

# Rescue specialists training in CS

## Group receiving instruction for anti-terrorism attack called to duty

*Eagle Staff Report*

Almost 50 rescue specialists from across the country were in College Station on Tuesday receiving instruction at the nation's only anti-terrorism training center.

It was the second day of the weeklong program when all were ordered either to report back home or to New York or Washington.

The horrors they were preparing for had actually struck. Duty called.

"It's the exact stuff that is going to be applied here in the next several weeks in the state of New York," said Capt. David Potter of the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue team. Among the lessons being taught were how to move heavy objects and cut through steel.

Forty-eight emergency workers just like Potter were chosen to participate in the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center program, which is operated by the Texas Engi-

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**CAPT. DAVID POTTER**

*Michigan Urban  
Search and Rescue team*

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neering Extension Service. The group was training alongside members of Texas Task Force 1, the state's search and rescue team.

Many now will fly together to the East Coast to put their skills to work.

Tim Gallagher, leader of Texas Task Force 1, said he expects the job ahead will last for weeks, if not longer.

"One of the guesstimates was that it was four times what Oklahoma City was," said Gallagher, who was among the scores of rescue workers from across the country sent to the nation's first domestic terrorism disaster in

1995.

The program he operates is designed to take counterterrorism training nationwide to non-military rescuers: firefighters, public works and utility personnel and public health workers.

High-tech tools and virtual reality simulators are melded into a training regimen that includes props collapsing under the force of mighty explosions.

Disaster City, as the mock city is called, is located beside the nation's largest fire school, the Brayton Training Center.

That facility annually trains 16,000 fire and emergency response personnel from each state and 30 different countries. Disaster City is expected to train more than 20,000 emergency workers each year on how to react to biological and chemical warfare.

Now in its second year, instructors with the program already have taught classes across the United States, including in New York and Washington.