



RIEMA NEWS



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Director- Major General Robert T. Bray

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Executive Director- Robert J. Warren

Rhode Island Works To Keep Our Schools Safe

After Governor Carcieri held his School Safety Summit in October of 2006, the Rhode Island Department of Education began a statewide initiative, in conjunction with the Community College of Rhode Island to form a Rhode Island School Safety Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is comprised of participants from the Rhode Island State Police, local police and fire departments, Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association, Rhode Island Association of School Principals, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, State Fire Marshall's Office, Rhode Island Police Training Academy, Rhode Island Police Chief's Association, Rhode Island Board of Regents, the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Department Health, Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health

Professionals and representatives of local school departments.

The committee has had 4 major accomplishments this year:

- The committee has established a training program for school personnel and first responders in the event of a bomb threat or shooting incident at a school. The first 3 modules of trainings are already complete. The next scheduled trainings will be conducted at CCRI Newport on November 15 and 16.
- On July 3, 2007, The Governor signed Senate Bill #1053 introduced by Senators Paiva-Weed and Algiere. In short this act requires 2 evacuation drills and 2 lockdown drills to be included among the 15 mandatory drills which schools must conduct each year. This applies to all public, private and charter schools in RI.

- The Rhode Island School Safety Plan has been revised. It now provides guidance requiring all schools and first responders to work together and to use the federally recognized Incident Command System (ICS) for all hazards/incidents. The guidance is for all levels of child care through college level schools.
- The committee hosted a statewide conference on June 7, 2007 to roll out all the changes and announce the trainings.

The Rhode Island School Safety Committee will continue to ensure that our schools remain safe. If you have any questions, please contact David H. Leonard, RIEMA Planning Coordinator at (401) 462-7188.

If you are interested in registering for the November Training, please contact Dr. Donna Ottaviano at rid25071@ride.ri.net.

Local Communities Asked to Develop Multi-Year Training And Exercise Programs

The Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) requires a yearly review of the state's Training & Exercise Multi-year Plan. This year RIEMA is asking local communities to start thinking about creating their own progressively challenging multi-year plan. These plans should focus on improving discipline specific response capabilities while also addressing community-wide response. The completion of local multi-year plans will help the state

tailor their exercise and training offerings to local needs.



Food and Water POD Exercise

To help facilitate this process, the HSEEP required Annual Training & Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) will be held in January. Invitations will be extended to select members of various disciplines around the state to represent their disciplines plans to help direct the states plan.

For more information about what to include in your plan contact HSEEP Coordinator Brittan Bates at (401) 462-7189 or Brittan.bates@us.army.mil.

Coast Guard Launches New Online Portal

By Erin Lambie
Port Security Specialist, USCG Sector
Southeastern New England

The U.S. Coast Guard has established a national website called Homeport (<http://homeport.uscg.mil>) to provide information and services to the maritime community and the public. Homeport affords instant access to information regarding CG missions, regulations, publications and directives, local port information, forms, and the Incident Command System, including the 2006 revised Incident Management Handbook.

The public and port users can also go to the Sector Southeastern New England Homeport webpage <http://homeport.uscg.mil/southeasternnewengland> for information specific to Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, as well as other plans such as the Area Contingency Plan



USCG is Currently at MARSEC-1

and Severe Weather Plan.

The following port users are encouraged to register for a Homeport account online so that full use can be made of this information sharing technology: Maritime Transportation Security Act regulated vessel and facility security officers, members of the Area Maritime Security Committee or the sub-port committees, law enforcement personnel involved with port security, harbor masters, state/local emergency planners, fire departments and other emergency response agencies.

Registered port users who have been cleared by the Coast Guard have access Sensitive but Unclassi-

fied (SBU) Information such as threat bulletins and alerts, the Area Maritime Security Plan, other local emergency plans and information from the Port Safety and Security Forums.

Additionally, registered users may also participate in secure community bulletin boards for online collaboration on relevant issues. All others who feel they should

have a registered user account and who have a "need to know" SBU Information are encouraged to register online and explain their need in the comments section of the registration form.

In order to register for a user account, log on to <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and click on the "register" button in the upper right corner. Completely fill out the registration form and select "MA-Southeastern New England (Providence)" on the COTP pull down menu. Next, click on the appropriate box to designate your role within the port community. If you are unsure of which boxes to check, please explain your role in the comments section at the bottom of the page.

For questions regarding Homeport or assistance with registering, please contact Ms. Erin Lambie at erin.g.lambie@uscg.mil or (401) 435-2355.

RI-DMAT Support Scituate During Arts Festival

By Rich Tucker, Director- Scituate
Emergency Management Agency

Anticipating large crowds, Scituate's Emergency Management Agency requested Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team's (RI-DMAT) assistance at this year's Scituate Art Festival held over Columbus Day Weekend. RI-DMAT was able to bring extensive operational experience which provided welcome support to Scituate's Emergency Services Command. They brought a fully

equipped medical support trailer, two specially equipped gators and numerous professionals to the festival.

On site, they coordinated activities with the Town's Fire Department EMS detail. This proved especially advantageous as transportation proved difficult because of a large amount of pedestrian traffic. With RI-DMAT's assistance the Art Festival operation ran smoothly with the Town of Scituate hosting tens of thousands of people over the three day weekend.

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

RI Resources: RIEMA Mobile Command Center

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency has in its fleet of vehicles, a forty-three foot, Type 1 Mobile Command Center (MCC). This vehicle is available to any federal, state, or local agency, during a major event or incident that would require the establishment of the Incident Command System.

The primary focus of the MCC is to provide incident commanders with a mobile facility for command and control operations. This vehicle serves as a self-sustaining mobile operations center capable of operating in an environment with little to no basic services.

It has the capability to facilitate communications between multiple agencies using an array of fixed and/or wireless communications equipment. The MCC also contains an ACU-1000 radio gateway, which can link together disparate communications systems. Furthermore, multiple internet capable computer work stations are available as well as truck mounted video cameras and a mast camera.



MCC With Mast Camera and Light Tower Deployed

Additionally, the MCC is capable of providing appropriate work space for routine support functions and providing basic services for personnel in short-term or long-term deployments. The four main work stations are:

- Unified Command Room
- Planning/Negotiation Room
- Communications Room
- Electronic Rack Area

Incident Commanders in need of a mobile command center, whether at an actual incident or planning a major event shall request the MCC

through RIEMA at 946-9996. Staffing of the vehicle would comprise of two RIEMA employees initially. If additional staff is required an additional request must be made and RIEMA will work to provide all necessary staff.



RIEMA MCC ACU-100

Partnership Spotlight: Civil Air Patrol- RI Wing

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and the Rhode Island Wing of the Civil Air Patrol

(CAP) have entered into an agreement in which RIEMA will help to fund the cost of the CAP operations. Under the agreement, CAP will fly non-rescue missions for RIEMA while

continuing to assist in search and rescue operations. This funding will allow the RI Wing to train and be



One of Three RI-CAP Planes

better prepared to assist the State with these operations providing for more training flights, maintenance, equipment and training of staff and cadets. Executive Director Robert J. Warren stated "I found out the ability of the Civil Air Patrol when RIEMA needed to move medical samples to the

CDC in Atlanta. They were able to respond to our request in the early morning hours when commercial

flights weren't available."

The availability of the CAP's three planes in Rhode Island allows for a large amount of territory to be covered. During the Tall Ships festival in June the CAP flew traffic missions. With communications directly to the command post at Fort Adams, the incident commanders were able to get real time information and send the aircraft to view areas of concern. This information allowed the commanders to change their plans and keep traffic flowing.

Most recently, CAP was instrumental in locating three missing hikers lost in Arcadia State Park. Searching from the air, CAP was able to identify a signal fire and direct ground assets to rescue the lost hikers.

RI Agencies Conduct Training on Block Island

On October 26 and 27, RI Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), the 13th CST, the U.S Coast Guard (USCG) and the RI Emergency Management Agency conducted a two-day training exercise on Block Island, in conjunction with the Block Island Volunteer Fire Department (BIVFD). The goal of the training was to examine unique issues faced by the community, build relationships to prepare for future operations, and increase the knowledge of the New Shoreham response community.

Before the exercise even began, some of the unique challenges of Block Island presented themselves. Travel to and from the island, with the necessary response vehicles, proved to be a logistical challenge as ferry requirements and space limits

confronted RI USAR, RIEMA, and 13th CST assets.



Vehicle Extrication Training

The first day of training consisted of a town-hall style briefing with presentations from all participating agencies. This session offered New Shoreham Town Officials the opportunity to learn about resources avail-

able to them and address how their unique challenges are handled within the state's response system.

The second day was comprised of five training stations in which RI USAR, BIVFD, and New Shoreham response personnel trained side by side. The stations involved heavy lifting, vehicle extrication, cutting and breaching both concrete and metal, and radiation survey.

Overall, all personal involved felt the training was extremely valuable. Specific logistical challenges were identified and overall response capabilities improved. RI USAR, 13th CST, USCG and RIEMA would all like to thank the Town of New Shoreham and the Block Island Volunteer Fire Department for their hard work in making this event possible.

National Guard Program Helps Improve Capabilities of Local Law Enforcement

By 1LT Jeffrey Ahern, RING

The Law Enforcement Support Organization (LESO) is a program that is used throughout the country as a way for local law enforcement agencies (LEA) to acquire excess military equipment through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS). With the passage of the Defense Reutilization Act in 1995, the Secretary of Defense authorized excess Department of Defense property to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Items gained through this program may include body armor, laptop computers, thermal vision, night vision, M16's, vehicles, helmets, and sniper scopes. The possibilities for success are limitless. The program is free, with the exception of shipping costs to each department from the different DRMO's (Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office) around the world. Since last November, local LEA has been approved for over 2.3 million dollars

worth of excess equipment through the LESO program.

The process is simple and rewarding. The local law enforcement agency contacts the LESO state representative who will forward a LEA Data Sheet to complete. Once basic information is completed (i.e. address, phone number, number of officers) the state rep identifies who may order property through the program. The document is then signed, approved, and forwarded to Fort Belvoir, VA, where a PIN number is assigned to the LEA, allowing access to the DRMS website. LEA officers can access the site, navigate through the different categories of property and choose what they need. They will then submit a request for the item(s) to the state representative for approval and forwarding to the LESO main office. Each LEA is assigned a number or letter and is put on an order of precedence listing depending on a few factors, such as: population of the city, crime rate, and number of

officers in the department. LESO uses these factors to approve or disapprove a requested item. From the main office, it goes to the DRMO. When they approve the item, the LEA is notified by DRMO, and they discuss shipping procedures for the item in question. The only cost deferred to the LEA is the actual shipping of the item(s).

In Rhode Island, approximately ten cities, towns, and law enforcement agencies are active in the program. With very little effort, the state LEAs could obtain a great deal of equipment. While ten agencies having gained over \$2.3 million in excess property, it is conceivable that with increased participation, that amount could increase ten fold. Please take the time to contact 1LT Jeffrey Ahern, LESO Contact, in the Military Support Office, Rhode Island Army National Guard at Jeffrey.Ahern@us.army.mil or (401) 275-4005 if you are interested in becoming active in this program.

Drills Prepare GP-MMRS Region

By Peter Marinucci, Deputy Director,
Providence Emergency Management

On September 13th and September 30th, 2007, the Greater Providence Metropolitan Medical Response System (GP-MMRS) held a table-top (TTX) and a full-scale exercise (FSE) at the Rhode Island Convention Center (RICC) in Providence. These two Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) exercises focused on the response to a WMD terrorist attack in a public setting with multiple casualties at RICC and a simultaneous armed robbery at Providence City Hall. Local, state and federal agencies from the GP-MMRS community and throughout the state, including Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Emergency Management, Hazmat teams, RI WMD Tactical Team, GP-MMRS Medical Strike Team (MMST), the 13th Civil Support Team (13th CST), RI Department of Health (DOH), private ambulances and many other non-public agencies, first participated in a table-top component on September 13th that exercised the decision making procedures on the executive level and then in the full-scale exercise on the 30th simulating with about 150 disaster relief volunteers exposed to a WMD substance.

The goals and objectives of these two exercises were to solidify the partnership between the GP-MMRS first responders with state and federal assets; test the activation of the GP-MMRS and the rapid movement of the pharmaceutical cache from the storage location to the location identified by the Incident Commander; test the capabilities of the GP-MMRS Medical Strike Team to respond and assist first responders at the scene of a WMD/MCI event; test the emergency internal procedures of the RICC; test the hospitals emergency response and decontamination procedures; test the decontamination, triage, pre-hospital transport of patients affected by a WMD attack; test the coordination of the state Hazmat and Decon teams with 13th CST and

the state WMD Tactical Team and provide an opportunity for local and statewide special response teams to train together utilizing the 800 MHZ communications system.

Over 150 volunteers and 200 first responders participated in this four hour full-scale exercise, sponsored by the GP-MMRS and funded by the MMRS program. The FSE was well received and was an exceptional learning and training opportunity for all involved. GP-MMRS will work together to continue building and all hazard response system and improve coordination, communications and operational functions for real life events.

Rhode Island Escapes Noel

Hurricane Noel was long since down graded by the time it passed by Rhode Island but RIEMA was standing ready to assist locals and manage any emergencies if needed.

Starting on Friday, RIEMA was in contact with the Governor's Office, The Adjutant General, the National Weather Service, appropriate Emergency Support Function (ESF) Points of Contact, and the media. On Saturday, RIEMA activated the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Level I (Monitoring) from 8 am-9 pm to be prepared for any possible incidents as the remnants of Noel struck Rhode Island. RIEMA stayed in contact with local communities, the National Weather Service, Emergency Support Function (ESF) Points of Contact and the media, throughout the day to ensure that the correct information was being transmitted to the public. Additionally, RIEMA utilized WebEOC to keep all users apprised of the storm status and current issues that had been reported.

Thankfully, no major incidents occurred and RIEMA deactivated the State EOC as the storm subsided.

**NATIONAL THREAT ADVISORY
ELEVATED**

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

**NATIONAL AIR TRAVEL ADVISORY
HIGH**

High Threat of Terrorist Attacks



Questions?

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

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