francisco
- Los Angeles
- San Diego
- Honolulu (Satellite)

CENTRAL REGION
- Kansas City
- Minneapolis
- Chicago
- Detroit
- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh

SOUTHEAST REGION
- Atlanta
- New Orleans
- Tampa
- Miami
- San Juan (Satellite)

NORTHEAST REGION
- Boston
- New York
- Newark
- Baltimore
- Washington, DC
- Norfolk
- Salt Lake City
- Norfolk

Operational HMRTs: 27
Satellite Teams: 3
HMRU Response Matrix

- At Request of Field Division, LEGAT
  - Threat Assessment
    - Tier 1
  - Response
    - Tier 2
      - Assessment, Escort, Safety Officer, Tactical Team Support
    - Tier 3
      - Tier 2 with Addition of Field HMRT
    - Tier 4
      - Tier 3 with Additional Scientific Equipment
HMRU Missions
1996 – May 2007

- 519 Response Missions
- 105 Special Events
- 13 National Level Exercises
Why Do We Collect Evidence?

- “to establish facts...in courts of law” *(def.)*
- Reconstruct the Crime Scene
  - What happened?
  - How did it happen?
  - Who committed the crime?
  - When did it happen?
  - Where did it happen?
- Identify and prosecute the Perpetrator
  - Traditional Forensic Evidence
  - Attribution of Evidence to Source
Collection of Evidence

- Samples collected from crime scene are potential evidence.
- Evidence collection requires the use of ERT Procedures, including:
  - Evaluation of possible physical evidence
  - Narrative description
  - Photographs of crime scene
  - Sketch/Diagram of crime scene
  - Detailed Search; Record and Collect Evidence
  - Final Survey
  - Release of Crime Scene
Types of Evidence Collected

- CBRN Materials
  - Bulk or samples (swabs, wipes)

- Traditional Forensic Evidence contaminated with Hazardous Materials

- Bulky Evidence
  - e.g., Mailbox, sprayer
Problems with Handling Hazardous Evidence

- Issues common to collection and examination of CBRN evidence
  - Material is inherently dangerous
  - Risk spread of contamination
  - Need to maintain integrity of the evidence
- Need to minimize the hazardous risk to personnel and environment
Field Safety Screening

- Performed by HazMat Team (Local/FBI)
- To Protect Health and Safety
  - Victims
  - Responders
  - Community
  - Laboratory Personnel (PH and Forensic)
- Provide Initial Characterization of the Hazard
Field Safety Screening

- Explosives/Devices
- Radiological/Nuclear
- Flammables
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Corrosives
Decontamination

- Upon completion of evidence collection:
  - Overpacked evidence & personnel are decontaminated
    - to preserve public health & safety
    - to prevent spread of contamination
    - to prevent cross-contamination in laboratory
Questions?