



## FY 2008 DHS Budget Signed ~ Homeland Security Grants to be Announced

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 that sets the budget for many federal government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Act appropriates \$3.1 billion for state and local programs, which includes the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP) funds.

### HSGP breakdown:

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

NOTE: The fiscal 2008 budget does not include a separate line item for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), in accordance with the 9/11 Act, which mandates that at least 25 percent of SHSP and UASI funds be used for LETPP activities.

### IPP breakdown:

• Public Transportation Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance	\$400,000,000
• Port Security Grant Program	\$400,000,000
• Buffer Zone Protection Program	\$50,000,000
• Trucking Industry Security Grants	\$16,000,000
• Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance	\$11,500,000

Additional information on grant applications and specific grant guidance to support community preparedness will be available shortly. If there are questions, contact your Regional Citizen Corps Program Manager (see contact information on the back page).

### **Budget/Appropriations Process**

People often wonder who decides how much money is given out in grants each year. This is part of a complex, government-wide annual budget process filled with checks and balances. Very briefly, once the President requests a budget for the coming fiscal year, the Appropriations Committees 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. The list of Appropriations Committee members is posted on the web. Senate Appropriations Committee: <http://appropriations.senate.gov/members.cfm>; House Appropriations Committee: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>. Each of these Committees also has a Subcommittee on Homeland Security.



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

## **Letter from the Director**

Dear Partners in Community Preparedness,

With the President's State of the Union Address this week, the Citizen Corps Program is now six years strong and we believe this year will be our best year yet! Many thanks to the over 2,300 Citizen Corps Councils nationwide and our numerous partners who believe in the core mission to bring local government and non-government leaders together to actively participate in emergency planning, preparedness, and response and who believe that we all have a role to play in helping to make the nation safer and more resilient. New Councils continue to join our ranks every month and we look forward to working with these new Councils as well as those of you who have been part of this movement from the beginning. Your commitment has been exceptional and we thank you for your contributions.

This addition of the newsletter includes information on recent important DHS developments, including the passage of the appropriations bill and the identified funding for grants to state and local governments and the newly revised National Response Framework. Additional information will be forthcoming on how these grants can support community preparedness, but I am pleased to share with you that the Citizen Corps line item appropriation will provide level funding for Citizen Corps grants.

Our goals in the coming year will continue to focus on four areas: 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.

A few of the specific outcomes we expect to achieve this year include: continued support through the full range of Homeland Security grants; strategic planning guidance and a toolkit for Citizen Corps Councils; strengthened relationship with existing Affiliates and expansion of the Affiliate network; release of the results of our National Household Survey on Individual Preparedness and Participation; distribution of liability guidance; revise CERT basic training curriculum and Train-the-Training course; complete research and develop standard annex to CERT Instructor Guide for delivery of basic training to Tribal communities; and update and enhance the Citizen Corps and CERT websites – to include new on-line registration pages and the “Profiles in Hometown Security” best practice collection tool.

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, 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.

Best wishes for 2008!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brock D. Bierman".

## **National Response Framework Released**

On January 22, 2008, DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison released a new National Response Framework to guide how our nation plans, prepares for, and responds to disasters and emergencies of all kinds and all sizes.

The [National Response Framework](http://www.fema.gov/nrf) ([www.fema.gov/nrf](http://www.fema.gov/nrf)) builds on the previous National Response Plan. It is designed to give senior elected and appointed officials from federal, tribal, state, and local government, as well as members of the private sector, a clear, straightforward, easy-to-understand system for working together before, during, and after disasters. It can be used to manage everything from the smallest local incident to a major catastrophic event that impacts our entire nation.

The Framework was not written by Washington bureaucrats working in isolation. It reflects extensive coordination and input from state and local officials and emergency managers from across the country – the very people who will be using the plan. As such, the National Response Framework is not a federal plan; it is a national plan that will make sure everyone involved in the response effort is working from the same sheet of music.

The new Framework builds on a set of core principles:

- It stresses the need for partnerships across government and the private sector.
- It emphasizes a “bottom up” approach that recognizes most incidents are managed locally and that all incidents should be handled at the lowest jurisdictional level.
- It is designed to be scalable so that it can be expanded or narrowed based on the scope and nature of the incident, and it is flexible and adaptable to different kinds of disasters.
- It recognizes that successful emergency preparedness and response depend on unity of command and a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities among all involved.
- It is always activated and encourages a forward leaning posture by emphasizing preparedness planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising and applying lessons learned. Planning ahead of the disaster is critical to a successful response, and the Framework encourages such coordination.

## **REMS Grants Announced ~ [Application Deadline February 19, 2008](#)**

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, we are pleased to announce the release of the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Fiscal Year 2008 grant application (CFDA 84.184E). Eligibility for these grants is limited to local educational agencies (LEAs) and consortia thereof. **Note:** The REMS grant competition limits eligibility to applicants that do not currently have an active grant under this program. For the purpose of this eligibility requirement, a grant is considered active until the end of the grant's project or funding period, including any extensions of those periods that extend the grantee's authority to obligate funds (71 FR 70369).

The application package may be downloaded from Grants.gov at <http://apply.grants.gov/apply/GetGrantFromFedgrants?cfda=&opportunity=ED-GRANTS-010808-001&competitionid=>

To access the application package, click on the Instructions and Applications "download" link. Before you can view and complete an application package, you must have the PureEdge viewer or Adobe Reader installed. Click here [http://www07.grants.gov/resources/download\\_software.jsp](http://www07.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp) to download the

PureEdge Viewer if you do not have it installed already. There is also a Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center on the Web at <http://rems.ed.gov>.

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **Resolve to be Ready**

The Citizen Corps Program is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* Campaign to promote "Resolve to be Ready in 2008." We hope you will help us take this message to your communities through local activities that promote personal and community preparedness. To help you get started, the *Ready* Campaign has provided helpful resources and templates to promote "Resolve to be Ready" in your communities and businesses. These resources are available by emailing [ready@dhs.gov](mailto:ready@dhs.gov) for their "Resolve to be Ready" toolkit.



The *Ready* Campaign is offering an extra incentive to Citizen Corps partners. Citizen Corps Councils that would like to display a "Resolve to be Ready" web banner with a Citizen Corps logo on it should email the *Ready* Campaign at [ready@dhs.gov](mailto:ready@dhs.gov), with a brief message describing your planned activities and a request for the co-branded web banner. Let your state and regional Citizen Corps Program Managers know about your events, too, and take advantage of our online calendar to publicize your events and share your ideas with others around the nation: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/showEvent.do?submitCalendar>.

### **Start Planning Now!**

The New Year is a perfect time to look ahead and plan preparedness activities for your community or organization—especially for major events like National Preparedness Month 2008 in September. For example, in 2007, the **Racine, WI, Office of Emergency Management** launched a year-long "2007 Preparedness Campaign-12 Months to Preparedness." Their campaign featured a different area of emphasis each month, including a special section highlighting items that should be purchased for a family's Disaster Supply Kit. To see what Racine OEM did, visit their website: <http://www.racineco.com/emergencymanagement/preparedness.aspx>

For other ideas, we have included an abbreviated list of monthly themes for 2008, which are also posted on our website: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/themes.shtm>.

#### **January**

- National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- National Mentoring Month
- January 21, 2008: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

#### **February**

- Black History Month
- February 3-9, 2008: National Burn Awareness Week
- February 11-17, 2008: National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week

## 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)

## May

- National Older Americans Month
- May 12, 2007: National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day
- May 18-24, 2008: National Public Works Week

## June

- National Safety Month – National Safety Council
- Home Safety Month – Home Safety Council
- June 1, 2008: Hurricane Season Begins
- June 14, 2008: Flag Day
- June 28-28, 2008: ARRL Field Day

## July

- July 4, 2008: Independence Day
- July 26, 2008: Anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act

## August

- August 5, 2008: The 25th Annual National Night Out
- Water Conservation
- Crime Prevention

## September

- National Preparedness Month 2008
- Back to School
- September 11, 2008: Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Attacks
- September 15-October 15, 2008: National Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 21-26, 2008: Deaf Awareness Week
- Wildfire Mitigation

## October

- Crime Prevention Month
- Diversity Awareness Month
- October 5-11, 2008: Fire Prevention Week

## November

- National American Indian Heritage Month
- November 2, 2008: Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 11, 2008: Veterans' Day
- November 27, 2008: Thanksgiving Day

## December

- Winter Storm Awareness
- December 31, 2008: New Year's Eve

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Neighborhood Watch Awards**

The National Sheriffs' Association in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice is pleased to announce that they are accepting nominations for the *5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Neighborhood Watch Awards of Excellence* to be presented during the General Section of the 2008 National Sheriffs' Association Conference in Indianapolis, IN.



All law enforcement agencies, Neighborhood Watch groups, organizations, and/or programs that have made an exceptional contribution to the Neighborhood Watch program in their communities are encouraged to submit nominations to the National Sheriffs' Association by March 31, 2008.

For complete information on eligibility, criteria, and nomination forms please visit: <http://www.usaonwatch.org/AboutUs/AwardsProgram.php>

## **Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Workshops**

In partnership with local communities, FEMA's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will be hosted a series of Workshops around the country. The purpose of the Workshops is to engage Homeland Security stakeholders, including the private sector, governmental agencies, non-profit groups such as non-governmental organizations and faith-based groups in a strategic partnership to develop a national culture of preparedness. The next Workshop is January 31 in Miami. More information is available on the Web at: <http://www.dhsevents.org/>

## ***Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service***

In 1994 Congress passed the Martin Luther King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a day off from work or school, Congress asked Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate Dr. King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action.

Participation in the Martin Luther King Day of Service has grown steadily over the past decade, with hundreds of thousands of Americans each year engaging in projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, painting schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and reflecting on Dr. King's life and teachings. This year's observance will be held on January 21. We encourage Citizen Corps Councils and partners to develop service projects that encourage community preparedness and honor the life and teachings of Dr. King.

For example, the Washington, D.C., Citizen Corps Council recognized Martin Luther King Day of Service 2007 by providing opportunities for residents of the District of Columbia





to assist in preparing emergency go-kits at McKinley Technical High School. Additionally, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program which operates out of the Friendship Senior Centers sponsored a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross, a national Citizen Corps Affiliate. Additional partnerships were developed with local fire departments to ensure that one of the homeless shelters in the area was fully equipped with smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. Residents of the shelter were then briefed on the importance of preparedness and the steps that they should take in the event of an emergency.

Communications Director Dy Brown and Regina Moran from Martin Luther King Day of Service VISTA led the 2007 observance in Washington, D.C., registering over 80 projects and engage almost 11,000 volunteers—increase over the 10 projects and 1500 volunteers in 2006.



To read more about how you can serve your community on this day of service visit, <http://www.mlkday.gov/>

## **Highlights from Around the Country**

### ***Alabama Governor's Volunteer Leadership Conference***

In December 2007, more than 400 volunteers and volunteer leaders from across the Southeast gathered in Mobile, Alabama at the Battle House Hotel for the Governor's Volunteer Leadership Conference. The three-day conference was hosted by the Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives and the Alabama Department of Homeland Security with the theme of "Strengthening Communities Through Citizen Service and Preparedness."

All conference members had the opportunity to hear from Alabama Governor Bob Riley, who commended the volunteers for their service. "I am personally grateful to the countless volunteers who give so much of themselves and expect nothing in return," Governor Riley said. "When good people reach out to those in need, they are literally transforming Alabama one person, one family, and one community at a time."

Guest speakers also included FEMA's Director of Community Preparedness Brock Bierman, Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service Elizabeth Seale, and FedEx's Manager of Global Community Relations and Philanthropy Rose Jackson Flenorl.

Planning is already underway for the 2008 conference. For more for information, visit [www.ServeAlabama.gov](http://www.ServeAlabama.gov).



*Governor Bob Riley and attendees*

## ***Washington Senior Devotes Free Time to Community Preparedness***

She's 73, a grandmother and a star in Washington State's CERT world. After taking an FBI class in Weapons of Mass Destruction, which included a major drill simulating a bombing in a local mall, then 70-year old Frances Stewart decided she needed to learn more to better help her community. Within days she saw an ad for a CERT class in the local paper and signed up.

Age is no boundary for Frances; at 73, she has more time to devote to what she wants to be doing. She reports that "persistence works" when educating the public about disasters, and finds that the more she talks to people about preparedness, the more information they want. Now a CERT member, Frances has big goals for the future. She plans to get her Amateur Radio license, hold preparedness meetings every two months in her neighborhood, and focus on educating local schools to help them get better prepared. Thank you Francis!



*73-year-old Francis Stewart champions CERT in Washington State*

*Submitted by Carrie Akerstrom, Everett (WA) Office of Emergency Management, 425-257-7968, carrie.carriea@gmail.com*

## ***Wisconsin Red Cross Shelter Exercise Promotes Agency Collaboration***



On September 22, 2007, the Manitowoc/Calumet (Northeast Wisconsin) Chapter the American Red Cross hosted a shelter exercise in collaboration with the Salvation Army and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services. The exercise brought the three organizations together to practice their roles supporting emergency shelters.

Volunteers from the Red Cross set up a simulated shelter, using the chapter's new shelter response trailer. The trailers hold all shelter materials including: cots, blankets, comfort kits, medical supplies and registration information. Using their mobile canteen, the Salvation Army prepared food for the shelter residents and workers and the volunteer HAM radio operators from the Amateur Radio Emergency Services set up portable communications equipment to pass vital information between the shelter and the communities' emergency operations center.

This effort is an example of the type of collaboration and coordination that Citizen Corps encourages nationally to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

To read the associated article visit:

<http://www.htrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070927/MAN0101/70927046/1984>

For more information about the Manitowoc/Calumet Chapter of the American Red Cross visit:

<http://chapters.redcross.org/wi/manitowoc-calumet/>



## ***Virginia Beach, VA, and Miyazaki, Japan: Partners in Preparedness***

Since 1992, the City of Virginia Beach, VA, has maintained a Sister City relationship with Miyazaki, Japan, to foster cultural understanding and education between the two cities. Miyazaki is extremely vulnerable to typhoons. Ever since an especially severe typhoon in 2005, during which 2,400 houses were flooded, the city government has been looking for ways to improve its response. Approximately 7,300 untrained volunteers turned out to help after the 2005 typhoon. Although the city trains disaster-rescue volunteer coordinators, there is no training available to give volunteers the information, skills, and affiliation they need to provide effective support to first responders.

Aware of a gap in their response efforts, Miyazaki representatives visiting the 15th Anniversary Celebration and International Volunteerism Conference and Symposium in Virginia Beach expressed interest in volunteer emergency training programs. After the conference, Virginia Beach MRC and CERT Coordinators participated in a roundtable discussion with a Miyazaki delegation to educate them about the mission and value of those organizations, as well as discuss how the Citizen Corps Program helps bring local decision makers together to help plan and prepare for emergencies of all types. Miyazaki officials are now working with Virginia Beach to take the next step in disaster readiness, and have expressed a desire to become “the most advanced Volunteer City in Kyusyu,” and maybe even Japan.

## ***Wisconsin Preparedness Forum***

On November 13 and 14, 2007, over 170 representatives from the business sector, the emergency response community, and private citizen volunteers attended the Wisconsin Preparedness Forum. The participants learned valuable lessons, techniques and new perspectives on preparedness. This collaborative effort was supported by the state Citizen Corps Council, Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, Department of Health and Family Services/Division of Public Health, Southeast Wisconsin Homeland Security Partnership, American Red Cross and the Business Recovery Planners Association of Southeast Wisconsin, and a number of private sponsors.



The Forum included two days of presentations from national preparedness experts and interactive break-out sessions featuring discussions on citizen engagement, business preparedness and public and private partnerships. Guest speakers included Wisconsin Homeland Security Advisor Brig. General Don Dunbar, NYPD Asst. Commissioner for Counterterrorism Jonathan Duecker and IBM Global Crisis Response Team Manager Brent Woodworth.

For presentations and materials from the Wisconsin Preparedness Forum visit, <http://citizencorps.wi.gov/>

## ***Miss Utah Promotes Emergency Preparedness***

World peace, cures for diseases, help for children—these are the usual platforms of beauty pageant contestants. But Jill Stevens, Miss Utah 2007, is not your usual beauty pageant contestant. Stevens will compete for the title of Miss America, running on a platform advocating emergency preparedness.

In addition to serving as Miss Utah, for the past six years Stevens has been a Combat Medic in the Utah National Guard's 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment. In late 2003 through early 2005, she spent 18 months deployed in Afghanistan. In fall 2005, she was working on a degree in nursing at Southern Utah

University (SUU) when the school's pageant director recruited her to run for Miss SUU. She won that contest, was runner up as Miss Utah 2006, and went on to become Miss Utah 2007.

As Miss Utah, Sgt. Stevens helps spread the word on emergency preparedness and give motivational talks to students about the importance of being ready for anything. She recently attended a Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer class in Provo, Utah, and is now working to promote the program in high schools.

The CERT Program is administered nationally by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division. CERT is a training program that prepares people to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster in their community. Through CERT, citizens can learn about disaster preparedness and receive training in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. With this training, volunteers can provide critical support by giving immediate assistance to victims before emergency first responders arrive on scene. CERT volunteers also support the community year-round by participating in community preparedness outreach activities and distributing materials on disaster preparedness and education.

Teen CERT teaches the same skills to high-school students. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, Teen CERT members can assist others in their schools, neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

### ***Delaware Citizen Corps Leaders Recognized by Regional Consortium***

On November 7, 2007, Delaware Citizen Corps Program Manager Bob George, and Citizen Corps Training and Outreach Coordinator for the Delaware Emergency Management Agency Marny McLee received the Regional Response and Readiness Award at the Regional All Hazards Forum in Baltimore, Md. The Mid-Atlantic All Hazards Forum is a public-private partnership of Mid-Atlantic States and private corporations, sponsored by the All Hazards Consortium, a new non-profit organization formed by the Mid-Atlantic States.

In addition to more familiar programs that Delaware Citizen Corps is implementing, they have created Communication Corps, an initiative to leverage volunteer and amateur radio community resources statewide. Delaware created the Communication Corps to provide an overarching coordinating structure for the state's many volunteer communication organizations, which could collaborate with other organizations. Delaware Communication Corps has participated in a variety of regional exercises including two from the Delmarva Emergency Task Force (Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia), many exercises for Region III including the U.S. Department of Defense through the Military Affiliate Radio System.

The Consortium is a regional model designed to improve regional preparedness homeland security and emergency management by facilitating dialogue among state government leadership and increasing interaction between state and local governments; industry/private sector; universities; and non-profits organizations. Participating states include Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

## *Virginia Citizen Corps Leader of the Year*

Congratulations Andrew Levy, the 2007 Virginia Citizen Corps Leader of the Year! This award was presented at the 2007 Virginia Public Safety Outreach Conference. Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Brock Bierman, Director, DHS/FEMA Community Preparedness Division and Small State and Rural Advocate; Sharon Woo, Virginia Department of Emergency Management Citizen Corps & CERT Training and Outreach Coordinator; Suzanne Simmons, Virginia Department of Emergency Management Volunteer Coordination Program Manager; and Andrew Levy, Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council Chairman. <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/2007/11/fairfax-county-citizen-corps-takes-home.html>



## *Parsippany, NJ, Groups Participate in Joint Disaster Exercise*

Twenty-five Parsippany Emergency Management volunteers with RACES and CERT participated in the area's largest CERT disaster exercise in October at the Picatinny Arsenal Homeland Defense Tactical Training facility. Parsippany Volunteer Ambulance and Rockaway Neck Ambulance squads provided ambulances for the day, and nearly 500 participants included representatives of CERTs from Sussex, Morris and Bergen Counties, as well as other Citizen Corps Affiliates—including the local Red Cross, Civil Air Patrol, and the Salvation Army.

To learn more about disaster preparedness, RACES or CERT in the Parsippany area, contact Eric Hubner, Parsippany OEM Coordinator, at (973) 390-0192 or call the Mayor's Action Center 973-263-4262.



*Parsippany CERT volunteers - Front (l-r) Martin Dalakian, Eric Hubner, Karen DeChristopher, Rick Hey, Rob Pizza, Nora Jolie. Back (l-r): Bill Burghardt, Jeff Feller, John Hasel, Ralph Weber, Lester D'Costa, and Earle Hofker. Photo courtesy of Parsippany OEM.*



*Parsippany RACES team setting up for one of the drill exercises (l-r) Bob Beck, Robert Vos, Linda Vos and Mark VanDyke. Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

## ***Borrow this Idea:***

### ***Emergency Preparedness for Children with Special Needs***

The Center for Children with Special Needs—a program of The Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle, Washington—has established web page on Emergency Preparedness for Children with Special Needs. Check it out at:

<http://www.cshcn.org/resources/EmergencyPreparedness.cfm>

## **Partner Program Roundup**

### **CERT**

- Eleven CERT subject matter experts participated in a three-day working session at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, December 5-7, 2007, to review the current CERT Basic Training Course and make recommendations on updates. The group included representatives from emergency management offices, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies from around the country. The updated CERT Participant Manual and Instructor Guide is scheduled for release in June 2008.



The CERT subject matter experts gathered together for a photo-op in the snow and are shown from left to right:

*Lt. Joe Geleta, New Jersey State Police, Capt. Joel Kasprzak, Portland, OR Fire & Rescue, Rachel Jacky, National CERT Director, Don Lynch, Director Shawnee/Pottawatomie County EM, OK Erin Hausauer, Stearns County EM, MN, Lt. Brad Smith, EM Coordinator, Dearborn, MI, Kimberly Spill, EM Coordinator, Pompano Beach, FL Fire Rescue, Mayor Dave Nichols, Mississippi Citizen Corps Council, Firefighter Jarvis "Bubba" Wilis, Los Angeles, CA Fire Department, Angela Palombaro, National Office of Citizen Corps, Pam Harris, Hernando County EM Coordinator, FL, Cynthia Kellams, Citizen Liaison/Volunteer Program Coordinator, Arlington VA, Janet Lindquist, Millard County CERT Coordinator, UT.*





## Medical Reserve Corps

- The Greater Prince William County (VA) MRC provided sign language (ASL) training for 14 members so they could assist the hearing impaired at dispensing sites.
- Maine Township (IL) MRC members are participating in an Elderly Awareness Campaign to help educate the local elderly population about the dangers of exposure to cold and freezing temperatures during the upcoming winter months.
- The American Medical Association's Center for Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response has invited all interested MRC members to take the newly released electronic Core Disaster Life Support™ (eCDLS™) course. The 4-hour course was developed with funding from the Department of Homeland Security and is offered at no charge. Information on the course is available on the AMA website: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12607.html>
- MRC members from various units in New Mexico assisted with immunization clinics/exercises at tribal facilities in the Zuni Pueblo and at Crownpoint. Of special note, members of a Junior MRC were able to assist by administering the vaccinations.
- The Frederick County (MD) and the Milford (CT) MRC units offered National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) training to members.

## Volunteers in Police Service



- As the Witch Creek wildfire raced from Ramona, CA, toward Escondido, Juan Alva was among those who helped the city's residents evacuate as flames approached. Later, the 20-year-old was also among those charged with telling residents their homes had been lost. Alva, a sergeant in the Escondido Police Department's Explorers program, is not yet a sworn officer. But as a uniformed volunteer putting in upwards of 40 hours a month, he carries many of the same responsibilities and the same sense of duty. Volunteers with the department's Explorer program put in a total of 360 hours into tasks such as evacuations and staffing road closures during the fires that raced across the county starting Oct. 21, 2007 ([www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/11/05/news/top\\_stories/22\\_25\\_4411\\_4\\_07.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/11/05/news/top_stories/22_25_4411_4_07.txt)).
- Tyler, TX, Police Department had extra people patrolling retail centers to watch over shoppers and their merchandise. Tyler police "Volunteers in Policing" patrolled parking lots on foot during the holiday shopping crunch to remind shoppers to take precautions. A "Vehicle Burglary Report Card" was left on windshields letting motorists know how they performed on specific theft prevention steps. ([www.tylerpaper.com/article/20071121/NEWS08/711210304](http://www.tylerpaper.com/article/20071121/NEWS08/711210304)).
- Of the 23 neighborhood associations in Waco, TX, 18 have active Citizens On Patrol (COP) programs (COPs). The patrolling citizens are equipped with flashlights and matching blue T-shirts, caps and jackets. Some COPs use their personal vehicles; some use the department patrol car. The COPs are given a list of each patrol sergeant's cell phone number, in case they need to report anything. Each COP must travel with at least one other person. While patrolling, COPs look for violations, abandoned cars, health hazards, loose dogs and suspicious activity. The citizen officers don't take action against law-breakers but report them to patrol officers ([www.wacotrib.com/news/content/news/stories/2007/11/05/11052007waccitizenpolice.html](http://www.wacotrib.com/news/content/news/stories/2007/11/05/11052007waccitizenpolice.html)).

## USAonWatch/Neighborhood Watch

- The Neighborhood Watch 2008 training schedule is now available on the USAonWatch website. <http://www.usaonwatch.org/AboutUs/UpcomingEvents.php>







## Fire Corps

- The Fire Corps National Advisory Committee (NAC) met in Washington, D.C., on December 7. The Committee is comprised of representatives from 15 national fire/EMS organizations and provides valuable input into the direction of the Fire Corps Program. Special guest speakers included Gregory arCade, FEMA's Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and Brock Bierman, Director of FEMA's Community Preparedness Division and Small State and Rural Advocate. Cade stressed USFA's continued commitment to work with Fire Corps to get community members involved in local departments in order to reach the common goal of decreasing fire-related deaths and injuries across the nation.

## *FEMA Independent Study Program*

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities, as well as the general public. All online courses are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment.



For example, IS-288 "The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management," is an independent study course that provides a basic understanding of the history, roles, and services of disaster relief voluntary agencies in providing disaster assistance. To sign-up for this course or learn about other independent study opportunities visit, <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

## *Citizen Corps Calendar Highlights*

Citizen Corps maintains an online calendar where Councils and partners can post events related to Citizen Corps and community preparedness. We encourage you to explore upcoming events near you and post your own activities. Sample events:

- **The Alaska State Citizen Corps Council** will meet on January 17. The Council is a sub-committee of the all-hazards State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The SERC Finance sub-committee makes recommendations to the SERC on how available grant funding should be allocated for the establishment and operation of local Citizen Corps Councils, and will make their final recommendations based on input from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- **NIMS 700 training** will be held at the Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, PA, on January 28. This course introduces the National Incident Management System and takes approximately three hours to complete. After completing the course, participants will be able to understand and describe: the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS; the benefits of using the Incident Command System as the national incident management model; when it is appropriate to institute an Area Command and when it is appropriate to institute a Multiagency Coordination System; the benefits of using a Joint Information System for public information; the ways in which NIMS affects preparedness; how NIMS affects how resources are managed; the advantages of common communication and information management systems; how NIMS influences technology and technology systems; and the purpose of the NIMS Integration Center

For more information on these and other events, visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/showEvent.do>.

## 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.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do](http://www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do).
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  - *Regions 4 and 8* (AL, CO, FL, GA, KY, MS, MT, NC, ND, SC, SD, TN, UT, WY)—Stephanie Poore: Stephanie.Poore@dhs.gov
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