

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

National Urban Security Technology Laboratory

Responder Training and Exercise Program

Securing the Homeland from Rad/Nuc Threats

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) operates a Responder Training and Exercise (RTE) program to support the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office's (DNDO) Securing the Cities program (STC)¹. Launched in 2006, STC seeks to design and implement an architectural framework of coordinated and integrated detection and interdiction systems to prevent the entry of illicit radiological materials into major metropolitan areas. STC now serves multiple regions including the New York City metropolitan area, Los Angeles/Long Beach and the National Capital Region. Houston and Chicago are the next cities, planned for 2015 and subsequent years.

Expanding Detection for Early Intervention

STC allows cities to leverage surrounding law enforcement agencies as a force multiplier in regional law enforcement agencies' counterterrorism efforts. STC works closely with agencies in and around cities to push radiation detection technology both within and beyond their borders. By expanding detection capabilities, a protected city becomes enveloped in a layered detection framework, with each tier providing additional opportunities to uncover threats.

Partnering with State and Local First Responders

As part of STC, state, regional and local first responders acquire radiation detection tools. Prior to operational deployment of these tools, NUSTL's Performance Test and Evaluation (PTEN) program tests each unit to verify that the equipment operates properly. Beyond testing, the PTEN team continues to provide follow-up support to end users by assisting them with any operational issues associated with the equipment, as well as supporting their training and exercise needs.

Responder Training and Exercise Support

NUSTL's RTE program supports state and local first responder training programs in the use of radiation detection equipment by providing radioactive sources, training equipment and technical expertise. Training sessions address topics on radioactivity including radiation dispersal devices and improvised nuclear devices, use of the radiation detector equipment, CONOPS and legal concepts.

As part of its RTE effort, the NUSTL team provides the following services:

- Health physicists and other technical staff to manage and monitor the safe and legal use, transport, and source control of radioactive sources used in trainings;
- Training materials, equipment and training manuals; and
- Radioactive sources and support staff for special exercises.



Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police officers prepare to instruct recruits during a radiation detection training class at their Police Academy using radiation sources provided by NUSTL.

Since its inception, NUSTL's RTE program, has assisted in the training of approximately 1,500 state and local first responders during more than 100 training events with state and local agencies throughout the New York City metropolitan area. Supported agencies include the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department, New York Naval Militia, Connecticut State Police, New Jersey State Police, Nassau County Police Department, Suffolk County Police Department, New York City Fire Department and Westchester County Police Department.

1. See www.federalgrants.com/Securing-the-Cities-STC-Program-44822.html
2. See the NUSTL [PTEN Fact Sheet](#) for a description of the PTEN program.

