



Letter From the Director



*Brock D. Bierman
Director, Community Preparedness Division
Small State and Rural Advocate*

Dear Partners in Community Preparedness,

I want to extend a large “Thank you,” to the Illinois State Citizen Corps Council for hosting me at their annual conference this month. It was a great opportunity to introduce myself, in person, and have an open dialogue with Council members about the Citizen Corps program nationally as we move forward in 2008.

All of the information in this newsletter reinforces the importance of our four main goals to accomplish in the coming year: 1) strengthening and expanding our partnerships; 2) providing tools and resources to our Councils nationwide; 3) integrating community preparedness in national policy, guidance, and assessments; and 4) increasing awareness of Citizen Corps and our mission.

This edition of the newsletter also includes the changes California has put on the Citizen Corps Program by Governor Schwarzenegger establishing a cabinet level position on volunteerism, funding information on federal grants to state and local governments supporting Citizen Corps Councils, new training opportunities and more.

With the recent release of the Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance, we encourage Councils to inquire about 2008 DHS funding through their State POC. There are many ways this funding may benefit your locality in terms of strengthening individual and community preparedness.

We also encourage all state leadership to follow the California example in promoting its volunteer programs and the Citizen Corps Program to strengthen planning and participation communities nationwide. Governor Schwarzenegger and the State of California have shown great leadership by supporting volunteerism and Citizen Corps.

We have an ambitious agenda for the year ahead, but we know that our real success comes from you who are at the state, territory, tribal and local levels. We want to hear from you – we want to hear how we can best support your efforts and we want to hear about your successes.



2008 DHS Funding and Community Preparedness

On February 1, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released application guidance for 14 federal grant programs totaling over \$3 billion. Community Preparedness is an eligible use of funds for 10 of these 14 grant programs. This means that there are multiple funding streams available to support your community preparedness priorities for FY 2008. To assist our government partners, Citizen Corps has prepared a guide that identifies specific language in each of the application packages that support the mission of community preparedness. This guide is posted on the Citizen Corps homepage under "Latest News" on the right-hand side. The direct link is: http://www.citizencorps.gov/pdf/FY08_Community_Preparedness_and_Participation_Funding_Summary.pdf.

<u>HSGP breakdown:</u>	
State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)	\$950,000,000
Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)	\$820,000,000
Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)	\$41,000,000
Citizen Corps Program (CCP)	\$15,000,000

Completed Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM EDT, May 1, 2008 via grants.gov.

Training Opportunities Available

FEMA Courses

There are three new Independent Study courses you can take through FEMA IS120.A: An Introduction to Exercises, IS130: Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning, and IS800.B National Response Framework, An Introduction.

IS120.A An Introduction to Exercises introduces the basics of emergency management exercises. This independent study course also builds a foundation for subsequent exercise courses which provide the specifics of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and the National Standard Exercise Curriculum (NSEC). The IS120.A replaces the IS120 An Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises on this date of issuance.

IS130 Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning* is a new independent study offering which introduces the basics of emergency management exercise evaluation and improvement planning. It also provides the foundation for exercise evaluation concepts and practices as identified in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). * *Individuals who wish to enroll in the IS130 Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning must complete the IS120.A: An Introduction to Exercises.*



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IS800.B National Response Framework, An Introduction provides an overview of the concepts and principles of the National Response Framework, released on January 22, 2008. The course addresses the response doctrine established by the Framework, the actions that support national response, the response organizations used for multiagency coordination, and how planning relates to national preparedness.

The courses are available online at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS120A.asp> or you may contact the Independent Study office via email Independent.Study@dhs.gov or contact the call center at 301-447-1200.

The Advanced Institute on Volunteer Management

The Advanced Institute on Volunteer Management offers experienced volunteer resources managers* the opportunity to learn from the best-known experts in the world in a setting that values your knowledge and builds on your experience. The Institute covers topics ranging from ethics to leadership, from risk management to team-building and includes large-group forums, hands-on workshops, and small support circles that provide personalized input into your professional development planning.

The training will be held **May 31 – June 2, 2008 in Atlanta, GA**. For more information, please visit <http://www.pointsoflight.org/resources/training/traininginfo.cfm?id=a0B300000019ccCEAQ>

**This institute is open to experienced volunteer resources managers with at least 3 years of professional experience in volunteer program management and prior professional development coursework in volunteer management.*

First-in-the-Nation Cabinet Position for Service & Volunteering



Through an Executive Order signed on February 26th 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed CaliforniaVolunteers program executive Director, Karen Baker, as the first Secretary of Service and Volunteering. As a member of the Governor’s Cabinet, this is the first ever leader for volunteerism at the highest level of state government. The CaliforniaVolunteers program administers the California State Citizen Corps Program and has a specific mission to increase the number and impact of Californians engaged in service and volunteerism. In addition to Citizen Corps, CaliforniaVolunteers oversees other programs including AmeriCorps, the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning, and the California Volunteer Matching Network which connects Californians to meaningful, high-impact volunteer opportunities in their communities through an online volunteer matching system via the CaliforniaVolunteers.org website.

Schwarzenegger said, “I want to move civic engagement to the highest levels of state government, which is where it belongs. Californians' desire and will to serve are there in abundance. We must do everything we can to harness this incredible resource.”¹

¹ http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=945&Itemid=1 (via Google news alerts)



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First Lady Maria Shriver, a supporter of philanthropic and volunteer activity, stated "I'm a big believer in uniting people to create change and achieve a positive legacy in their own lives, in their communities, in their state and beyond and it is through the act of service that this goal can be attained. As we elevate service, we elevate our fellow Californians to be 38 million strong."²

As America watched over 500,000 acres of land burn from Santa Barbara County to the U.S.–Mexico border, the October 2007 California wildfires spurred the need for a stronger, more coordinated volunteer force throughout the state. The series of wildfires that began burning across Southern California on October 20 killed a total of nine people and injured 85 others, including at least 61 firefighters³. During this time there was a great need for volunteers to supplement first responders as the fires blazed.

CaliforniaVolunteers launched a web site to help coordinate the efforts of unaffiliated volunteers and local partner volunteer centers near affected areas. The web site provided information about the fires, ways to help, a "Train NOW For Future Disasters" section, and a list of opportunities for training through the Citizen Corps of California Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program. Volunteer Centers of California reported registering nearly 10,000 volunteers online to assist in the affected areas. Of those volunteers, nearly many assisted by conducting drives for donations and staffing phone lines.

Message from *READY*

Join Ready for DHS's 5th Annual National Preparedness Month! September is not too far away – and to launch this year's effort Ready will host a conference call on Wednesday, March 19 at 2 p.m. Please save the date and watch your e-mail box for additional information.



Your efforts are greatly needed to make this another successful year. Last year, over 1800 organizations including Citizen Corps Councils participated by hosting events and trainings as well as distributing emergency preparedness information.

Citizen Corps Affiliate Spotlights

National Volunteer Fire Council

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) teamed up with Firehouse.com to record a podcast on two of the biggest challenges facing volunteer fire departments – retention and recruitment.

² http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=945&Itemid=1 (via Google news alerts)

³ Wikipedia, "October 2007 California wildfires."



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The podcast is available as part of Radio@Firehouse.com's lineup of broadcasts for fire and emergency professionals, online at www.radiofirehouse.com. The podcast can also be accessed from the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org and from iTunes.

Over the last three decades, the ranks of the volunteer fire service have declined by 7%, yet volunteers comprise 72% of firefighters in the U.S. In 2007, the U.S. Fire Administration and the NVFC released a comprehensive guide that examined the obstacles to successful retention and recruitment efforts as well as the solutions to these obstacles. In the podcast, Dr. William Jenaway moderates a discussion into the key findings of this study as well as the overriding concept of leadership when it comes to the issues of retention and recruitment.

Several fire service leaders and experts join Jenaway in the podcast to provide insight and advice to departments facing retention and recruitment challenges. Philip C. Stittleburg, Chairman of the NVFC and Wisconsin Director; Jack Carriger, Second Vice Chairman of the NVFC and Oregon Director; and E. James Monihan, past Chairman of the NVFC and current Delaware Director, discuss some of the best practices they are seeing in their states to address the retention and recruitment challenges as well as how leadership plays an important factor in the solution.

Listen to the podcast at www.radiofirehouse.com or at www.nvfc.org. Download a copy of the USFA/NVFC guide Retention and Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services: Challenges and Solutions (Second Edition) at www.nvfc.org or order a hard copy from the U.S. Fire Administration's Publication Center.

E9-1-1 Institute Announces 5th Annual E-9-1-1 Honorees

E 9-1-1 Institute annually honors dispatchers, technicians, community leaders and citizens from around the country who have demonstrated heroism when handling a specific 9-1-1 call or who have exhibited leadership in the cause of advancing 9-1-1 on the local state or federal level. This year's honorees are as follows:

The E9-1-1 Institute Honors:

- 9-1-1 Technician Award to William C. Boyd
- Call Taker/Dispatch to Patricia Michaels
- Citizen in Action to Tony Sharpe
- Federal Government Leader to Laurie Flaherty
- First Responder to Glenn Wintuk
- Industry Leader to Kevin Murray
- Local Government Leader to Rebecca (Becky) Berger
- Outstanding Call Center Award to the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center

E9-1-1 Institute is a non-profit organization that supports the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus in promoting public education on E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues. The Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus was formed as a joint initiative to educate lawmakers, constituents, and committees about the importance of citizen-activated emergency response systems. E9-1-1 Institute serves as an information clearinghouse for policy makers at the federal, state, and local



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levels, as well as for interested parties and the general public. E-911 Institute is supported through member donations.

How is your community advancing 9-1-1? Does your Citizen Corps Council include 9-1-1 dispatchers and operators? Citizen Corps encourages councils to work closely with their 9-1-1 call centers on developing the community emergency operations plans and education and promotion of 9-1-1 in their community. To learn more about E9-1-1 Institute and more information about the E9-1-1 Honorees, please visit: www.e911institute.org

American Red Cross

“I request that during that month (March) our people rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross.”

--President Franklin D. Roosevelt, first Presidential Proclamation of March as Red Cross Month, 1943

For 65 years, the President of the United States has proclaimed March, National American Red Cross Month. Throughout the month of March, 750 Red Cross chapters across the country will celebrate in a variety of ways, including holding special events, trainings or fundraisers to give people an opportunity to support the organization through donations of time, money or blood. The Red Cross also uses March to urge all Americans to get prepared. There are three simple actions to get "Red Cross Ready" for disasters and other emergencies: 1) Get a kit, 2) Make a plan and 3) Be informed.

Through your Citizen Corps Council, work with the local American Red Cross Chapter to make communities and individuals safer at home and around the world.

Partner Program Roundup



- Ashland, OR, CERT was activated for emergency sheltering and sandbagging missions due to severe winter weather during the winter months.
- Pinellas County, FL, CERT programs hosted an all day training session revolving around a “lost child” scenario. The event started with the “Live Safe” program instructed by Corporal Denise Nestor with the Pinellas County Sheriffs Office. The



CERT volunteers sandbag for harsh winter weather. Ashland, OR.

program is designed to raise awareness in protecting children from abduction. Following the presentation, the 75 CERT members received training and exercised searching for the “lost child” in a large park and canvassing a neighborhood passing out flyers while looking for clues. Lunch was provided by Armor CERT Products. CERT members offer a



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quick option to law enforcement to mobilize, under an incident command system, a large amount of personnel to effectively canvas an area.



- Fire Corps Program Coordinator Lori Moon attended the Ohio Rural Fire Council (ORFC) meeting at the Ohio Fire Academy on January 12. Over 60 representatives from rural departments across Ohio attended the meeting, which focused on fire and EMS department retention and recruitment. Moon spoke about the challenges of retaining and recruiting first responders and presented Fire Corps as an important solution to these challenges.



- The Yavapai County (AZ) MRC was awarded a regional Homeland Security grant to prepare an 18-month Training and Exercise Plan focusing on medical needs shelters and mass antibiotic dispensing.
- Three Arlington County (VA) MRC volunteers conducted telephone interviews as part of the investigation of a norovirus outbreak in a local senior living facility.
- **REMINDER!!** 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference (April 8-11, 2008 in Portland, OR)



- **REMINDER!!** The 5th Annual National Neighborhood Watch Awards of Excellence program will be honoring law enforcement agencies, Neighborhood Watch groups, organizations, and/or programs that have made an exceptional contribution to the Neighborhood Watch program in their communities. The aforementioned groups are encouraged to **submit nominations to the National Sheriffs' Association by March 31, 2008.**



- The most recent edition of VIPS in Focus features three agencies who work with their volunteers to promote crime prevention efforts throughout their community. Congratulations to the Town of Herndon, VA, Police Department, Lakewood, CO, Police



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Department and Billings, MT, Police Department for collaborating with volunteers on a very important law enforcement issue.

Use These Tools to Assist with Community Outreach

Google

Constantly looking for new Citizen Corps ideas? Want to know what Citizen Corps counterparts are doing nationwide? Google has a great tool for you!

Visit the Google Alerts Web Page by going to: <http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en>. Once there, you can set up a Google Alert with the topic of your choice. Google Alerts are a great way to receive updates and keep a pulse on how Citizen Corps and Citizen Corps Partners are making difference across the country.

2008 Upcoming Monthly Themes for Community Outreach

The following national holidays, days of recognition and monthly themes are intended to be used as a guide to jumpstart your thinking for planning local events and media outreach.

March

- American Red Cross Month
- The Great American Cleanup
- March 9, 2008: Daylight Savings Time
- March 16-22, 2008: National Poison Prevention Week
- Tornado Awareness

April

- April 27-May 3, 2008: National Volunteer Week: Inspire by Example
- April 19-26, 2008: National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)



Editorial Policy

Citizen Corps welcomes your stories and best practices. If you would like to submit a story for consideration, please review and follow 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.citizen corps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do.
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