



RIEMA NEWS



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Director- Major General Robert T. Bray

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Executive Director- Robert J. Warren

State Agencies Work To Address Special Needs

By Lieutenant Governor
Elizabeth Roberts

This past month, marking the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I was lucky enough to meet with Marketa Garner Gautreau, the assistant secretary of Louisiana's Office of Community Services. Marketa is in charge of the more than 5,000 children in Louisiana's care and was responsible for each of them when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast.

When the levees broke and the citizens of New Orleans fled—including the department's case-workers—Marketa was presented with two unique situations: the need for child-only shelters for kids separated from their parents and developing a tracking system for foster families scattered across the country.

These special needs were not con-

sidered before a storm of Katrina's magnitude. It forced Marketa and her staff to implement innovative stop-gap measures on the fly literally in the middle of the storm.

While Marketa successfully created a support system for these children and families during the chaos, Rhode Island can learn from this and other disasters so that we will be prepared before catastrophe strikes. As chairwoman of the Emergency Management Advisory Council, I will focus the next year on ensuring that all of our citizens will be prepared, including those with unique circumstances.

I was excited to learn this month that Steve Florio, the executive director of the RI Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Kate McCarthy-Barnett from the Department of Health, have taken leadership of The Special Needs Working Group to address the

needs of special populations directly. *(More Information on Page 4)*

Rhode Islanders disadvantaged by physical or mental conditions, language barriers or economic circumstances are not being left behind. We are proactively identifying the needs of those most vulnerable during emergencies.

This is being done in our planning rooms and when writing our emergency plans. But we are also reaching out to our communities, educating our citizens and getting information in their hands so that they can help us help them.

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts is the chairwoman of the Emergency Management Advisory Council, which advises the state on emergency planning. For more information about the council, please email Paul Tencher at ptencher@ltgov.state.ri.us.

September Is National Preparedness Month

September marks the beginning of the Fourth Annual National Preparedness Month sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, at work, and in school.

Each week, throughout the month of September, National Preparedness Month will focus on the following areas of emergency preparedness:

- **September 1-8:** Back to School
- **September 9-15:** Business Preparedness
- **September 16-22:** Multicultural Preparedness
- **September 23-30:** Home and Family Preparedness

Throughout the month, RIEMA will work closely with DHS to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement within our state. For more information on National Preparedness Month including daily tips and event listings, please visit www.ready.gov.



Some information courtesy of www.ready.gov and www.dhs.gov

Point of Distribution (POD) Training a Success

Once again RIEMA stepped up when asked by FEMA Region 1 for a host partner in a new venture. On August 8 and 9, the City of Woonsocket, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) engaged in a two-day program to train on and practice their ability to move commodities and emergency equipment into a state of readiness.

This training event was ground-



Gen. Bray shows Lt. Gov. Roberts a Meal Ready to Eat (MRE)

breaking. The collaboration between local, state and federal agencies to do a PODS training of this magnitude has never occurred in the country and drew attention from around the country, including officials in Washington

“Local, state and federal emergency management agencies all have similar jobs—to get ready for disaster and respond efficiently,” said Robert Warren, RIEMA Executive Director. “This training provided an opportunity for all levels of emergency management and first responders to work together, as



Woonsocket Department of Public Works prepares the POD

they would in a real response, to distribute water and food to the public.”

All 39 RI municipalities as well as each New England state Emergency Management Agency were invited to send representatives. 3 New England states were represented as well as 27 of RI municipalities. There were over 100 people at any given moment during the hands on training moving commodities. The commodities trained with were Meals Ready To Eat (MREs) and bottled water.

Woonsocket stepped up and volunteered to host the training when they learned that RIEMA and FEMA were designing the event. Woonsocket used one of its pre-planned Point of Distribution sites, called a POD.

This training will be used as a model for POD sites throughout the country. “We are sharpening our capabilities to respond to disasters,” said Art Cleaves, director of FEMA programs in New England. “What we did this week will be the model for gathering and distributing disaster supplies for this hurricane season and other future events.” New York and Chicago have already asked for the program in their states now. In addition each FEMA region is now planning on trying to copy the program and run it in their region.

The training spelled out the role

of other federal agencies and other supporting personnel working in the supply chain. Topics included an overview of commodity movement; laying out the POD site to streamline commodity distribution and traffic; receiving, managing, tracking and issuing commodities; and establishing internal and external communications plans to reach victims. In addition, there was a session on Community Hurricane Preparedness by Jim Baker, RIEMA, and Matthew Belk, National Weather Service.

Any RI municipality desiring more information on PODS should contact Jim Baker, RIEMA Planner, at 462-7114 or james.francis.baker@us.army.mil



Volunteers load water and MREs

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

starting 13 September 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

New Rules Regarding School Preparedness

On May 23, 2007, Senator Paiva-Weed and Aliere introduced legislation pertaining to the health and safety of pupils in the Rhode Island School System. The legislation stems from the Governor's Conference in September/October 2006 addressing school safety plans.

The bill entitled *AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION—HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS* changes 15 mandatory fire drills of Title 16, Chapter 21, Section 4 of the General Laws of Rhode Island to reflect 11 fire drills and the new changes of two (2) evacuation drills and two (2) lockdown drills among the fifteen (15) mandatory drills in each school year.

Evacuation drills are designed and conducted when conditions outside the school building are safer than conditions inside the building.

Lockdown drills are designed and conducted for use to protect school building occupants from potential dangers in the building.

The School Safety Steering Committee was created after the Governor's Conference at CCRI in Warwick addressed school safety procedures following a number of shooting incidents around the country.

A curriculum was developed to address the concerns of training and knowledge of the school faculty on these types of incidents and how they will interact with local law enforcement agencies responding to these types of complaints. The curriculum concentrates on bomb threats received by school officials along with lockdown and evacuation procedures.

During the past summer, law enforcement, fire and school officials

had the opportunity to preview the curriculum at CCRI in Warwick and voice their recommendations or concerns and the School Safety Steering Committee is preparing to start training school administrators and staff this coming Fall.

A subcommittee has also been formed to address the revision of the school safety plan template that was introduced in 2004 as a result of collaboration between the Department of Health, Department of Education and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. This will allow school officials to receive a new template on proposed guidelines on school safety procedures that will be standardized throughout the State of Rhode Island. For more information contact David Leonard at RIEMA at david.h.leonard@us.army.mil.

Stakeholders Determine FY07 Grant Funding Allocation

The State Stakeholder Committee has determined the FY07 State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program. This committee worked diligently to ensure the priorities of the Homeland Security State Strategy and the needs of the State have been addressed. The FY07 grants are all project based and therefore can only be spent on the projects in the initial grant application. The following projects will be funded in FY07:

- **Catastrophic Planning**
- **Radiological Detection**
- **State Exercise and Training Program**
- **RI Fusion Center**
- **Pictometry**
- **800 MHz Interoperable Communications**

- **Patient Surge Capacity Tracking Project**
- **Explosive Device Operations**
- **WMD Tactical Team**
- **Sustaining the Regional Hazmat/Decon/USAR/MCI Teams**
- **Regional Sheltering**
- **Citizen Preparedness and Participation**
- **Metropolitan Medical Response**

In the upcoming editions of RIEMA News we will discuss one program at a time and what the funding is going to be utilized for during the grant period. Questions about grants can be directed to Amy Grzybowksi, RIEMA Grant Manager, at 462-7735 or amy.grzybowski@us.army.mil

Websites Worth Taking a Look At:

- www.LLIS.gov
- www.Ready.gov
- www.FirstResponderTraining.gov
- www.Citizencorps.gov
- www.training.fema.gov

Calling all RI Municipalities...

RIEMA News is looking for RI municipalities to submit information on interesting initiatives they are doing with the grant money received. If you have something to brag about or something that other RI communities might benefit from knowing please submit it to us. You just might find your municipality mentioned in the RIEMA News.

RI Applies Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina

This year, using lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, RIEMA has proactively addressed emergency preparedness concerns for Rhode Island residents with special needs. Several initiatives have moved from the planning stage to implementation.

This month marks the culmination of a two year collaborative project between RIEMA and RIDOH. The Special Needs Database Project provides RI residents the opportunity to voluntarily provide information regarding any medical, mental or physical conditions that could require specialized assistance during an emergency. This information is used only to plan for emergent situations and is maintained jointly between RIEMA and DOH.

A community awareness campaign will begin during September. Pamphlets, public service announcements and registration forms will be disseminated to service providers as well as to the general public. The registration forms may be mailed to RIEMA @ 645 New London Ave., Cranston, RI

02908 ATTN: Database Administrator. Additionally, residents may register online at <https://kidsnet.health.ri.gov/emregistry>.

Dialysis centers around RI are already incorporating this form into their intake paperwork as well as reviewing client status during quarterly updates.

RIEMA also actively participated in the formulation of the "Rhode Island Department of Health Strategic Plan for Health and Wellness of Rhode Islanders with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses." While the plan is comprehensive in nature, Section II specifically addresses Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities.

Three strategies for emergency preparedness were developed along with the required action steps and measurable outcomes. The strategies are as follows:

- To foster state policy that reduces adverse effects of emergencies on the health and wellness of Rhode Islanders with

disabilities and chronic illnesses.

- To establish a centralized process for developing, sharing, and coordinating information and efforts to address the health needs of Rhode Islanders with disabilities and chronic illnesses through all phases of emergency preparedness.
- To foster individual responsibility and capacity for emergency planning by Rhode Islanders with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

The Special Needs Workgroup meets monthly and is comprised of representatives from State agencies and service providers from the community. Concerns specific to particular populations are discussed and solutions are developed to better forecast resource needs during a disaster.

Please contact Kim McLeod, RIEMA Planning Coordinator, at kimberly.j.mcleod@us.army.mil, or 462-7129 for Special Population questions and concerns.

Coastal Construction Course Offered

FEMA and RIEMA are sponsoring a one day Coastal Construction Course early this fall. This one day course is designed to train participants on FEMA's Coastal Construction Manual. This manual is the primary, state of the art reference for planning, designing, and constructing residential structures in the various coastal environments. The target audience is engineers, architects, Floodplain Managers and building code officials.

This course is the first in a series of three being conducted by FEMA to assist Rhode Island officials following the major Disaster Declaration for Newport County as a result

of the April Nor'easter. The other courses are Project Development, October 17, and Benefit Cost Analysis Workshop, November 14. Contact Lawrence Macedo, RIEMA, at 462-7126 if interested in attending any of the courses.

Mitigation Award

FEMA and RIEMA have announced the award of \$100,000 to the town of South Kingstown under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. The town will conduct a study of the Matunuck Beach area. The town submitted its application under the 2007 PDM-C program.

Grants Workshop

RIEMA will be hosting a Grant Workshop on October 5, 2007 at the Radisson in Warwick, RI. Invitations will be going out to all FY2007 Grant Recipients within the next few weeks. The authorizing official, point of contact, and fiscal contact from each agency receiving a grant need to attend.

Amy Grzybowski, RIEMA Homeland Security Grant Manager, will be explaining the grant process. This will include the length of the grants, the paperwork that must be submitted, and the new policies that will be enforced. There will be several changes from previous years as well as updated forms.

MMRS To Assess Capabilities This Fall

By Peter Marinucci, PEMA

In April of 2002, Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) signed a contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop a Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Plan for Providence and the surrounding communities. PEMA decided to include eight other surrounding communities: East Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, North Providence, Cranston, Johnston, Warwick and West Warwick therefore establishing Greater Providence-MMRS (GP-MMRS). A representative from the various disciplines in the 9 municipalities including local EMA, law enforcement, fire, EMS, communications, private medical transport, hospitals, RIEMA, RIDOH, medical professionals, RING, and other local, state and federal agencies was appointed to the GP-MMRS Steering Committee.

GP-MMRS has since developed a basic plan and deliverables; acquired the first pharmaceutical cache in the state for the protection of first responders and their families; arranged for a week of training and exercise for 75 representatives from the various disciplines; developed and signed an MOU with all other New England MMRS communities; and participated in lobbying the State Ambulance Board to amend the existing MCI protocols. As a result, GP-MMRS, in conjunction with RIEMA, organized and provided funds for Train-the-Trainer classes for all Training officers and Instructors in the jurisdiction.

GP-MMRS has developed a Metropolitan Medical Strike Team. This team is a readily available, high-level medical team capable of rapid response within the GP-MMRS community. This team consists of 2 EMT-Paramedics and 1

emergency physician who coordinates with Incident Command and provides medical resources on the scene for triage, patient care, medical control and other needs.

GP-MMRS will hold a full-scale exercise on September 30, 2007. This exercise will be held at the RI Convention Center in Providence and involve the various disciplines and partners in the GP-MMRS. The objective of these events is to exercise and evaluate the GP-MMRS community's capability to respond to a weapon of mass destruction terrorist attack in a public setting. It will assess the capability, interaction and interoperability among the participants in conducting an activation, mobilization and deployment of resources necessary for protecting the residents of the communities that we serve.

Anyone interested in volunteering to be a "victim" on the morning of September 30th, please call PEMA at 228-8000 and ask for Tracie.

Peter Marinucci is PEMA's Deputy Director and Project Manager for MMRS. He can be reached at 228-8000

Volunteers Needed

RIEMA is facilitating a full scale exercise at TF Green Airport for the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC). All appropriate responders to an incident at the airport have been involved in the exercise design for well over a year. The exercise will occur in the middle of the night, Thursday-Friday, September 27th- 28th. If you think you may be interested in being a victim volunteer or an evaluator please contact Brittan Bates at 462-7189 or Brittan.bates@us.army.mil

RIEMA Upcoming Courses & Training

Sept 7-8, 2007
ICS 400**

Sept 11-13, 2007
Basic Public
Information Officer Course**

Sept 17, 2007
Clandestine Drug Laboratory
Awareness Training

Sept 21, 2007
Incident Response to Terrorist
Bombings/Prevention & Response
to Suicide Bombings**

**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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