



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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For Immediate Release

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MSH EMPLOYEE COMPLETES HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING

WHITFIELD— Emergency Responder Wes Pegues, from Mississippi State Hospital, recently completed training offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Ala. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation.

The CDP develops and delivers advanced training for emergency response providers, emergency managers, and other government officials from state, local, and tribal governments. The CDP offers more than 50 training courses focusing on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. As Safety Coordinator for Mississippi State Hospital, Pegues plays a vital role in the hospital's emergency response plans.

“We all know that during an emergency it is not the time to begin preparing for a response,” Pegues said. “The Technological Emergency Response Training provided hands-on experience in responding to a simulated attack that utilized weapons of mass destruction when many lives are on the line.”

On Thursday, June 23rd, Pegues and his classmates donned Level C Personal Protective Equipment and provided Incident Command and response during the simulation. The training was conducted in the nation's only chemical, ordnance, biological and radiological training facility and involved a live nerve agent.

“It not only provided me with knowledge on how to respond during a terrorist attack, but more importantly, it opened my eyes to the many dangers we face in today's world,” Pegues said.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: Wes Pegues