

CBRN SPECIALIST BASIC COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE CBRN SPECIALIST IS TO ENSURE THEIR UNIT IS TRAINED AND READY TO SURVIVE AND OPERATE IN A CBRN ENVIRONMENT. THESE DUTIES INCLUDE TRAINING MARINES IN INDIVIDUAL SURVIVAL MEASURES AND CBRN DEFENSE TEAM OPERATIONS, OPERATING IN THE CBRN CONTROL CENTER IN THE UNIT'S COMBAT OPERATIONS CENTER, MAINTENANCE OF CBRN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, AND PREPARATION OF THAT EQUIPMENT FOR DEPLOYMENT.

THE COURSE CONSISTS OF 4 MAJOR BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION.

THE MARINES BEGIN THEIR TRAINING WITH THE "BASIC SKILLS" BLOCK WHICH TEACHES THE FOUNDATION WHICH THE MARINES CONTINUE TO BUILD UPON THROUGH OUT THE COURSE. THIS INCLUDES CLASSES ON THE FIELD PROTECTIVE MASK, INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, CHEMICAL AGENTS, AN INTRODUCTION TO DECONTAMINATION AND DETECTION OPERATIONS, IMMEDIATE ACTIONS DRILLS, IMMEDIATE AND OPERATIONAL DECONTAMINATION TECHNIQUES, CONDUCTING INSTRUCTION AND THE IPE CONFIDENCE EXERCISE (CS CHAMBER).

THE SECOND BLOCK IS THE "HAZARD PREDICTION" BLOCK. THE MARINES RECEIVE INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO PLOT CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR INCIDENTS, PREDICTING THE RESULTING AREAS OF CONTAMINATION, AND WHAT ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED ONCE AN INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED.

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THE THIRD BLOCK OF INSTRUCTION IS THE "CONTAMINATION AVOIDANCE" BLOCK. DURING THIS BLOCK THE MARINES WILL LEARN HOW TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF CONTAMINATION AND MAINTAIN THE OPERATIONAL TEMPO OF THEIR UNIT BY LOCATING AND AVOIDING CONTAMINATION AFTER A CBRN INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED. CLASSES INCLUDED CONTAMINATION AVOIDANCE TECHNIQUES, VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL DETECTION EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT, AND TECHNIQUES FOR MONITORING, SURVEY AND RECONNAISSANCE.

THE FOURTH AND FINAL BLOCK OF INSTRUCTION IS THE "DECONTAMINATION" BLOCK. THIS BLOCK TEACHES THE MARINES TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES FOR THOROUGH DECONTAMINATION OF PERSONNEL, CONTAMINATED CASUALTIES, AND MARINE CORPS EQUIPMENT ASSETS INCLUDING AIRCRAFT.

FOR EACH OF THE BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION, THE MARINES RECEIVE HOURS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION, AND CONDUCTED NUMEROUS PRACTICAL APPLICATION EXERCISES DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THE SKILLS LEARNED. THEN THE MARINES ARE EVALUATED BY SEPARATE WRITTEN AND PERFORMANCE EXAMINATIONS TO VERIFY THE PROFICIENCY OF THE SKILLS THEY LEARNED.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION, THE MARINES TRAIN IN AN ACTUAL TOXIC CHEMICAL AGENT ENVIRONMENT AT THE CHEMICAL DEFENSE TRAINING FACILITY LOCATED

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HERE ABOARD FORT LEONARD WOOD, DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THE SKILLS THE MARINES LEARNED AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CBRN EQUIPMENT THAT THE MARINES RECEIVED INSTRUCTION ON.

THE MARINES TRAINING CULMINATES WITH A THREE DAY FINAL FIELD EXERCISE. DURING WHICH THEY APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THEY LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COURSE, FOCUSING HEAVILY ON CONTROL CENTER OPERATIONS, MONITOR/SURVEY PROCEDURES, ALL THREE LEVELS OF DECONTAMINATION OPERATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL UNIT LEADERSHIP.