

Citizen Corps Monthly Newsletter



UNITING COMMUNITIES, PREPARING THE NATION

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2006

The View from HQ

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter from the National Office of Citizen Corps! As we develop future issues, we want your input on what works and what doesn't with both format and content — as well as what you would like to see in future issues. In any correspondence to citizencorps@dhs.gov, please be sure to write "Newsletter" in the subject line.

We'd like to use this section of the newsletter to keep you informed of events and developments at the National Office of Citizen Corps. We have several exciting efforts in progress for the coming year. Working with the following organizations, we plan to develop tools to assist local Councils around the country:

- NEMA/IAEM – The National Emergency Management Association and the International Association of Emergency Managers will help develop tools to encourage Emergency Managers' support for the Citizen Corps collaborative approach to community preparedness and the importance of multi-disciplined planning with community civic leaders, and they will co-host a National Citizen Corps Council in 2007. We will provide more information as soon as the dates are confirmed!
- PERI – Working with the Public Entity Risk Institute, we will develop tools to help you address volunteer liability issues.
- NCPC – In collaboration with the Department of Justice and the National Crime Prevention Council, we will convene a National Watch Groups Summit to explore the common elements of citizen support to law enforcement.

We also have contract support through ORC Macro to conduct research on citizen preparedness. Their reports are posted on the Citizen Corps website at www.citizencorps.gov/ready/research. We will update you on all of these projects as we make progress!

Record-Breaking National Preparedness Month

932 events registered on the Citizen Corps Calendar in September

The National Office of Citizen Corps would like to thank everyone for their tremendous efforts during this year's National Preparedness Month. More than 900 events of exceptional variety and quality were registered on the Citizen Corps calendar. This dramatic increase—up from 436 events in 2005 and 175 in 2004—reflects the enormous growth in NPM participation since the initiative was established. Events in September 2006 covered individual and community preparedness, ranging from general overviews of all-hazards preparedness to specific information and demonstrations on fire safety; crime prevention; emergency response and medical assistance.



Harris County Citizen Corps with "Ready Rex"

NOVEMBER NUMBERS

Citizen Corps Councils:

	2,078
CERT	2,405
Fire Corps	534
MRC	489
NWP	14,791
VIPS	1,449
Affiliates	25

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Citizen Corps

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. This is a good month for Native American tribal leaders to consider forming Citizen Corps Councils and get involved with our Program Partners: CERT, VIPs, Fire Corps, MRC and USAOn-Watch.

Program Partner Highlights

Tracy Police Department in California announced that its overall crime rate is down 18 percent compared to this time last year. The report revealed that the largest drops have come in property crimes, larceny and thefts, and auto theft. Tracy Police Chief David Krauss credited the public education effort by the department's **Volunteers In Police Service** Program for the decrease in crime.

The Nebraska/Western Iowa **Medical Reserve Corps** unit assisted the Omaha Fire Department and other local agencies to provide first aid to fans at the 2006 College World Series. The first aid

work at the series not only gave MRC members an opportunity to hone their public health response skills, but also provided valuable on-the-job training with local fire and law enforcement officers with whom they will work during future emergencies.

PBS KIDS Sprout network has featured **Fire Corps** Coordinator Dayna Hilton and her two trained Dalmatians. The dogs help spread the fire safety and prevention methods as they demonstrate how to check a smoke alarm, how to crawl low under smoke, and how to go to a specified meeting place in the event of a house fire. Due to her work with Fire Corps and the NVFC,

she was invited to share several fire prevention/safety tips as PBS launched a new show called Fireman Sam, teaching fire safety to young children. Her tips (and the Dalmatians) can be viewed online at www.sproutletsgrow.com/firesafety/.



Fire Corps spreads safety tips to kids.

Citizen Corps Volunteers in the Spotlight

USA Freedom Corps often identifies exceptional volunteers to greet the President or other top officials when they travel throughout the United States. Citizen Corps is proud to announce several volunteers who have been selected to be Greeters in the past few months.

- Elaine Nickovich, from the Reno, Nevada, **VIPS** Sheriffs Mobile Auxiliary Response Team (SMART) program, was selected to be a USA Freedom Corps Greeter in September. Elaine serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the SMART program and has been involved in VIPS since 2000 and active in her community's volunteer efforts.

- President George W. Bush presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to David Jewison, 27, upon arrival at the airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Tuesday, August 22, 2006. Jewison is a volunteer with the University of Minnesota's **Medical Reserve Corps**.
- Lou Trimboli, the volunteer Team Chief with **CERT 1** NYC, was also a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award in September. Trimboli leads the CERT 1 NYC volunteer training program and gives emergency preparedness presentations at fairs and community events. He also works to educate others in

the corporate sector on emergency response.

In October, the Prince George County (MD) **CERT** team was asked to demonstrate its skills as part of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation quarterly meeting. The President's Council recognized Calvin Hawkins, the Citizen Corps volunteer coordinator of Prince George's County, with the President's Volunteer Service Award at the event.

Congratulations and thank you to all of our volunteers!



Minnesota MRC member David Jewison receives the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Focus on Affiliates

“America is Safer When Our Schools Are Safer”

Throughout September and October, Citizen Corps worked with two federal Affiliates—the Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools and the Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration—in a joint initiative to distribute NOAA Public Alert Radios and to integrate the radios into community alert and warning systems. Through the “America is Safer When Our Schools Are Safer” project, Citizen Corps worked with its federal partners to promote continuing collaboration at all levels of government between emergency management, educational leaders, NOAA, and Citizen Corps Affiliate volunteer organizations like the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

At the local level, Citizen Corps Councils and Affiliates, including Ham Radio Clubs, were asked to work with their emergency managers and school districts to assist local schools with radio setup, testing, and incorporation of the alert radios into community alert and warning systems.

The Public Alert Radio is a life-saving early warning tool that notifies radio users of all hazards in their area. The radio operates 24 hours a day/seven days a week, even when other means of communication are disabled. It will send a “Watch” or “Warning” with an audible alert and a visible indicator light; and it delivers information and recommended safety steps on a wide range of emergencies, such as:

approaching tornadoes, telephone outages disrupting 911 services; local roads overrun by flash floods; AMBER alerts, terrorist threats and other emergencies.

Funded by the Department of Homeland Security, this distribution completes coverage of all 96,000 U.S. public schools.

For more information, visit:

www.arrl.org/FandES/field/NOAA-FAQ-update-1-9-29.pdf



“ THIS IS A WONDERFUL AND MOST NEEDED ADDITION TO OUR SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLAN AND PROCEDURES.”

DOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SOUTH CAROLINA

Competitive Training Grants for Citizen Preparedness

As part of the DHS Office of Grants and Training (G&T), the Competitive Training Grant Program (CTGP) makes annual awards to develop pilot training in critical areas. In cooperation with the Training Division, Citizen Corps provides subject matter expertise to awardees developing training related to community preparedness.

In FY05, the CTGP funded proposals from Eastern Michigan University to develop a standard Teen CERT Train-the-Trainer course and from Michigan State University to develop the same for Campus CERT. The Teen CERT and Campus CERT material developed through these grants will be adopted by Citizen Corps/CERT for national promulgation. For more information on the Teen CERT pilots, contact Skip Lawver at Eastern Michigan University, Skip.Lawver@emich.edu. For more info on the Campus CERT pilot, contact Phil Schertzing at Michigan State, schertzi@msu.edu.

In FY06, G&T’s CTGP funded 11 proposals totaling more than \$28 million dollars, including one from Citizen Corps Affiliate, Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA). This project will provide training to MOWAA staff and volunteers to strengthen support for emergency preparedness for homebound older adults. Other awardees receiving grants related to community preparedness will develop training to support multi-sector collaboration for Native American communities; preparedness for families of emergency responders and essential critical infrastructure employees; community cyber security awareness; and community animal rescue. For more information on the Competitive Training Grant Program, visit: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/training_ctgp.htm



Teen CERT members practice field-expedient first aid during a high school drill.

Citizen Corps

Question of the Month

How do I update my Council's contact information on the Web site?

Your state Citizen Corps Council can edit local Council and CERT profiles. Find your state point of contact here:

<https://www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do>

Send us Your Good Stories!

If your Council has a good story or lesson to share, send it to citizencorps@dhs.gov for consideration, with "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

Story guidelines:

- Please send your submissions by the 15th of each month.
- Submissions should be under 150 words.
- If you include photos, please send as an attachment (not in the body of the message.) Don't forget to tell us who is in the photo, where and when it was taken, and what it shows. All photos are assumed to be approved for publishing.

About Citizen Corps

The Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps program is a nationwide grassroots effort to provide all Americans with the **knowledge, skills and capability** to take responsibility for their own safety and that of their families and neighbors. Located in all 50 states and six U.S. territories and reaching 73 percent of the population, Citizen Corps Councils are helping Americans make their own communities better informed, trained, and prepared for threats of all kinds. Through these Councils, local governments are bringing emergency responder groups together with non-profits, private sector, faith-based organizations, schools and school administrators, volunteer groups, and other non-governmental groups to address community-based strategies for preparing for and responding to threats of all kinds.

Visit us on the Web: www.citizencorps.gov

HELPFUL LINKS

FIRE CORPS

WWW.FIRECORPS.ORG

CERT

WWW.CITIZENCORPS.GOV/CERT/

MRC

WWW.MEDICALRESERVECORPS.GOV

VIPS

WWW.POLICEVOLUNTEERS.ORG

USAONWATCH

WWW.USAONWATCH.ORG

USA FREEDOM CORPS

WWW.FREEDOMCORSP.GOV

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

WWW.FEMA.GOV

READY CAMPAIGN

WWW.READY.GOV

Contact Us

Answering your Citizen Corps questions just got easier!

- We have two new email addresses:
 - ◆ For web related questions at: ccwebmaster@dhs.gov
 - ◆ For questions about the CERT program, email us at: cert@dhs.gov
- For all other questions, you can reach us at: citizencorps@dhs.gov

