

## **ARIZONA**

### **Highlights of State Council Activities**

The Arizona State Citizen Corps Council is sponsored by Governor Janet Napolitano and each Council member must meet the standards established by Arizona Boards and Commissions. The State Council meets quarterly at locations throughout the state to encourage maximum participation from its members and to afford the greater public the opportunity to attend. Additionally, a weekly summary of events is sent to each Council member.

Citizen Corps Programs are included in the State Emergency Response and Recovery Plan as well as the State Homeland Security Plan. The Council was established by an Executive Order.

The State distributed all Homeland Security Grant Program funds in compliance with grant guidelines, passing through Citizen Corps Program grants to the counties on a formula basis; however, the State Council Executive Committee has increased its involvement and changed the process. The State Council elected to use the FY 05 funds to support a statewide marketing and awards program. This was done to enhance the Council's strategic plans to have sufficient growth in Citizen Corps Programs, especially to ensure adequate Citizen Corps involvement in the Top Officials Exercise 4 (TOPOFF 4) in 2007.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

#### **Public Education and Outreach**

The State Council worked with a contractor to sponsor a statewide marketing campaign to air nearly 1,000 thirty-second commercials on some of Arizona's most-watched broadcasts starting in 2006. The State Council's plan included providing video and audio copies of the broadcast for use during personal presentations by Council Members. Three Council members received media training as part of the effort. The campaign also included the creation of a State Citizen Corps Council brochure for statewide distribution.

Representatives of the State Council participated in several public and private sector safety day and public health activities throughout the State.

#### **Training and Exercises**

Citizen Corps Programs provided more than 100 volunteers to participate in the 2005 statewide exercise to include a CERT sponsored by Discover Card. CERT and VIPS volunteers were involved in a bi-national training exercise in the Southern Homeland Security Region. Additionally, CERT Programs were involved in several local and county exercises. The City of Chandler CERT program invited neighboring communities to participate in the Chandler Annual CERT Exercise.

Preparation has begun for Arizona Citizen Corps involvement in TOPOFF 4, by training local programs on the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Most CERT Programs plan to provide IS 100 and 700 as continuing education for their members.

All three of the State Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) started developing continuing education programs for their members in 2005. Santa Cruz County continued its bi-national CERT training with Nogales Sonora, Mexico.

### **Volunteer Programs and Support**

The State Council partnered with Arizona Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (AzVOAD) to co-sponsor mid-year and annual conferences with the Arizona Emergency Services Association (AESA). More than 400 public and private sector emergency managers attended the conferences. State Council membership includes representation of several volunteer agencies and programs.

### **Support for Hurricane Katrina Response**

Arizona's Hurricane Katrina response, "Operation Good Neighbor," included representatives from all Citizen Corps programs. During "Operation Good Neighbor," these representatives contributed an estimated cost savings of more than \$100,000 to the government. More than 200 Citizen Corps volunteers were directly involved in Arizona's main shelter operation in Phoenix. Similar numbers were involved in other activities such as: the additional shelter in Tucson; phone call center operations; donation management activities; escort duties; and individual assistance packages processing. Arizona also sent MRC members to assist in Louisiana and Mississippi. CERT members were deployed by FEMA to the Atlanta Volunteer Reception Center and to the disaster area.

### **National Preparedness Month**

The Governor's Office sponsored a preparedness activity hosted by the State Citizen Corps Council at the State Capitol. Home Depot provided the Arizona Division of Emergency Management cases of flashlights, which were distributed at several preparedness and safety day activities sponsored by both public and private sector organizations throughout the state. Several cities and Pima County sponsored preparedness and safety day/weekend activities.