

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Highlights of State Council Activities

The CNMI Emergency Management Office (EMO) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) advocate citizen preparedness, to encourage and capture community leaders' support and commitment, and to push ahead with the formation of a Council. Several planning meetings were scheduled for Tinian and Rota for spring and summer of 2006.

Initial discussions took place between the Saipan Mayor's Office, EMO, OHS, and several private organizations, including the local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) office. Pertinent Citizen Corps program documents were distributed during every meeting.

Highlights of State Activities

Training and Exercises

The CNMI Citizen Corps Point of Contact continued to work closely with a private contractor on finalizing a proposal to conduct three 20-hour CERT training classes--one each on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Classes were scheduled to take place during spring and summer of 2006; over 100 personnel were expected to be certified. Instructors were provided and protective gear, student manuals, and other required training aids were made available for the classes.

CNMI has explored bringing back instructors to conduct three CERT Train-the-Trainer courses in the CNMI. Officials anticipate certifying 50 to 60 personnel during the summer and fall of 2006.

Disaster Preparedness Month:

The CNMI celebrates Disaster Preparedness Month (DPM) annually during the month of September in conjunction with the stateside National Preparedness Month. In 2005, month-long activity commenced with a proclamation signed by the governor. The CNMI EMO and OHS took the lead in working with all appropriate response agencies and organizations to line up a schedule of events and activities. EMO and American Red Cross staff manned an information booth, distributed disaster preparedness brochures, CERT brochures and flyers for all types of hazards that affect CNMI. EMO, fire, and police teamed up to visit public and private schools to deliver presentations and demonstrations on safety tips. School faculty and officials convened for an annual Education Day on Saipan where agencies were allotted time to speak of their roles and responsibilities in preparing for disasters. Throughout the year, EMO continued to provide public outreach awareness to schools and workplaces when requested.