



# FEMA Community Preparedness Newsletter

December 2007

## Citizen Corps By the Numbers

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Citizen Corps Councils: | 2,288  |
| CERT                    | 2,800  |
| Fire Corps              | 687    |
| MRC                     | 718    |
| NWP                     | 14,791 |
| VIPS                    | 1,636  |

## President's Volunteer Service Award

To encourage and recognize outstanding volunteer service and inspire others to volunteer, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Awards are given to youth ages 14 and under who have completed 50 or more hours of volunteer service; to individuals 15 and older who have completed 100 or more hours; and to families or groups who have completed 200 or more hours.

Lifetime achievement is recognized with a special President's Call to Service Award, which honors those who have provided more than 4,000 hours of service over the course of their lifetime.

## News from Across the Nation

### *President Bush Honors Local Citizen Corps Volunteer*

San Antonio, TX— During a November 8 presidential stop in Texas, President Bush honored Citizen Corps Volunteer Gloria Sanchez with the President's Volunteer Service Award for her contributions to the local Fire Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Gloria joined the Bexar County Emergency Scene Rehab (E.S.R.), a CERT and Fire Corps program, in 2004. The Rehab program is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that provides on-scene support to first responders at an emergency site.

She was also instrumental in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in her area, and was involved in the grassroots effort to start a Citizen Corps Council in the Alamo region. During Hurricane Katrina, Gloria volunteered more than 300 hours, helping to set up shelters and staging areas for incoming evacuees. She personally recruited volunteers, sorted donated items, and helped serve food to evacuees, volunteers, and emergency personnel.

Thank you, Gloria, for your contributions to community preparedness!



*Pictured: Gloria Sanchez with Texas Governor Rick Perry (left)*

### *Port Richmond CERT Volunteers Recognized*

Port Richmond CERT, a NYC Department of Emergency Management compliant team, has logged more than 8,500 hours of volunteer community service since their start in October of 2005.

Congratulations to the team's Presidential Volunteer Service Award honorees: Chris McCabe, Matt Spano, Richard Abbatte, Steve Clohessy, James Barone, Thomas DeMarzo, Anna Ferrarra, Rich Lonecke, Mike Trivolis, Ed Arali, Johnny Lee, Ed Jamnetski, Vivian Snyder, James Logan, Flo Thomson, and John Tidona.

For more information about the President's Volunteer Service Award, visit <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov>.



**Brock D. Bierman, Director**  
Community Preparedness Division

*Small State and Rural Advocate  
DHS/Federal Emergency  
Management Agency*

## Letter from the Director

Dear Partners in Community Preparedness,

During visits to different Citizen Corps Councils and programs around the country, I am constantly impressed by your successes, which are often accomplished on shoestring budgets. We have worked hard to integrate community preparedness as an eligible expenditure across the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). As you start planning for 2008, I hope you will take full advantage of our efforts.

Here are few good things to know about the grant process:

- The HSGP is composed of five separate funding streams, including: State Homeland Security Program, Urban Areas Security Initiative, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, Metropolitan Medical Response System, and the Citizen Corps Program. All five funding streams can support community preparedness and participation activities. In fact, **66 percent of community preparedness and participation activities were paid for using DHS funding beyond Citizen Corps Program grants in FY 2006**, including funds beyond HSGP. For more information on DHS grant programs, visit [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_programs.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_programs.htm).
- Between FY 2004 and FY 2006, States allocated \$68 million in Citizen Corps Program funding to citizen preparedness and participation projects. States were able to more than **double their funds for citizen preparedness efforts** by looking to other Homeland Security funds for an additional \$71 million over this same time period. Thanks to these efforts, nearly \$140 million was spent on citizen preparedness and participation.
- **It is critical that local Councils understand that HSGP grants are distributed to the States**, not directly to the local levels. Local Councils should work with their State Citizen Corps Program Managers to find out what funding is available to support their activities.
- **The State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only agency eligible to apply for and administer HSGP funds.** Therefore, it is important that State Citizen Corps Program Managers work closely with their SAAs. State Citizen Corps Program Managers who have questions should contact their regional Citizen Corps Program Managers for additional guidance (see last page for a list of contacts).
- If you have questions about the grants process, contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 1-800-368-6498, or e-mail [askcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@dhs.gov). Another excellent resource is the governmentwide grants Web site—[www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov).

Remember, to start preparing early and think carefully about your strategy. We are working hard for you in Washington, and we want you to succeed!

Best wishes,

Brock D. Bierman

Director, Community Preparedness Division  
Small State and Rural Advocate  
DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency

## *Overview of the Appropriations Process*

People often wonder who decides how much money to give out in grants each year. This is part of a complex, governmentwide annual budget process filled with checks and balances. Very briefly, once the President requests a budget for the coming fiscal year, both houses of Congress review it and either vote to approve the request as is, or they propose a different amount and then resolve the difference by voting in favor of the House or Senate proposal during a joint resolution. The congressionally approved budget is then returned to the President for approval and distribution to departments and agencies of the government. In FY 2007, the Citizen Corps Program received \$15 million.

## *Neighborhood Watch Awards of Excellence*

The Neighborhood Watch Awards of Excellence Program was established by the National Sheriffs' Association in 2004 to recognize and honor those law enforcement agencies, Neighborhood Watches, States, organizations, and programs that are doing extraordinary things to promote Neighborhood Watch in their communities. These awards are based upon data collected and verified by the National Sheriffs' Association.

To nominate a program in you area, please visit  
<http://www.usaonwatch.org/AboutUs/AwardsProgram.php>  
and submit your nomination by March 31, 2008.

## *Question of the Month*

### **What is the difference between USAonWatch and Neighborhood Watch?**

The National Sheriffs' Association administers USAonWatch, which is the national face of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Created in 1972, Neighborhood Watch encourages citizens to partner with law enforcement in crime prevention and neighborhood safety and provides resources and information to citizens and law enforcement. The program also promotes participation in crime watch, block watch, community watch, town watch, and many other watch groups.

After September 11, 2001, the Neighborhood Watch Program launched USAonWatch, a program that expands beyond traditional crime prevention and provides resources, education, and tools to neighborhoods on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and terrorism awareness. USAonWatch represents the expanded role of watch programs throughout the United States by empowering citizens to become active in homeland security efforts through participation in Neighborhood Watch groups.

Visit us at [www.usaonwatch.org](http://www.usaonwatch.org) to learn how you can get involved.



### **Map Your Neighborhood**

"Map Your Neighborhood" (MYN) is a program designed to help neighborhoods in Washington State prepare for disasters.

MYN is important because it provides a system to enhance family preparedness and organize neighborhood self-help in the gap between individual preparedness and full CERT programs. MYN can be implemented stand-alone, through Neighborhood Watch groups, and across urban, suburban, rural, and business settings.

Learn more and get ideas that you can apply in your State. Visit <http://emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml> for more information.



# Programs and Partners Spotlight

## *Danville, VA CERT Honors Veterans*



*Photo courtesy of the Danville CERT*

Despite a very busy year for the members of the Danville CERT program, on November 10, volunteers took time to support and honor our Nation's veterans as part of a Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony. The veterans made a decision not to use their wheelchairs and instead use volunteer mobile assistance to walk during the ceremony. CERT volunteers were responsible for escorting disabled veterans to and from their vehicles.

CERT members from the Danville Community College program, McKinley Graves and Teresa Towler, assisted several veterans who were waiting for their buses. Volunteers were also positioned at the Mobile Emergency Operations Center during the entire event. Throughout the day, the assistance that Danville CERT members helped 74 disabled veterans enjoy the ceremony without their mobility tools.

The Danville CERT program has trained more than 220 residents, and in 2006 Danville's CERT members engaged in 7,632 hours of volunteer service. Danville Emergency Services Director Doug Young and CERT staff members Al Smith and Jack Aaron accepted the President's Volunteer Service Award on behalf of the team's volunteers at the 2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness.

## *Medical Reserve Corps Conducts Multi-Jurisdiction Full-Scale Emergency Exercise*

On Saturday, October 13, 2007, the Town of Wellesley, MA joined six other communities in their emergency preparedness region to embark on a benchmark exercise for their community's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and Caritas Norwood Hospital. Health departments from Canton, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Norwood, Wellesley, and Westwood; Caritas Norwood Hospital; and the Center for Public Health Preparedness at Harvard School of Public Health developed this drill to test the organization and functionality of an Alternate Care Site (ACS).



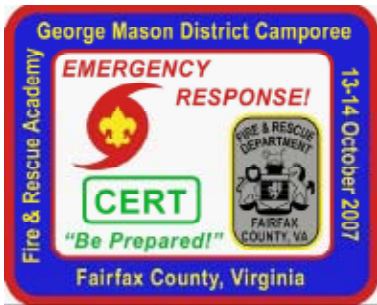
An ACS is a site set up to help offset a potential surge of people looking for care at a hospital during a pandemic flu event. The exercise provided an opportunity for hospital staff, local health departments, and MRC volunteers to meet one another before a real emergency. The exercise also allowed participants to practice the Incident Command System and "just in time" volunteer training.

For more information on the MRC in the Town of Wellesley, please visit [http://www.wellesleyma.gov/Pages/WellesleyMA\\_Health/Medical%20Reserve%20Corps](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/Pages/WellesleyMA_Health/Medical%20Reserve%20Corps).



# Highlights from Around the Country

## *Fairfax County, VA, Boy Scouts Participate in Emergency Preparedness Camporee*



Members of the Fairfax County CERT program showed off their skills and trained Boy Scouts at the George Mason District Boy Scouts of America Camporee on October 13 and 14, 2007. The Camporee was held at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy.

The purpose of this event was to teach the Scout participants methods of effective disaster

preparedness and mitigation. Each Scout spent one weekend at the academy using his personal disaster preparedness kit to simulate recovering from “Hurricane George.” Throughout the weekend, Scouts were led by a CERT volunteer and taught skills using a multitude of scenarios.

Through instruction, Boy Scout member and CERT volunteer, Charles Monts, helped Scouts fulfill several of the primary requirements of the emergency preparedness merit badge. During the exercises, CERT members played multiple roles, including moulage technicians and logistical preparation staff.

This event promoted the concept of CERT to a receptive audience and helped the Fairfax County CERT participate in a community outreach event.



Photo courtesy of <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com>

## *Tallahassee, FL, Red Cross*

The (Florida) Capital Area Citizen Corps and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross recently worked with several partners to facilitate a new tabletop exercise called “Hurricane Westy—A Retirement Community Tabletop Exercise.” The tabletop exercise was an opportunity for local retirement communities to learn the importance of working together when disaster strikes.

It helped foster coordination of activities such as neighborhood and business planning and preparedness; threat assessment; needs assessment; and recovery. The 74 participants included independent living residents of Westminster Oaks Retirement Community, and administrative and management staff from the Nursing Home and Adult Congregate Living Facility.



Photo courtesy of <http://redcross.tallytown.com/westy>

Additional information and the Situation Manuals for this tabletop exercise can be found at <http://redcross.tallytown.com/westy>.



## ***Great News in Region III!***

Washington, DC, Citizen Corps has been awarded \$1.425 million for citizen preparedness efforts from the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency. The funding will allow the implementation of a strategy that includes citizen training, exercises, and partnership building (developed by the Executive Director of Serve DC and the DC Citizen Corps Director).

The DC program attributes much of its success to close relationships that have been built with first responders and nonprofit organizations throughout the National Capitol Region, and to the leadership support of both the DC Director of Emergency Management, Darrell Darnell, and Mayor Adrian Fenty, as well as City Administrator, Dan Tanagerlini, not to mention the tireless support and efforts of Executive Director of Serve DC (and former Director of DC Citizen Corps), Millicent Williams.

## ***Ocean View, DE, Citizen Corps Partners with Unattended Child Center***

On November 20, 2007, Anne McCann of the Delaware Emergency Management Agency and Coordinator for the Unattended Child Center (UCC) and Darryl Dawson of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services briefed the Ocean View Citizen Corps Council Civilian Auxiliary Policy Unit on the role of UCCs in an emergency. The purpose of the UCC is to provide a short-term, caring environment/shelter for unattended children who have become separated from their parents, custodians, or legal guardians during an emergency. The Civilian Auxiliary Policy Unit will act as volunteer staff in these Centers. Delaware Citizen Corps is a member of the UCC Council.

*Pictured: Anne McCann; Photo courtesy of <http://delawarecitizencorps.blogspot.com>*

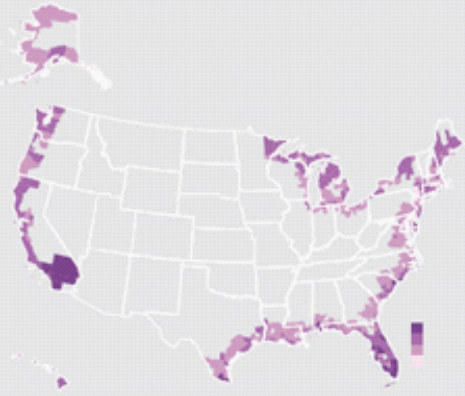
## **Preparing for Emergencies Using Census Data**

The growth in population of coastal areas illustrates the importance of emergency planning and preparedness for areas that are more susceptible to inclement weather conditions. The U.S. Census Bureau's official population estimates, along with annually updated socioeconomic data from the new American Community Survey, provide a detailed look at the Nation's growing coastal population. Emergency planners and community leaders can better assess the needs of coastal populations using Census Bureau data.

The number of Americans residing in a coastal county passed the 150 million mark in 2005, making the coastal population larger than the entire U.S. population in 1950. Today, more than half of the U.S. population lives in a coastal area (as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), even though the 673 coastal counties constitute only about one-fourth of the country's landmass.

To learn more about how Census Data may influence community preparedness, visit

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/emergencies/index.html>.



# News & Events

## *Three-Month Community Outreach Outlook*

### December

- Winter Storm Awareness

### January

- National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- Winter Storm Preparation
- January 1, 2008: New Year's Day
- January 21, 2008: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

### February

- Black History Month
- February 3-9, 2008: National Burn Awareness Week
- February 10-16, 2008: National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week
- February 18, 2008: Washington's Birthday

## Holiday Tip

### *Fire Safety in the Kitchen*

**Cooking equipment, most often a range or stovetop, is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States.**

**Cooking equipment is also the leading cause of unreported fires and associated injuries.**

**Whether you are cooking the family holiday dinner or a snack for the children, practicing safe cooking behaviors will help keep you and your family safe.**

For more information, please visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>, Keyword Search: Cooking Safety.



## Event Recap

### *Second Annual Colorado CERT Summer Games*

The second annual Colorado CERT Summer Games took place on September 14 and 15, 2007. This year's event included more than 50 participants, representatives from two regions, and more than 30 staff who donated their time.

The first day's activities included Shelter Training, First Aid, and CPR (provided by the Mile High Red Cross), Map and Compass Training (provided by USA Volunteers), a "Dinner's Ready" preparedness event (sponsored by *Ready Colorado*), and a game of CERT Jeopardy. Activities on the next day included Search and Rescue, Triage, Team-Building, Fire Safety, and a full-scale disaster exercise. Congratulations to the winning team, a combination of members from Clear Creek and Adams County!

The following agencies contributed to this event: Adams County Citizen Corps, Aurora Citizen Corps, Arapahoe Citizen Corps, Boulder County Citizen Corps, Clear Creek County Citizen Corps, Denver Citizen Corps, Douglas County, Elbert Citizen Corps, Englewood Citizen Corps, Jefferson Citizen Corps, Mile High Red Cross, NCR Fire Corps, Parker Fire Department, *ReadyColorado*, Salvation Army, and Weld County Citizen Corps. Sponsors: the North Central Region and Colorado Division of Emergency Management.



*Article and photo courtesy of the North Central Region and Colorado Division of Emergency Management*





Learn about potential danger associated with winter storms and how to prepare, visit [www.fema.gov/hazard/winter](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter).

## Are You Ready?

- Get informed about local emergency plans
- Learn how to identify hazards that affect your local area
- Develop and maintain an emergency communications plan
- Prepare a disaster supplies kit

## Resources

- **Independent Study:** If you have emergency management responsibilities or are interested in learning more about emergency preparedness, the FEMA Independent Study Program (ISP) has self-paced courses available to the public. Visit <http://training.fema.gov/IS/> for more information.
- **Blogs:** Citizen Corps programs nationwide are blogging. Take a look at some examples of this interactive means of communication
  - <http://delawarecitizencorps.blogspot.com>
  - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com>
  - <http://lincolnparkview.blogspot.com>
- **Mutual Aid:** EMAC, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, is a congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid. Through EMAC, a disaster-affected State can request and receive assistance from other member States quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues up-front: liability and reimbursement. For more information, visit <http://www.emacweb.org/>.
- **Public Health:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serves the Nation by focusing on developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States. To learn ways to prepare and protect your community during a public health emergency, visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/index.asp>.
- **Safer Communities:** The National Crime Prevention Council Web site is filled with hundreds of resources, publications, and links that enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. Visit <http://www.ncpc.org/> for more information.

## Don't Wait. Set a Date. *Resolve to Be Ready in 2008.*

Every year nearly half of all Americans will make at least one New Year's resolution. For the third consecutive year, the *Ready* Campaign is encouraging businesses, organizations, communities, families, and individuals to *Resolve to be Ready*. The *Ready* Campaign is partnering closely with the Citizens Corps Program to make sure the *Resolve to be Ready* message is carried to homes and communities across America. In the next few weeks, *Ready* will provide templates to Citizen Corps Councils as well as to State and local partners to encourage participation.

Keeping New Year's resolutions is challenging, and making resolutions that are simple and realistic is the key to success. Americans can succeed with preparedness resolutions by following the *Ready* Campaign's easy steps and by getting involved in events throughout their communities. During the holiday season, please remind everyone around you: "Don't wait. Set a date. *Resolve to be Ready* in 2008."

For more information about the *Ready* Campaign, call 1-800-BE-READY or visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



# Editorial Policy

Citizen Corps welcomes your stories and best practices. If you would like to submit a story for consideration, please review our editorial policy.

- **Due Date:** All articles must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered for the next newsletter.
- **Length:** Articles should be between 50 and 150 words or one to three paragraphs.
- **Format:** Submit text as a Microsoft Word file using 12pt Times New Roman font or paste text directly into your e-mail. Articles submitted as a PDF will not be used.
- **Previously Published Articles:** If you wish to submit a published article, you must obtain and include written permission from the publication to comply with copyright laws.
- **Photos:** If submitting a photo, attach it to your e-mail as a JPG or TIF file. Include the names of people in the photo and a description of what they are doing and why. NOTE: Photos are assumed to be approved for publication.
- **Complete Information:** Be sure to include complete and accurate information including city and State, name of people or organizations involved, date of activity, contact information for author, and other relevant information.
- **Changes:** Citizen Corps retains the right to edit all stories for length, clarity, and accuracy.
- **Acceptance:** Submissions are selected based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to: activities of national interest, timeliness, space available, completeness of information, relevance, and other criteria.
- **Where to Submit:** Please submit your articles to your regional program managers and copy your State Citizen Corps program manager.

For a listing of State contacts, please visit:

[www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do](http://www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do).

- *Regions 1, 2, and 3* (CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NH, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)—Angela Heim: [Angela.Heim@dhs.gov](mailto:Angela.Heim@dhs.gov)
- *Regions 4 and 8* (AL, CO, FL, GA, KY, MS, MT, NC, ND, SC, SD, TN, UT, WY)—Stephanie Poore: [Stephanie.Poore@dhs.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Poore@dhs.gov)
- *Regions 5 and 7* (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH, WI)—Jim Opoka: [James.Opoka@dhs.gov](mailto:James.Opoka@dhs.gov)
- *Regions 6, 9, and 10* (AK, AR, AZ, CA, ID, HI, LA, NM, NV, OK, TX, WA, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands)—Fred Bretsch: [Fred.Bretsch@dhs.gov](mailto:Fred.Bretsch@dhs.gov)
- *Program Partners*—Angela Palombaro: [Angela.Palombaro@dhs.gov](mailto:Angela.Palombaro@dhs.gov)
- *CERT*—[cert@dhs.gov](mailto:cert@dhs.gov)

