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JUNE 2010

Director- Major General Robert T. Bray

Executive Director- J. David Smith

Alex...Walter



*By J. David Smith
Executive Director*

Hurricane season 2010 officially arrived on June 1st and already there has been some talk about a storm season that is forecast to be very active. Ennui is not a word in our vocabulary this year for sure.

In preparation for hurricane season each year Major General Robert T. Bray publishes a Commander's Intent notice. The tasks and expectations are consistent with our regular planning cycle and in advance of the official season, the staff at RIEMA dusts off Appendix 1 to Annex B, Hurricane Response, under our State of Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan.

The stated purpose of the plan "is to document a State Level consequence management plan for preparing, responding to, and recovering from the effects of a hurricane striking the State of Rhode Island or the nearby region."

We will be turning to many of you as we did last year when we updated our Winter Storm Plan Annex. The participation and recommendations from city and town directors as well as state agency representatives was invaluable in an effort to improve upon process and execution. There is no question that the meeting to improve upon the hurricane plan will be another effulgent example of the success that is only possible through a shared sense of responsibility. This meeting will take place on June 24th at AMICA in Lincoln and we appreciate everyone's support.

After all, this is a statewide plan.

Many of the lessons learned from The Great Flood of 2010 will translate well for our hurricane resiliency because we know that preparedness starts with the individual. The individual as a metaphor is the person, family, or business; it is the basis for the highest probability of survival and prospect for long-term recovery.

It is time for each of you to consider direct consequence caused by hurricane force winds and flooding associated with heavy and pernicious rains as we saw during the Ides of March 2010. We did not suffer mass casualty, building collapse through fluvial morphology, liquefaction, or wind damage. We cannot predict a similar prognosis for a strong hurricane and the surge, rain, and wind that accompanies a named storm.

Therefore everyone should develop a disaster supply kit or "Go Kit" with essentials in case you must evacuate quickly. Canned food and other items that are not very perishable such as crackers, peanut butter and jelly and water (1 gallon per person/per day) which is the principle item necessary for survival are all important. First aid kits, flashlights with extra batteries, weather radios, prescriptions, pet food, matches, canned heat, personal hygiene items are all examples of those things that you will appreciate more if you do not have them.

The theme of Interdependencies promises to be a very important element of hurricane response and recovery so thanks to all of you who have signed up to participate in our annual conference on June 9th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

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June promises to be a very busy month for all of us for other reasons too. The Interoperable Communications Committee (ICC) approved the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) written by committee over the past several months. Many thanks to those who helped make that a successful endeavor. The communications during the flood event were impressive and if a hurricane knocks out some towers then these SOG's, training, and redundant systems will be even more important. Communications and all aspects of response will be discussed during the statewide Great Flood of 2010 After Action Report meeting on June 16th at the Flanagan Campus of CCRI located in Lincoln.

There is a workshop for the benefit of all communities to help them with the development of a hazard mitigation plan that is necessary to qualify for federal dollars. This will be held on June 18th at the Coastal Resource Center located at the Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island in Narragansett. Ultimately it is our number one priority to have an approved hazard mitigation plan for every city and town.

Don't forget to support the Rhode Island National Guard Open House & Air Show. This event will be held once again at Quonset and on the weekend of June 26th and 27th. See you there and as always, see you next month...



Enhancing Emergency Management Through Education

By Joseph Arsenault

The Community College of Rhode Island's Emergency/Disaster Management Certificate program is composed of six courses – five in emergency disaster management and one in technical writing – totaling 18 credits.

The program is growing and currently includes 14 students who are earning degrees in many different fields including fire science, law enforcement, general business and general studies. Students also earn their basic NIMS qualifications.

Four students recently graduated with certificates: Ingrid Campbell, who has been volunteering for Providence and Cranston EMA and is looking for work in the field; Melanie DeCesare, who is pursuing a doctorate degree that required an emergency management background; Susan Hawksley, who works in public safety at Brown University; and Dennis McGouran, who works for the Westerly Fire Department.

Started in 2003, the program is based on the Emergency Management Institute of Higher Education Project standards. Under the leadership of Maureen McGarry, CCRI's dean of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences, George Hickey put together the original curriculum.

Students take the following courses: Technical Writing; Fundamentals of Emergency Management; either Understanding Terrorism or Basic Concepts in Emergency Preparedness for Bioterrorism; Natural Disasters; Disaster Response Operations Management; and either Civilian and First Responders Impact from Disasters or a practicum in emergency management.

An associate degree proposal is moving forward, and the advisory council has developed four new courses: Emergency Planning; Disaster Resource Management; Disaster Training and Management; and Professional Development.

The internship program has been formally developed and partnerships with many of the emergency management offices in the state are forming. The associate degree program would include NIMS qualifications and other independent study courses from the Emergency Management Institute and allow students to finish with a Certificate in Professional Development.

If you are interested in participating in the program or developing an internship partnership, please contact Program Coordinator Joseph Arsenault at 401-333-7186 or e-mail jarsenault3@ccri.edu.

Number 2 From FEMA Comes to Rhode Island



Last Friday, May 28, at the invitation of Director Smith, FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino met privately with a group of local EMA Directors for a private casual fireside chat.

Mr. Serino wanted the opportunity to listen to local officials express their questions and concerns in an informal setting to better understand local issues as they relate to FEMA. After giving some brief remarks, (video will be posted on the RIEMA website) he took questions for more than one hour.



Deputy Serino listens to Richard Tucker, Scituate EMA Director.

Annual Hurricane Conference

By Amy Grzybowski

The annual Hurricane Conference is approaching fast and the recent flooding here in Rhode Island remind us why it is important to mitigate, prepare and train. The conference is scheduled for June 9 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. RIEMA is pleased to offer a full-day conference again this year. The theme is “Interdependencies” which can be defined as cascading effects. For example, if we lose power, how does that effect cascade and cause other issues for responders? We currently have speakers lined up from Verizon, National Grid, and FEMA to a name a few. Speakers will discuss a wide range of interdependency topics from communication to power to local/state/federal relationships for a registration form.

Speakers will discuss a wide range of interdependency topics from communication to power to local/state/federal relationships for a registration form. We have also asked various vendors, state agencies, and non-profits to set up informational booths. USAR, HAZMAT/DECON teams, the State Mobile Command Center, and other outside displays will be set up in the parking lot for all to view. We already have over 100 people registered to attend, and registration is still open. Please contact Michelle San Souci at michelle.sansouci@us.army.mil for a registration form.

FEMA - “A Primer”

By Edward Johnson

“As a nation, we will do everything in our power to protect our country. As Americans, we will never give in to fear or division. We will be guided by our hopes, our unity, and our deeply held values. That’s who we are as Americans...And we will continue to do everything that we can to keep America safe in the new year and beyond.”

President Barack Obama Dec. 28, 2009

The mission of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a division of the Department of Homeland Security is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that, as a nation, we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

The key responsibilities of FEMA are to manage and coordinate in concert with the state Emergency Management Agency, the response and recovery from any major domestic disaster

and emergencies of all types, in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The agency coordinates programs to improve the effectiveness of emergency response providers at all levels of government. Through the Disaster Relief Fund, FEMA provides individual and public assistance to help families and communities impacted by a declared disaster to rebuild and recover. FEMA is also responsible for helping to prepare state and local governments through their state and local programs. Additionally, FEMA administers hazard mitigation programs that reduce the risk to life and property from floods and other hazards. FEMA stands ready to provide rapid assistance and resources in emergency situations whenever state and local capabilities are overwhelmed or seriously threatened. At a disaster location, FEMA leads the Federal response and recovery effort alongside the impacted state, by providing emergency management expertise and coordinating critical support resources from across the country.

RIEMA and RIDOH Help Special Needs Population

By Kate McCarthy-Barnett

As individuals with special needs called the statewide hotline for assistance, they were provided a direct number to talk with special needs subject matter experts, who worked with local officials to meet their needs. A total of 71 direct cases of individuals with special needs were addressed.

The RI Special Needs Emergency Registry was utilized to identify individuals with special needs in the impacted areas. This information was provided to local officials to assist in the planning for evacuation. In addition, the GIS component of the RI Special Needs Emergency Registry was used for two cities to map flooded street locations and provide direct notification to individuals.

Upon receiving calls for assistance from individuals with special needs who could not evacuate on their own (e.g., multiple individuals who use wheelchairs), we worked directly with local first responders to ensure successful evacuation of individuals.

We worked with Red Cross and local officials to assess shelter accessibility and identify shelter barriers for residents with special needs; and provided check-list to be followed to ensure accessibility shelters. We also identified local pharmacies to provide medications for sheltered individuals who had diabetes and did not bring personal medications to the shelter. We worked to locate durable medical equipment for individuals whose equipment was damaged in the flood (e.g., wheelchairs, walkers). We collaborated with a local pet shelter to reconnect an individual with his comfort animal. Clean up crews to prioritized individuals with disabilities and the elderly to receive muck up and clean up assistance.

We are continuing to work with the Long Term Recovery Group to ensure that the ongoing needs of this population are met.

To be included in the Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry, you may register online at www.health.ri.gov/emregistry or you may call (401) 946-9996.

Rob Pesapane Heads Up the Road to FEMA Region I



Rob Pesapane has decided to move up the road to Boston to work for FEMA Region I. He will be sorely missed here at RIEMA, and we wish him the best of luck and continued success in his new corner office in Boston. At his farewell party, Director Smith, General Bray, and Lt. Governor Roberts all presented Rob with citations noting his accomplishments. Our loss is FEMA's gain.

Logistics Capability Assessment Tool (LCAT)

By *Kenneth Baker*

On May 18 and 19 2010, FEMA supported by four contractors and five FEMA personal from around the country were at RIEMA to conduct the LCAT. The LCAT is a self-assessment tool that is tailored for use by the states to evaluate their current disaster logistics readiness, identify areas for targeted improvement and develop a “road map” to both mitigate weaknesses and further enhance strengths



The LCAT team and Rhode Island responses to questions (with a great deal of discussion) within the LCAT which in the end produces a baseline score, from this, Rhode Island will track improvements and prioritizes projects to fund. In the coming months more will be shared on the outcome and the projects that are being worked on. If there are any questions please feel free to contact Ken Baker Logistics Manager at Kenneth.L.Baker1@us.army.mil



RIEMA Supports Disaster Exercises

During the week of May 3rd through May 7th 2010, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency had the great honor and opportunity to participate in one of the largest disaster exercises ever undertaken by the specialized, National Guard "Civilian Support Teams" (CST) here in the Country's smallest State. As many had heard on the News leading up to that week, numerous chemical, biological and radiological exercises took place on a daily basis for the entire week and in all parts of the State. Civil Support Teams from all over the Country descended upon Rhode Island to take part in these training scenarios' which were all planned by Rhode Island's own 13th CST unit along with other agencies which included the United States Coast Guard and members of the RI Emergency Management Agency.

These exercises could not have taken place without the considerable cooperation of numerous Local, State and Federal Agencies. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency provided assistance by utilizing a number of disaster response teams which included:

- Rhode Island Hazmat/Decon
- Rhode Island Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
- Rhode Island Weapons of Mass Destruction Tactical Team

The purpose of these exercises is to work through disaster plans which are on paper and test them "Real World" as best as possible during training exercises. Evaluation of exercise performance is how we become better at what we do. Another benefit of the training is inter-agency communication. It is critical, in the event of a multi-agency disaster; all entities involved learn to operate together side by side as one, towards a common goal and objective. This exercise... termed "QuahogEX" proved to be a great learning experience for all involved. From the local municipalities on up to the Department of Defense, the exercise was deemed a great success. RIEMA was a proud participant in QuahogEX along with the other 60 plus agencies which were involved. The ability of Rhode Island, to deal with a disaster (natural or manmade), has definitely been enhanced as a result of this week long exercise. We salute the 13th CST Unit and all that participated in this one of a kind training.



Operation Quahog EX



RI Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG)

State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) Theresa Murray has been working with FEMA VALs and Kate McCarthy-Barnett, the LTRG Facilitator, to create a long term recovery group comprised of RIVOAD organizations, to include the NGO's Faith Based Organizations and State and local government. The LTRG has created a mission statement and by-laws as well as established sub-committees for case management, volunteer and donations/financial management, crisis counseling and flood disaster recovery construction.

The LTRG will work in the state to assist residents who would otherwise be unable to recover from this event. Coordinated efforts of the various committees will work to meet the disaster caused unmet needs of disaster survivors. Volunteer agencies will also work to assist families in need with reconstruction of damaged residences. Church World Service

(CWS) is sponsoring a "Recovery Tools and Training Workshop" for anyone dedicated to rebuilding homes and lives. Long term recovery leadership, church leaders, community leaders, social service organizations, case workers, and emergency management officials will participate in the workshop on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes Street, Providence, RI 02908. To register for the conference, please go to www.cwserp.org and click on register.

The LTRG is in need of a volunteer to manage the recovery construction efforts. This individual should possess developer or contractor experience. Anyone interested in filling this position should contact Theresa Murray at 401-641-8022.

The next meeting of the LTRG will be held on June 16th. Please contact Theresa Murray for additional details regarding this meeting.

Log Setup Rhode Island

By Mary-Margaret Walker

How long does it take for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to set up a field office in the aftermath of a disaster like the one that hit Rhode Island? If everything goes perfectly and you have the people you need – one day.

That's according to Jarrett Devine, FEMA logistics section chief at the Joint Field Office established in Warwick for state and federal workers involved in the flood recovery effort here.

"The transformation of an empty building into an operating field office for more than 250 program and support staff, like here in Rhode Island, is a sight to see," said Craig A. Gilbert, federal coordinating officer for the Rhode Island disaster.

The whole operation begins with finding the site; a joint effort between General Services Administration (GSA) and FEMA logistics personnel. GSA is one of FEMA's disaster response partners and its responsibility is negotiating the lease, which cannot be signed until there is a Presidential disaster declaration for the state.

"We have a really short timeline," Devine said.

"Expectations are high, people want everything done yesterday, and one bump in the road can kill you." The former East Providence firefighter joined FEMA in 2000.

His first disaster assignment was 9/11 in New York City. As logistics chief, his job is getting the Joint Field Office space ready for FEMA workers arriving from across the country to assist in the disaster recovery operation.

Once the declaration is issued and the lease signed, equipment and people roll in – power and wiring; JFO kits with ladders, tables, chairs, file cabinets, partitions; computers and office supplies.

By now, the operations section has already laid out the floor plan; IT people are running the wiring and logistics is setting up the different sections – Planning, Operations, Finance and Administration, Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Mitigation, External Affairs and the supply room.

Devine says the "log" people generally already know how the different sections like to set up their spaces.

They put in partitions to separate the sections, and in no time people are at work. Offices and conference rooms are set up for the leadership – state coordinating officer, federal coordinating officer, operations chief, safety officer, security and more.

How long did it take here in Rhode Island? With only five logistics staffers setting up for over 250 people – three days.



Jay Brochu, a fourth grade teacher at the W.L. Callahan Elementary School in Harrisville, RI sent this display on natural disasters crafted by his fourth grade STEP class. Great work kids!



WPRO Program Director Paul Giammarco inducts Steve Kass, RIEMA PIO into the Rhode Island Radio Hall of Fame. Congratulations Steve!

RIEMA is now on Twitter: RhodelslandEMA

Upcoming RIEMA Courses & Training

- ICS 300
June 3-4th
Sheraton Airport Hotel - Full
- Hurricane Conference
June 9th
Crowne Plaza Hotel
- Basic Search & Rescue
June 9-10th
Camp Fogarty - Full
- Flood After Action Workshop
June 16th
CCRI Lincoln - Invitation Only
- ICS 400
June 17-18th
Radisson Airport Hotel
- Critical Incident Stress Team
June 23-24th
Hampton Inn & Suites - Invitation Only
- Hurricane Planning Workshop
June 24th
AMICA

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Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

NATIONAL AIR TRAVEL ADVISORY
HIGH
High Threat of Terrorist Attacks

MARSEC LEVEL
1 **2** **3**
SIGNIFICANT RISK



Questions?

If you have any questions Regarding this newsletter or any articles that have appeared in it, please contact:

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