



Figure 5 — Regional Support Team Organization

3. Emergency Response Team — Advance Element

The ERT-A is the initial Federal group that responds to an incident in the field. It is headed by a team leader from DHS and comprises DHS program and support staff and representatives from selected ESF primary agencies. A part of the ERT-A deploys to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or to other locations to work directly with the State to obtain information on the impact of the event and to identify specific State requests for Federal response assistance that are called back to the RST for processing. Other elements of the ERT-A (including MERS personnel and equipment) deploy directly to or near the affected area to establish field communications, locate and establish field facilities, and set up operations. The ERT-A identifies or validates the suitability of candidate sites for the location of the mobilization center(s) and the DFO.