



RIEMA NEWS



Volume I, Issue X

Director- Major General Robert T. Bray

May 7, 2008

Executive Director- J. David Smith

Message from RIEMA's New Director

Governor Donald L. Carcieri appointed me as Executive Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency effective 21 April 2008. The selection closes a chapter of transition for the agency but more importantly creates an opportunity for building on a solid foundation of commitment to emergency management and service to our community partners. I would like to thank our Governor for his confidence as we move forward to improve and change the tenets and practices of emergency preparedness and consequence management.

My reception at the Command Readiness Center by all of our colleagues and constituencies has been overwhelming. Ms. Diana Arcand as Deputy Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Agency has capably led the agency with the support of our resourceful staff who many of you work with on a daily basis for planning and logistical support. Please join me in thanking her and all agency workers for their tireless energy, acumen, and for just getting the job done as they always will.

Major General Robert T. Bray and his staff at the Rhode Island National Guard have welcomed me into this organization and have already provided guidance and a mentorship that is indicative of an outstanding partnership and commitment to excellence in the interest of public safety. In fact, it is the national vision of both military services and emergency management agencies to establish a more symbiotic relationship.

I also want to thank my friends in police, fire and EMS departments for

their encouragement and validation of a shared responsibility to each other. Colonel Stephen McCartney (Warwick) along with Chief Timothy McLaughlin (Pawtucket), presidents respectively of the state's police and fire chiefs associations each represent organizations steeped in traditions of excellence. I thank them for their leadership and commitment to our emergency management mission.

Local EMA directors are also recognized for their dedication and vision as we move from a stratified system towards the national model of integration. Our layers of capability and mutual aid all stacked up to an effective but sometimes inefficient result. Working shoulder-to-shoulder or as we say in Rhode Island, side-by-side, we can realize a system of both efficiency and effectiveness based on a foundation of NIMS compliance.

Newsletters are intended to keep our community partners informed about the latest goals, technologies, training, and grant opportunities, as we all strive to maximize available resources.

Within the agency we are working together to identify the most contemporary and relevant statement of our mission. A working group has already begun the task of creating a broad vision, structure and a process to accomplish those goals.

Major General Bray initially and through subsequent conversations has identified five objectives as agency priorities for calendar year 2008. It is my privilege to announce and support these initiatives to all of our partners with an understanding that these are ambitious but attainable goals. They will only be possible

with a deep commitment to this effort and a recognition that it will take all members of our state's community to not only accomplish those goals but believe in them. RIEMA will commit all of our resources for the achievement of the following objectives. Support and suggestions are welcome from all resources:

- Interoperability-coordinated and statewide use and application of a standard operating procedure including the RISON (800 MHz) radio system.
- RIEMA reorganization-transitioning RIEMA from a civil defense structure to a Homeland Security structure in order to support a fully operational capability.
- State Emergency Operations Center-a consolidated, multi-agency, 24/7/365 operations center that provides pro-active support, coordination, that includes utilization and implementation of NIMS.
- Program and Job Inventory-an inventory of all programs, services, affiliations, duties and responsibilities that RIEMA personnel are involved in as assigned or volunteered for the purpose of assessing purpose, responsibility, efficiency and productivity.
- State Common Operating Picture (COP)-establish a format for obtaining situational awareness from supported agencies and jurisdictions resulting in a COP.

The protection of our most valuable resource, you, is our top priority and will never be lost in the storm.

Thank you once again to all as I embark on this new journey with friends and colleagues.

RI Establishes Cyber Terrorism Task Force

In cooperation with RIEMA, funds were successfully allocated from the 2007 Urban Area Security Initiative to establish a Cyber Terrorism Task Force in the State of Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Cyber Terrorism Task Force (RICTTF) is working to address gaps in protecting critical infrastructure within the UASI Region and State of Rhode Island from cyber attacks and cyber terrorism related events. The task force is lead by the Rhode Island State Police and consists of members of the State Police Computer Crimes Unit, the Warwick Police Computer Crimes Unit and the Providence Police Computer Crimes Unit. The three agencies have well established Computer Forensics capabilities and previous working relationships that have proven to be effective and reliable. The task force is designed to enhance the capability of these Cybercrime Investigators to prevent,



protect against, detect, respond to and assist in the recovery from Cyberterrorism related incidents. The University of Rhode Island Digital Forensics Center and Rhode Island Department of Information Technology are also being leveraged for the

development of the strategic and operational goals of the task force.

The task force has secured a centralized facility in the City of Cranston to be utilized as a base of operations for task force members.

The Task Force HQ's will house state of the art Computer Forensics and Network equipment, to include hardware and software which will allow investigators to conduct comprehensive forensic investigations from the facility.

In October of 2007, the task force began developing a Cyberterrorism/Cybersecurity Initiative intended to reduce vulnerabilities of critical systems by raising awareness and competency levels of State, Local and

Corporate Executives, Information Technology Practitioners and First Responders throughout the region. The initiative will be accomplished by conducting training, tabletop exercises, education and awareness presentations and threat assessments. An important aspect of the RICTTF's mission will be to assist in the hardening of vital systems in the region in compliance with Information Assurance Standards and Industry Best Practices. The task force will also assist in the assessment of risks to Rhode Island's critical cyber-



infrastructure, identifying potential means of cyber attack, and recommending protective controls for critical information systems.

Radiation Detection Vehicle Demonstrated

A new tool in the fight against terrorism is coming in a very familiar package, a Chevy Suburban. On April 18th, Raytheon held a demonstration of its newest mobile radio-



logical detection device for the Rhode Island Response Community and our elected leaders.

The device fits in the back of a Suburban and is designed to detect any illicit radiological material that comes near the vehicle. This system is also sensitive enough to differentiate between commercial and industrial radiological sources and those illicit materials most concerning to

the Rhode Island Response Community.

While no current plans exist for the purchase of one of these vehicles the technology demonstration clearly raised the eyebrows of those in attendance.

NIMS Training Available Bi-Monthly

In an ongoing effort to provide updated NIMS required training and ICS training, RIEMA will be conducting Technical Assistance training for the On-line courses (IS-100 and IS-700). Also an overview brief will be provided for ICS 100. The training will be scheduled the 1st and 3rd

Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. through 12 p.m. and will be located in the State EOC at 645 New London Ave. Cranston, R.I. 02920. Seats will be limited due to computer resources.

Please contact Ken Baker to reserve your seat at:
Kenneth.l.baker1@us.army.mil.

USCG Hosts Marine Recovery Workshop

By Erin Lambie

*United States Coast Guard
Sector Southeastern New England*

What would happen if the Port of Providence was shutdown for weeks or even months due to a terrorist attack?

What could local, state, and federal agencies working in partnership with industry do to recover port operations as soon as possible?

What resources and capabilities would be needed to recover the port?

These are just some of the questions and issues that were address at the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England held a Marine Transportation System Recovery workshop in Providence on April 10. Over 30 federal, state, and local

agencies, as well as dozens of private industry partners (over a hundred persons in all) discussed recovery of the Marine Transportation System following a simulated terrorist attack in the Port of Providence. Participants were encouraged to focus discussions on port recovery planning

operations beginning 3 days after the attack rather than initial response. Areas of discussion concentrated on the topics of command and control, salvage, debris removal, oil and hazardous materials response, recovery of the cargo supply chain, and law enforcement and security during



recovery operations.

The workshop, designed to fulfill the annual requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, required members of the Area Maritime Security Committee and other port stakeholders to evaluate the Area Maritime Security Plan,

identify best practices, and look for areas for improvement. Examples of the specific goals of the workshop were to validate priorities for infrastructure recovery and validate roles, responsibilities, resources, and authorities for recovery activities. This was accomplished through discussions regarding the immediate and long term considerations for recovering the port following an attack that would cause the port to be closed. The information collected through today's discussions will assist the Captain of the Port in ensuring the port community is prepared to protect, prevent, and respond to potential threats to local port communities. Additionally, the plan to be developed from this information will be applicable in the event of any natural or man-made disaster.

If you want to know more about the workshop contact Erin Lambie, Port Security Specialist with USCG Sector Southeastern New England at 401-435-2355 or erin.g.lambie@uscg.mil.

Comprehensive Training for Chariho

Chariho is a regional school for the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton. The campus consists of a high school, middle school, vocational technical school and RYSE school for special needs serving approximately 2,600 students.

Due to the recent trend of school shootings officials in the region felt the need to increase active shooter response training for both the law enforcement and school personnel imperative. An emergency plan with Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton and Rhode Island State Police (RISP) departments having a role which was already in existence. Officers from all those communities had already completed various levels of ICS train-

ing as required to be NIMS compliant.

In the winter the school and law enforcement officials began reviewing/editing the plan. In addition, Joe Arsenault, Richmond EMA Director, trained the school administration and staff in ICS 100-for schools. During school vacation week in April, the police departments from those towns and well as RISP participated in the Active Shooter response training developed through the Rhode Island School Safety Committee. The officers practice what they were learning on the school grounds. The increased familiarity with the campus was considered a huge benefit by those who participated. And they closed their

month of training and exercising with a Table Top Exercise on April 28th. Representatives from the school administration, all three local law enforcement offices, RISP and Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency participated. Chariho will complete their comprehensive training and exercise plan for the year with a full scale exercise in the fall.

For more information about the Chariho process contact Joe Arsenault at Joeemt799@cox.net or 401-282-9138. For more information about the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) methodology and funding contact Brittan.Bates@us.army.mil or 401-462-7189.

RIEMA To Host Hurricane Conference in June

We are really excited about this year's upcoming annual hurricane conference on June 9, 2008 at the Radisson in Warwick.. Highlighting this year's event will be Bryan Koon from WalMart's Emergency Management Department. No one in this world moves as much material in as little time as WalMart and in the aftermath of a hurricane delivering food water and supplies in a timely fashion is imperative.

Also on the program, Art Cleaves and Russ Webster from FEMA will bring us up to date on their latest initiatives. Duffy Egan, WPRO's Chief Engineer, will provide the latest on the Emergency Broadcast System. Rich Horwitz from DEM will explain the new requirements for pet sheltering. Matt Belk from the Na-

tional Weather Service will tell us things about Hurricanes that you never knew about. Finally, RI State Police Lt. Darren Delaney will bring



Waves Crash Against the RI Shore Line During the 1938 Hurricane

us up to date on traffic control and evacuation routes.

Additionally, we will have some

exciting new equipment for you to look at, touch and feel. Sean Lynch, from L3 Communications, will demonstrate their new Mobile Command Center called the Wolf Coach. Middletown based KVH Industries will be on hand to showcase their TracPhone V7 with mini-VSAT Broadband service. Lastly, FEMA will also have one of their Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) vehicles on hand.

We look forward to seeing you on June 9, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the program should run from 9 am until 12:30 pm. Should you have any questions regarding this Conference, please contact Steve Kass at Steve.Kass@us.army.mil or 401-462-7127.

RIEMA Hosts Get Ready RI! Volunteer Fair

The Hurricane forecasting team at Colorado State University is forecasting a 37% chance of a Hurricane hitting the U.S. East Coast. The average for the last century is 31%. With an above average year expected for hurricanes, the state is already gearing up for the 2008 Hurricane season.

For example, RIEMA, Red Cross and Volunteer Center of RI (VCRI) hosted a statewide volunteer recruitment fair on Saturday, April 19, 2008. The event took place across the state on 6 sites. CCRI, Chariho High school and the Block Island Fire who not only allowed us to take over space on all 4 campuses but also actually donated the space and services in support of the event. Additional funding for the event came from the Citizens Corps Council and the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program.

The purpose of the event was to get our citizens to realize that **"Now is the time to learn how to help in an emergency"** and join their municipality's volunteer emergency organizations. Every jurisdiction in the state was invited to participate by

setting up a table the site closest to them. Many jurisdictions had their EMA Directors and Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) members present.

In addition, several statewide organizations participated. RIEMA was soliciting volunteers to work in the



ARES Member at Volunteer Fair

newly created state run shelters. Red Cross was looking for more shelter team members and managers. VCRI continued their quest for volunteers for a variety of tasks. The Salvation Army was looking for people to assist with feeding the public during times of disaster as well as members for their ham radio group – SATERN. Another ham radio group ARES was recruiting hams. Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team was look-

ing for assistance to handle and house animals during emergencies.

Everyone used their tables to educate Rhode Islanders on what they already do with volunteers, what they would like to do with volunteers, and handed out education materials and preparedness items etc. Some sites ran classes in the National Incident Management System. There are many online courses we recommend volunteers take. They can be found on the web at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>.

Get Ready RI! had great participation from communities and other organizations and provided an excellent networking opportunity for all involved. The public who attended were very eager to get involved and should become valuable assets to RI. Feedback so far supports this becoming an annual event with even more publicity and perhaps a month earlier – so the event does not compete with the first sunny days of Spring.

For more information contact Brittan Bates at 462-7189. Colorado State University's forecast is found at <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu>.

RI Responders Attend UASI Conference

The 2008 National UASI Conference was held on April 21 – 23 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This conference is designed to be an opportunity to network and learn best practices of how other UASI's (Urban Area Security Initiative) are accomplishing an all-hazards approach to prevention, protection, response, and recovery. Rhode Island and the Providence Urban Area were able to send four representatives.

The conference had six different tracks for the approximately 800 attendees. They consisted of Law Enforcement, Fire, Medical, Program Management, Interoperable Communications, and Fusion Centers and Information Sharing. Some topics included Data Interoperability, Available Federal Programs to Enhance Hazardous Materials Operations, The Shift to 700 MHz, Best Practices for Operations at Mass Gathering Events, and many other unique and interesting sessions.

There were a variety of vendors marketing the latest technologies and planning efforts that are being undertaken throughout the nation. The booths were set up throughout the whole conference allowing ample time for the attendees to ask questions and obtain information that they needed to bring back to the various departments.

The closing session of the conference included a presentation by Rocco Forte, the Emergency Preparedness Director of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He gave a phenomenal presentation on *The Minneapolis Bridge Collapse and How UASI Aided in Response*. The hour long presentation included a video of the first responders' response and a discussion on best practices and lessons learned. The 2008 National UASI Conference was extremely beneficial and great information was brought back to the State.

Get Ready RI! Phase Two Tabletop

The second phase of Get Ready RI! is quickly approaching. There will be a statewide Sheltering Table Top Exercise on Wednesday, May 28, 2008. The purpose of this event is for state and local governments and select non-governmental organizations that have a responsibility for sheltering to coordinate and enhance the sheltering plans for RI.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to participate by sending 2 people. The event is geared towards EMA Directors and Heads of Government.

To confirm your communities registration or register please contact Brittan Bates at Brittan.bates@us.army.mil or 462-7189.

NATIONAL THREAT ADVISORY

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

NATIONAL AIR TRAVEL ADVISORY

HIGH

High Threat of Terrorist Attacks



Upcoming RIEMA Courses & Training

May 8-9
Basic Search and Rescue**

May 13-15
WMD Incident Management and Unified Command**

May 28-30
Basic Public Information Officer**

June 5-6
Terrorism Awareness: Protecting Soft Targets

June 9-10
ICS 400

July 11
Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing/Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing

**Signifies that the class is full

Questions?

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

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