



Homeland Security

Citizen Corps January Newsletter



Citizen Corps Celebrates Five Years!

This month marks the fifth anniversary since President George W. Bush announced the creation of Citizen Corps during the State of the Union Address in 2002. Created as a component of the USA Freedom Corps initiative following the events of September 11, 2001, Citizen Corps is based on the simple premise that we all have a role in hometown security. Our remarkable growth these past five years is due to the many thousands of citizens across the country, who recognize the importance of civic responsibility and participation to achieve community preparedness.

Citizen Corps Councils

One of the central tenets of Citizen Corps is to bring together government and non-governmental community leaders to develop a more inclusive approach to community preparedness by involving the public in all-hazards emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. In January 2002 there were no registered Councils; today, there are now **over 2,100 Citizen Corps Councils** in every state and territory serving more than 73 percent of the U.S. population! Many thanks to all of you who serve on your State, tribal, county, or community Citizen Corps Council and the leadership you provide.

Citizen Preparedness

Recognizing the importance of an informed and prepared citizenry, Citizen Corps Councils around the country have held numerous outreach events to improve preparedness in homes, schools, workplaces, and places of worship and to educate all Americans on local alerts and warning systems, evacuation routes, shelter locations, and the fundamentals of emergency preparedness and basic first aid. While public education events are held year round, during the 3rd Annual **National Preparedness Month** in September 2006 Citizen Corps Councils registered nearly 1,000 separate events, including: preparedness booths at the State capitol or State fairs; proclamations, press conferences or town hall meetings on preparedness issues; statewide public service announcements and awareness campaigns; large scale emergency first aid and safety trainings; group projects to put together, and distribute, emergency preparedness kits for others; emergency exercises and drills; and targeted outreach to vulnerable populations.

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BY THE NUMBERS: Then and Now

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2007</u>
Citizen Corps Councils:	0	2,123
CERT	170	2,472
Fire Corps	0	558
MRC	0	604
NWP	7,500	14,791
VIPS	76	1,484
Affiliates	0	25

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Save the Date—

2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness: Partnerships and Collabora- tion Through Citizen Corps

This year's conference is being held by the International Association of Emergency Managers and the National Emergency Management Association.

Location:

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
in Alexandria, VA

Date:

June 10 – 13, 2007

If you would like to submit suggestions for conference topics, email us at citizencorps@dhs.gov, with "Conference" in the subject line. Please send your ideas by February 9, 2007.

To register, visit

www.iaem.com/NCCC2007.htm

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Volunteer Programs and Support in Disasters

Citizen Corps Councils have also collaborated to begin volunteer programs to support emergency responders, from law enforcement, to fire services, to public health and emergency medical services, to emergency managers. From January 2002 to January 2006, each of the program partners expanded significantly: the **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program joined Citizen Corps with 170 programs and has grown to nearly 2,500 in all 50 States and six U.S. territories. The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** has grown to over 600 Units in all 50 states since it started in 2002. **Neighborhood Watch**, which started over 35 years ago, reports nearly 14,800 registered groups nationwide today. **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** started in 2002 with 76 programs and now has close to 1,500 programs nationwide. And **Fire Corps**, which started in 2004, now has 550 programs. In addition, the 25 National Citizen Corps Affiliates are also more closely integrated and are working more closely with Citizen Corps Councils around the country. These numbers only tell part of the story; each of these programs represent thousands of trained and skilled volunteers who are actively helping their communities be safer every day. When a local emergency or large-scale disaster occurs, these citizens represent the critical additional trained resources needed to assist emergency responders. Over the past five years, citizens have played an increasing role in disaster response, ranging from local floods, tornadoes, snow emergencies, and power outages, to the powerful hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 which required immense national support— including the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who responded.

National Policy Development

From a national policy standpoint, Citizen Corps is fully integrated into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy and guidance. Citizen preparedness and participation is an integral part of our country's blueprint for a better prepared America. This means that State and local Citizen Corps Councils have support in written national policy to continue to pursue the critical mission of including the general public in all emergency preparedness activities. The efforts are visible in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 on National Preparedness; the National Preparedness Goal; the Target Capabilities List; grant guidance from the Homeland Security Grant Program, the Infrastructure Protection Program grants, the Competitive Training Grants program, and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant; the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program; the National Citizen Corps Council; and the Ready Campaign. Many of these documents are available on the DHS Office of Grants & Training (G&T) website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/>.

In the year ahead, the National Office of Citizen Corps will be working to develop tools to help local Citizen Corps Councils access and apply these national policy documents to local communities to include: revisions to the National Response Plan that more clearly identify the role of non-governmental resources in disasters, planning guidance for State and local governments, and typing volunteer job functions in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). We want to take this opportunity to thank you for being a part of Citizen Corps and for answering the call of helping make our nation safer and better prepared for disasters of all kinds. ***

Awards Opportunities

The E9-1-1 Institute

The E9-1-1 Institute, a Citizen Corps Affiliate, and the National Emergency Number Association have issued a Call for Nominations (www.e911institute.org/Nomination/indexnomination07.html)

Nominate an outstanding individual or group of individuals in eight categories. **Nominations are due February 5** and winners will be honored jointly by the E9-1-1 Institute and the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus on March 13, 2007. To learn more, visit www.E911institute.org.

The National Volunteer Fire Council

The NVFC Fire Prevention Award recognizes a volunteer firefighter whose outstanding achievements in the fire service and in the community exemplify the philosophy of fire prevention. Nominations for this award are now being **accepted until February 1**.

The NVFC Fire Prevention Award, sponsored by First Alert, was established in the memory of volunteer firefighter Marc Mueller, who energetically promoted the causes of volunteer firefighters and supported all efforts to elevate the volunteer program to its highest level. He dedicated much of his life to public service and made major strides to bring prestige, credibility, and recognition to volunteer firefighters nationwide.

Visit www.nvfc.org/award_mueller.html for more information, including award criteria and a nomination form.

2007 Department of Homeland Security Funding

The Department of Homeland Security recently announced the availability of two grant programs, the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and the Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP).

Homeland Security Grant Program

The FY 2007 HSGP provides approximately \$1.7 billion in grants to State and local governments. This program is comprised of five separate grant programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) \$509,250,000
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) \$746,900,000
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) \$363,750,000
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) \$32,010,000
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP) \$14,550,000

Together, these grants fund a range of preparedness activities, including planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration costs. Please be advised that the State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only agency eligible to apply for, and administer, FY 2007 HSGP funds. A listing of each state's SAA is available at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/contact_state.htm. The grant guidance stipulates that "SAAs must coordinate all citizen involvement in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery funded with any source of HSGP funds with [the State Citizen Corps Program Manager]" (pages 65-66). The grant guidance and application kit is available at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_hsgp2007.htm and all applications are due no later than April 5, 2007.

Infrastructure Protection Program

The 2007 IPP provides nearly \$445 million in funding for State, local and private industry infrastructure protection initiatives to strengthen the nation's ability to protect critical infrastructure facilities and systems. The IPP is comprised of five separate grant programs:

- Port Security Grant Program \$201,170,000
- Transit Security Grant Program \$171,780,000
- Buffer Zone Protection Program \$48,500,000
- Intercity Bus Security Grant Program \$11,640,000
- Trucking Security Program \$11,640,000

Eligible applicants for this funding are specified in the grant guidance and application kits, available at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_ipp2007.htm. Initiatives to educate and train citizens to support infrastructure protection are included in as an eligible use of funds in many of these programs. All applications are due no later than March 6, 2007. ***

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Outreach themes in the coming months ...

JANUARY

- National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- National Mentoring Month
- January 15, 2007: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
- Winter Storm Preparation

FEBRUARY

- Black History Month
- February 4-10, 2007: National Burn Awareness Week
- February 11-17, 2007: National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week

MARCH

- American Red Cross Month
- The Great American Cleanup
- National Women's History Month
- March 11, 2007: Daylight Savings Time
- March 18-24, 2007: National Poison Prevention Week

Planning Your 2007 Community Outreach Themes

With the New Year just begun, now is the time to plan your community outreach themes throughout the year! To help plan the year ahead, the National Office of Citizen Corps has compiled a listing of national holidays, days of recognition, and monthly themes that can be used to emphasize community safety, disaster preparedness, first aid training, and volunteer service. This compendium, available at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/themes.shtml>, includes useful links for outreach toolkits, interesting statistics, and other information to help you design outreach efforts around each theme. Remember to post your activities on the Citizen Corps Calendar of Events at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/eventCalendarMap.do>—and email your stories and photos to citizencorps@dhs.gov. We love to hear from you!

Tips on Media Relations

The media are critical partners in communicating the message and mission of Citizen Corps. They provide critical alerts and warnings to the public when a dangerous situation is imminent or has recently occurred, and provide ongoing information throughout a crisis. Having local media outlets work in partnership with your Citizen Corps Council to improve community safety and to understand the emergency responder disciplines will pay dividends in any emergency situation. Here are a few tips to help you work with local media.

- **Develop a newsworthy angle:** To increase a reporter's interest, tie your message to existing local and national news stories, anniversaries, holidays, or statewide initiatives.
- **Line up the right spokesperson:** The best way for a reporter to flush out a story is to be able to interview sources directly involved in the event, such as Council members, local officials, volunteers, or community members that have been assisted by the Council's event or activity.
- **Follow-up with a "thank you":** Always thank the reporter and cultivate a positive relationship for future stories. Even if they don't cover your story, if you are pleasant to work with, straightforward with your information and reliable, they will remember you the next time. If your story is covered, track your press coverage, keep newspaper and video clips.

In Memoriam ~ Line of Duty

It is with great sadness that we report an in-the-line-of-duty death of a Citizen Corps volunteer.

James Durant of Scarborough, ME, was a VIPS volunteers and a CERT candidate who died from injuries sustained while conducting traffic at the scene of an accident on December 14, 2006. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Additional information is available at the VIPS website:

www.policevolunteers.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=detail&id=196



Tech Tip

Copy critical documents to a flash drive, or upload your data to an Internet location. In an emergency, you may not have time to gather your insurance records, credit cards, driver's license, birth certificates and other vital information.

To help individuals document their vital records, Citizen Corps Affiliate, Operation Hope, has created a free Emergency Financial First Aid Kit. This kit is available in English and Spanish, and can be downloaded or completed online at

www.operationhope.org/smdel/lf1.php?id=187&frmKeywords=emergency%financial&frmCategory

Citizen Preparedness Research

Citizen Preparedness Reviews

Since September 11, 2001, there have been approximately 40 surveys conducted on citizen preparedness. In order to make the data collected in these surveys useful to Citizen Corps Councils and other organizations with a mission to improve citizen preparedness, Citizen Corps has tasked an opinion research company, ORC Macro, to analyze the data and to develop periodic summary reports called the Citizen Preparedness Review (CPR). Four issues have been completed so far:

CPR Issue 1 summarizes the key findings from the collective research.

CPR Issue 2 evaluates the impact of Hurricane Katrina on citizen preparedness.

CPR Issue 3 identifies gaps in current research and topics for future research.

CPR Issue 4 introduces a model that relates an individual's perceived threat and the perceived effectiveness of preparedness measures to the motivation to take action.

The full CPR reports, as well as the compendium of the 40 surveys conducted to date, are posted on the Citizen Corps website at: www.citizencorps.gov/ready/research.shtm

In the coming year, the National Office of Citizen Corps will work with ORC Macro to translate this research into practical tools to assist Citizen Corps Councils with developing awareness campaigns and outreach efforts to increase citizen preparedness nationwide.

Public Readiness Index

The Council for Excellence in Government (CEG) is one of the organizations that have recently conducted household surveys on citizen preparedness. During May and June 2006, CEG surveyed 1,000 individuals around the country on issues related to personal preparedness. Based on the data collected, CEG has developed the Public Readiness Index – 10 questions that examine key emergency preparedness knowledge and behavior elements.

The tool can be used to provide a basic assessment of individuals, or the results from many respondents can be aggregated to assess the preparedness of communities and even the Nation. CEG has determined the current National Public Readiness Index to be a 3.31 on a scale of 10. The full report on CEG's research is posted on the Citizen Corps website at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready/research.shtm>. Individuals can assess their personal scores, their personal Readiness Quotient, on-line at www.WhatsYourRQ.org. ***

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Volunteer Facts

The current value of a volunteer hour - \$18.04

Source: *The Independent Sector*
www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

More than 65.4 million Americans volunteered in 2005.

Source: *USA Freedom Corps/Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Volunteering has reached a 30-year high

- Older teenagers (ages 16-19) have more than doubled their time spent volunteering since 1989.
- Far from being a “Me Generation,” Baby Boomers are volunteering at sharply higher rates than did the previous generation at mid-life.
- The volunteer rate for Americans ages 65 years and over has increased 64 percent since 1974.
- The proportion of Americans volunteering with an educational or youth service organization has seen a 63 percent increase just since 1989.

Source: “Volunteer Growth in America: A review of trends since 1974,” Corporation for National & Community Service



In Focus: USA Freedom Corps

In recognition of our shared fifth year anniversary, this month’s “In Focus” section spotlights Citizen Corps’ parent initiative, USA Freedom Corps (USAFC). President George W. Bush created USAFC in 2002 to build on the countless acts of service,

sacrifice, and generosity that followed September 11, 2001. As a White House office, USAFC is charged with building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America. USAFC promotes and expands volunteer service in America by partnering with national service programs, working to strengthen the non-profit sector, recognizing volunteers, and helping to connect individuals with volunteer opportunities.

Stronger National Service Programs – Under President Bush's leadership, the three pillars of USAFC—Peace Corps, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and Citizen Corps—have grown significantly:

- Peace Corps has reached a 30-year high in the number of volunteers in the field
- The Corporation for National and Community Service has seen AmeriCorps grow by 50 percent to support 75,000 AmeriCorps members each year, Senior Corps has supported more than 500,000 older volunteers annually, and Learn and Serve America has supported more than 1 million students in service each year
- Over 2,100 communities in all 56 States and territories have established Citizen Corps Councils to help inform and train citizens in emergency preparedness

Volunteer Network – USAFC offers a website, www.volunteer.gov, and a toll-free number, 1-877-USA-CORPS, for Americans to find existing volunteer service opportunities in their area. This search-friendly database includes over 2 million volunteer opportunities from organizations across the country.

President’s Volunteer Service Award – The President's Volunteer Service Award was created by President Bush to recognize outstanding volunteers. The award is available to Americans of all ages who complete a significant amount of service to their communities. To date, over 500,000 individuals have received the President’s Volunteer Service Award, including many Citizen Corps members. To apply for an award, create an online account at www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.

Greeter Program – To thank community volunteers for making a difference in the lives of others, President Bush greets an outstanding local volunteer when Air Force One arrives at cities throughout the country. The President has met more than 550 volunteers since March 2002. The greeters are nominated for this honor by local volunteer organizations, and many Citizen Corps members have been selected to greet the President, including three members in 2006: Elaine Nickovich, from the Reno, NV, VIPS; David Jewison, a volunteer with the University of Minnesota’s Medical Reserve Corps; and Lou Trimboli, the volunteer Team Chief with CERT 1 New York City. For more information, visit www.usafreedomcorps.gov/about_usafc/newsroom/local_vols.asp.

Learn more about USA Freedom Corps at www.usafreedomcorps.gov.

Citizen Corps Programs: Update Your Web Listing

Our ability to reach you starts with current contact information. If you are the point of contact for a Citizen Corps Council, please review your listing and the people who have password rights to the administrative section of the Citizen Corps website.

Most Councils can edit their contact information by logging on to the administrative side of the Citizen Corps website, which you can do directly from our home page. From the administrative side, you can manage users assigned to your Council, edit information posted on your Council page on the live website, review reports, and send email. If you have any difficulties, please contact your State Citizen Corps Program Manager.

Program Partners

CERT: Contact your state Citizen Corps coordinator.

MRC: log on to www.medicalreservecorps.gov/login.asp

Fire Corps: log on to www.firecorps.org/fireDepartments/index.cfm?fuseaction=login&CFID=423075&CFTOKEN=22558471

Neighborhood Watch: log on to: www.usaonwatch.org/UserUpdates/LoginToYourWatch.php

VIPS: log on to www.policevolunteers.org/programs/update/

DHS Citizen Corps Program Managers ~ State Assignments

The national Citizen Corps staff who work in the FEMA Regions have recently been re-organized to cover multiple regions. The regions and corresponding States are noted below. **Please remember that local Citizen Corps Councils should first contact their State Citizen Corps Program Manager if they have any questions** – many Citizen Corps initiatives, including grant funding, vary significantly from state to state. The State Citizen Corps Program Managers are listed on the website at: www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do.

Regional Program Managers

FEMA Region	DHS Citizen Corps Program Manager	Email	Location
1,2,3	Angela Heim	angela.heim@dhs.gov	Philadelphia, PA CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, PA, VA, VT, WV Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
4,8	Stephanie Poore	Stephanie.poore@dhs.gov	Denver, CO AL, CO, FL, GA, KY, MS, MT, NC, ND, SD, SC, TN, UT, WY
5,7	Jim Opoka	jim.opoka@dhs.gov	Chicago, IL IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH, WI,
6, 9, 10	Fred Bretsch	fred.bretsch@dhs.gov	Seattle, WA AK, AR, AZ, CA, HI, ID, LA, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, WA Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands



Regional Program Manager State Assignments

December 1, 2006

