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Emergency Manager's Weekly Report 5-21-10

(The articles, reports and additional information contained in this edition were collected from 5-7 to 5-21)

**This edition of the Emergency Manager's Weekly Report is dedicated to
Jack Colley.**



Jack Colley, 1948 - 2010

Jack Colley, head of the DPS Texas Division of Emergency Management, died on May 16. Colley, 62, suffered a heart attack in early May.

"Jack Colley was a valuable member of the Texas Department of Public Safety and a national icon in the profession of Emergency Management," said Steve McCraw, director of the DPS. "Jack was a great Texan, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time."

At the state's first-ever Texas Hurricane Conference in 2003, Colley summed up the philosophy that guided him during the many catastrophic events he oversaw on behalf of the State of Texas : "In disaster, the most important thing for you to know is that you are not alone."

During his 12-plus years with the DPS, Colley was involved in the response and recovery to many of Texas ' largest incidents, disasters and emergencies, including the Space Shuttle Columbia crash (2003) and Hurricane Rita (2005) and Hurricane Ike (2008).

Colley coordinated the effort to shelter thousands of Katrina evacuees in 2005 and then led the monumental evacuation of more than 3 million Texas residents as Hurricane Rita threatened the southeast Texas coast only weeks later.

In 2008, the Texas Division of Emergency Management responded to six hurricanes and tropical storms within a 90-day period. These storms included Hurricane Dolly, which devastated the Lower Rio Grande Valley July 23 and Hurricane Ike, which washed over Galveston and the southeast Texas coast on Sept. 13.

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Under Colley's guidance, Texas led the nation in a number of initiatives to make disaster response "quicker, faster, smarter," which included work on systems to improve tracking of special needs evacuees and improved processes for safe re-entry of evacuees after the storm.

Over the past year, DEM has focused on Re-Entry Task Forces to bring back security, restore infrastructure, provide mass care and start recovery within the first 72 hours after a storm. In an effort to speed deployment of resources to states struck by mega-disasters, Colley pushed for an Interstate Emergency Response Support Plan (IERSP) with Arkansas , Louisiana , New Mexico and Oklahoma – the first of its kind in the nation.

"In times of crisis, Texas depended on Jack Colley for leadership and he rose to the occasion each and every time. That leadership will be sorely missed," said Allan B. Polunsky, chairman of the Texas Public Safety Commission.

In the wake of Katrina in 2005, as it was learned that many people declined to evacuate if they could not bring their family pets, Colley began efforts to open evacuation and sheltering operations in Texas to include companion animals.

"A lot of jokes are made about it but it is simply not a joke. Nobody dies because they can't bring their pet. This is Texas ," Colley once said.

Colley also served as the Assistant Director of the Texas Office of Homeland Security and was the State Administrative Agent for all Federal Homeland Security Programs within Texas . Colley was a member of the Governor's Homeland Security Council, the First Responder Advisory Council and the Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource Protection Council. He was chair of the Texas Drought Preparedness Council.

Colley served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1997, retiring as a Colonel before joining DPS. He served in several positions of significant responsibility, including Chief Operations Officer for the Second Brigade and Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division and Division Chief for Strategic Planning for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense. Colley was a graduate of the U. S. Army War College and the Command and General Staff College. Colley earned a bachelor's degree from East Texas State University in Commerce and a master's in business from Abilene Christian University .

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Contributions

The following individuals or groups contribute to the Emergency Manager's Weekly Report.

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- Steve Detwiler

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- International Association of Emergency Managers
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- Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
- Emergency Management Institute, Higher Education Program
- Montgomery County, PA Department of Public Safety
- Natural Hazards Center
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities
- National Organization on Disabilities, Emergency Preparedness Initiative
- EAD & Associates, LLC
- Emergency Information Infrastructure Project
- ProtectingAmerica.org
- U.S. Access Board
- Florida Division of Emergency Management
- National Congress for Secure Communities
- Fire Chief's Command Post
- American City and County
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- USAToday
- Time
- Drudge Report
- Central Florida News 13
- Orlando Sentinel
- LA Times
- Government Executive
- BBC
- Homeland 1
- Federal Computer Weekly
- Firehouse Magazine
- United National
- Emergency Management Magazine
- Sign on San Diego
- Homeland Security Today
- ReliefWeb
- Big Medicine

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Haiti Earthquake

US Congress passes trade preferences for Haiti

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iUP6szUXO9xhVwKcvkOt51K5Btkg>

For Sean Penn, on ground in Haiti, time is of the essence

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/SHOWBIZ/05/08/sean.penn.haiti.aid/index.html?hpt=C1>

Statement of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the Situation in Haiti

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=9809&LangID=E>

Hope Out of the Rubble

<http://www.people.com/people/archive/article/0,,20358101,00.html>

Helping Haitians Lead Long-Term Recovery

<http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/un-peacekeeping/missions/helping-haitians-lead-long-term-recovery.html>

Four months after 'the catastrophe,' Haitians still in emergency mode

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/05/11/haiti.then.now/index.html?hpt=C1>

\$1.1-Billion Donated for Haiti Relief: Updated Tally (May 11)

<http://philanthropy.com/article/11-Billion-Donated-for-Haiti/65479/>

Haiti prosecutor seeks 6-month sentence for U.S. missionary

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/05/13/haiti.american.missionary/index.html?hpt=T1>

Bill will provide \$96M in critical funding for UN Peacekeeping operations in Haiti

<http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/news-room/press-releases/peter-yeo-statement-committee-passage-fy2010-emergency-supplemental.html>

U.S. Forces Wind Down Haiti Relief Efforts

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126837364>

Haitian relief worker found dead after abduction

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100516/ap_on_re_la_am_ca/cb_haiti_kidnapping;_ylt=AgviMBTren21COw76KzvBfK3lxIF;_ylu=X3oDMTJwczBIZTM4BGFzc2V0A2FwLzlwMTAwNTE2L2NiX2hhaXRpX2tpZG5hcHBpbmcEcG9zAzMEc2VjA3luX3BhZ2luYXRlX3N1bW1hcnlfbGlzdARzbGsDaGFpdGlhbnJlbGll

Haitian police break up violent protest at palace

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100510/wl_nm/us_haiti_protest/print

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Workshop on Rebuilding Haiti Points to Sustainable New Directions
http://www.umb.edu/news/entry/workshop_on_rebuilding_haiti_points_to_sustainable_new_directions/

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Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Coast Guard's PIER delivers the news on Gulf oil spill
http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20100505_8465.php

Deep-sea ice crystals stymie Gulf oil leak fix
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100508/ap_on_bi_ge/us_gulf_oil_spill_248

BP scrambles after Gulf oil spill fix setback
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/37046178/ns/us_news-gulf_oil_spill/

For BP, a history of spills and safety lapses
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/37045263/ns/business-the_new_york_times/

How Quickly We Forget
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/237619>

Abrahm Lustgarten on BP and the Gulf Oil Spill
<http://www.propublica.org/ion/podcast/item/taking-a-close-look-at-bp-and-the-gulf-oil-spill>

Oil spill grows to 3.5M gallons as BP scrambles
<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20100509/D9FJHLDG0.html>

Crisis-Tested Veteran Gets Arduous Final Task
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/06/us/06allen.html>

If You Think You Have a Sense of the Oil Spill's Scale
<http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2010/05/if-you-think-you-have-a-sense-of-the-oil-spills-scale/56425/>

Crist creating the Gulf Oil Spill Economic Recovery Task Force
<http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20100511/CAPITOLNEWS/5110321/1001/RSS>

What went wrong at oil rig? A lot, probers find
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100512/ap_on_bi_ge/us_gulf_oil_spill

Response to Gulf Coast Oil Spill Varies Among Communities
<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Response-Gulf-Coast-Oil-Spill.html>

Calculations of size of Gulf spill are questioned
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/37141752/ns/us_news-the_new_york_times/

BP ready to try again to stop oil flow, company says
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/05/14/gulf.oil.spill/index.html?hpt=T1>

Barack Obama: No more cosying up to oil industry
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8683714.stm>

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Oil Spill Dispersants Approved for Undersea Use

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/05/14/tech/main6484644.shtml?tag=cbsnewsLeadStoriesAreaMain;cbsnewsLeadStoriesHeadlines>

Another try with the tube to stop Gulf oil

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/05/16/gulf.oil.spill/index.html?hpt=T2>

Fed'l inspections on rig not as claimed

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_gulf_oil_spill_inspections

Coast Guard: Tar Balls Found Off Key West

http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Local/2010/5/18/coast_guard_tar_balls_found_off_key_west.html

BP emergency plan shows lack of readiness for oil spill

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-05-17-oil-spill-gulf_N.htm?csp=34

DHS, INTERIOR SEEK BP ASSURANCES ON DISASTER CLEANUP

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/13302/128/>

BP oil spill poses PR dilemma for nonprofits

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-me-bp-donations-20100519,0,7022827.story>

May 10, 2010

Amount Obligated for Gulf Oil Spill Response Jumps to \$65 Million

By John M. Donnelly, CQ Staff

The Coast Guard commander on the scene of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill received a significant funding increase Monday for response operations, bringing it to a total of \$65 million, according to a Coast Guard official.

The boost came after an urgent request the night of May 9 from Rear Adm. Mary E. Landry. The amount obligated from the federal emergency oil-spill fund for the response efforts had previously stood at \$45 million, according to Tim Eastman, chief of the Case Management Division in the Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center.

The total obligated for the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster now outstrips the \$50 million normally provided each year for emergency oil spill cleanups. In a sign of the dimensions of the gulf spill, the Coast Guard on May 3 quietly used its statutory powers to boost the amount available for response operations by an additional \$100 million in advance spending authority, because it saw that obligations were poised to exceed the amount in the fund, Eastman said.

It was the first time the authority has been used since it was granted in 2002. The Coast Guard would need to seek congressional approval to dip any deeper into the fund. And three weeks into the cleanup, the costs of the spill are just beginning to mount.

"Those numbers are going up every hour," Eastman said. "We're going to keep up a fast pace of spending for weeks ahead."

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As early as next week, he said, the Coast Guard plans to send the first of several bills for the expenses associated with cleaning up the spill to BP, which is legally required to pay for the cleanup.

A Tax of 8 Cents a Barrel

The emergency fund includes the \$50 million added every year, plus whatever sums are left over from prior years, Eastman said. It is a subset of the \$1.6 billion Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund — a pool of cash created from a tax of 8 cents on each barrel of oil produced.

The obligations from the emergency fund include paying the Navy for its ships and equipment and reimbursing the Defense Department comptroller for paying the states to deploy National Guard troops, Eastman said.

In addition to the direct obligations from the emergency fund, the Coast Guard will seek compensation from BP for the money it has spent operating ships, helicopters and other assets in response to the oil spill. Those expenses are now pegged at \$7.2 million and rising, Eastman said.

In prepared testimony to be delivered Tuesday to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the chairman and president of BP America, Lamar McKay, says the company is “fully committed” to responding to the crisis. “BP will pay all necessary cleanup costs and is committed to paying legitimate claims for other loss and damages caused by the spill.” (*Story, p. 1*) Although the gulf spill is one of the most serious on record, the oil spill fund is used to respond to numerous spills of varying sizes every day. The fund typically deals with about 1,950 actions at any given time — from spills that have just occurred to bills being paid for spills that have already been cleaned up, Eastman said.

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Tennessee Floods 2010

As Tennessee Copes With Flooding Disaster, FEMA Faces Own Financial Crisis

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/05/08/tennessee-cope-flooding-disaster-fema-faces-financial-crisis/>

Mayor Dean Extends State Of Emergency For Davidson County

<http://www.nashville.gov/oem/releases/100510a.asp>

Memories of flood linger online

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100511/NEWS01/5110326/Memories%20of%20flood%20linger%20online>

TN dedicates millions

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100511/NEWS02/5110351>

After 4 days of searching alone, family of missing teen gets help

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070358/After-4-days-of-searching-alone-family-of-missing-teen-gets-help>

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U.S. News Reports

Emergency Management

Metro faces criticism over notification of Wheaton emergency incident

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/07/AR2010050704983.html?wprss=rss_metro/va

Calhoun County emergency management director to retire (Alabama)

<http://annistonstar.com/bookmark/7363467>

Latrobe drill pits police against school shooter (Pennsylvania)

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_680142.html

After tragedy of 2003, docs here were ready for latest Staten Island Ferry crash (New York)

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/05/after_tragedy_of_2003_docs_here.html

CERT Volunteers respond to a 7-alarm fire (New York)

http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/news/10_04_26_cert_grandst_fire.shtml

FEMA IMPROVING STRATEGIES TO BOOST CALL CENTERS

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/13185/128/>

Emergency management director Colley hospitalized (Texas)

http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/politics/entries/2010/05/11/state_eoc_director_hospitalize.html

Emergency officials discuss lessons from flood (Rhode Island)

http://www2.turnto10.com/jar/news/local/historic_flooding/article/emergency_officials_discuss_lessons_from_flood/36456/

State and Local Health Authorities to Get Access to Biosurveillance Common Operating Picture

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/Biosurveillance-Common-Operating-Picture.html>

Smartphones: The Next-Generation Emergency Alert System

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Smartphones-Emergency-Alert-System.html>

Johnson County receives \$250,000 grant for emergency operations (Kansas)

<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/05/14/1945728/johnson-county-receives-250000.html#ixzz0o6vvQzd8>

National Level Exercise begins In May

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=51419>

FEMA Administrator Fugate Addresses National Volunteer Conference In Orlando

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=51420>

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Town Rebuilds Green After Devastating Tornado (Kansas)
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126833862>

State emergency chief Colley dies (Texas)
http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/politics/entries/2010/05/16/state_emergency_chief_colley_d.html?srcTrk=RTR_661354

Texans mourn "John Wayne" of Emergency Management
<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/keranews/newsmain/article/0/1/1651137/North.Texas/Texans.Mourn.'John.Wayne'.Of.Emergency.Management>

String of disasters put strain on MEMA (Mississippi)
http://nems360.com/view/full_story/7450732/article-String-of-disasters-put-strain-on-MEMA?instance=special_coverage_bullets_right_column

Touring the State's Emergency Mobile Command Vehicle (Florida)
<http://www.wjhg.com/home/headlines/93908214.html>

Fla.'s New Emergency Head Hopes To Heal Rifts
<http://www.news4jax.com/news/23560094/detail.html>

Private-Sector Organizations Earn a Seat in the Emergency Operations Center
<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Private-Sector-Organizations-Emergency-Operations-Center.html>

Terror attack response exercises held at Calif. Ports
<http://www.homeland1.com/domestic-international-terrorism/articles/820488-Terror-attack-response-exercises-held-at-Calif-ports/>

May 9, 2010

Senate Panels to Examine Disaster Recovery

By Matt Korade, CQ Staff

A Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee will hold a hearing Wednesday to examine several proposals to improve U.S. disaster recovery efforts. The hearing, "Stafford Act Reform: Sharper Tools for a Smarter Recovery," will evaluate ways to overhaul the 1988 law governing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster-response activities.

That law (PL 100-707) authorizes assistance to state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, individuals and households during presidentially declared emergencies or disasters. But the statute underwent significant changes with the enactment of a disaster mitigation law (PL 106-390) in 2000 and the 2006 post-Hurricane Katrina overhaul of FEMA (PL 109-295).

Although the statutory changes strengthened the agency's capacity to mitigate hazards and respond to emergencies, hurricanes Katrina and Rita revealed remaining

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weaknesses in the laws' provisions regarding comprehensive disaster recovery, said an aide to Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., chairwoman of the Senate Homeland Security Disaster Recovery Subcommittee.

That subcommittee has compiled numerous proposals in recent years aimed at improving disaster recovery efforts, the aide said. Those propositions include recommendations from the FEMA National Advisory Council, a comprehensive review of the agency's internal policies that FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate launched last year, and other legislative proposals from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Commission on Children and Disasters, the Association of State Floodplain Managers and university research teams.

One change the subcommittee is considering would speed up the public-assistance process, providing grants on the basis of damage estimates instead of reimbursements, Landrieu's aide said.

In the past, funding disputes between FEMA and other federal, state and local agencies have slowed reconstruction efforts to a crawl. For example, an argument between FEMA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development over which agency bore responsibility for rebuilding public housing halted all renovation on New Orleans' public housing units for two years, the aide said.

Congress attempted to shrink the backlog of reimbursement claims by creating independent arbitration panels with passage of the 2009 economic stimulus law (PL 111-5). But those panels are expected to dole out hundreds of millions of dollars more than federal officials initially estimated, prompting Congress to seek \$5.1 billion in disaster recovery money in a supplemental spending bill this fiscal year and another \$2 billion in the fiscal 2011 budget.

Landrieu's aide explained that reimbursement programs are suitable for smaller-scale damage, but cities do not have enough cash to pay up front for rebuilding after the kind of devastation seen after the flooding of New Orleans.

"So that's a major problem," the aide said.

Another top congressional concern is the use of mobile housing units by those displaced by disasters. Although FEMA officials have said they would not again use trailers as their primary source of housing, they also say the agency lacks the authority to repair structures damaged by disasters. One solution might be to expand a pilot program created by the post-Katrina overhaul law that looked at ways to repair damaged rental properties for use by disaster victims, the aide said. That pilot program has since expired. The aide said the Senate subcommittee might also consider creating incentives to prompt communities to develop recovery plans in advance of a disaster, which would help them get a jump start on the community input required of such plans well before a disaster happens.

Another possible option for the subcommittee is creating a catalogue of the more than 120 federal recovery assistance programs, which would help local officials navigate the grant application process, the aide said. Other measures could include allowing a consolidated application for federal assistance, instead of a piecemeal application

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process, to aid in recovery over wide areas, and the establishment of an interagency task force to work out disputes between agencies over responsibility for assistance.

The aide said the subcommittee has been encouraged by Fugate's policy review and the appointment of a White House working group on disaster recovery composed of the heads of 20 federal agencies. But further statutory changes might be needed, the aide said.

"The recovery has just been terribly mismanaged over the last several years and has moved far more slowly than it should have, and that's why a new round of changes is required to deal with the system that's in place for recovery," the aide said.

The subcommittee hearing will take place at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in 342 Dirksen.

GOP senator blocks disaster relief funding

By Humberto Sanchez

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., Friday sought unanimous consent to pass a \$5.1 billion emergency supplemental spending package for disaster relief and youth jobs initiatives, but Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., objected on grounds it would add to the nation's budget deficit.

"In the last two weeks, we have seen devastating storms wreak havoc in parts of this country and an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that we are still working to help contain -- yet Republicans decided to block critical funding for FEMA, our top emergency response agency," Reid said in a release.

The measure provides the \$5.1 billion that President Obama has requested for the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief fund. FEMA notified Congress that the agency is short of cash and can only provide immediate disaster aid. As a result, long-term recovery efforts have been deferred, leaving more than \$300 million in backlogged projects in 43 states and four territories.

The House passed its version in March, but GOP objections have stymied the efforts in the Senate.

"If we don't start paying for things, we'll face a disaster far worse than Greece," said a Coburn spokesman in a statement.

Coburn's objection comes after he and other Republicans held up an extension of unemployment insurance and other programs in April for the same reason.

The emergency package also includes \$600 million for the Labor Department to fund youth summer employment initiatives and \$60 million to extend a stimulus moratorium on Small Business Administration-backed loan fees through the end of April.

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Both of those programs would be offset by a rescission of unobligated funds, including \$362 million in reserved funds in the 2009 stimulus bill for the women, infants and children nutrition program; \$112 million from a Commerce Department program designed to provide coupons to households to help buy analog-to-digital converter boxes; \$103 million from USDA rural development programs; and \$44 million from the Transportation Department's Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program.

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Homeland Security, Defense and National Security

Gates: Define future role of Marine Corps

http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2010/05/defense_gates_fcs_usmc_050710w/

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New SPLC Report: "Patriot" Groups, Militias Surge in Number in Past Year

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Intel Paper Says Al Qaeda's Yemeni Affiliate More Determined Than Ever to Attack Inside U.S.

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George Huguely's behavior not reported before Yeardeley Love's death, U-Va. Says (Virginia)

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HHS Awards ARRA Funds to Establish a Center of Excellence in Research on Disability Services, Care Coordination and Integration

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PANDEMIC THWARTED BY EARLY INTERVENTION; EDS SURGED, REQUIRE TRIAGE RE-THINKING
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FCC Waivers and Funding Could Fuel Nationwide Public Safety Network
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Obama administration wants to stretch the food basket

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Heavy rains flood Riyadh streets (Saudi Arabia)

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Spain's 'Coast of Death' bears evidence of oil spill 8 years later

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Anger as foreign troops join Red Square parade

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Britain's Gordon Brown to resign as prime minister

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First draft agreement unveiled at NPT conference

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Four African countries sign new Nile treaty

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Palestinians turn to boycott of Israel in West Bank

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Rising sea levels threaten Taiwan

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Deep Green underwater kite to generate electricity (w/ Video)

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With Solar Valley project, China embarks on bold green technology mission

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Incidents of Jihadist Terrorist Radicalization in the United States Since September 11, 2001

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Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office LATRO Transition Plan Signing Region VI- Video
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FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate Visits Tennessee- Video

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California Emergency Management Agency, Golden Guardian Exercise 2010 Photo Gallery

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Communities on the Horizon

A Resource Center for Communities Affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Drilling Disaster.

<http://communitiesonthehorizon.org/>

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The Better World Campaign

<http://www.facebook.com/betterworldcampaign?v=wall>

Tennessee Flood Information by TEMA and FEMA

<http://www.facebook.com/TNDisasterInfo?v=wall>

CrisisCampSWFL

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Santa Barbara County, CA Fire Department

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ISAF: NATO forces in Afghanistan

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Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities

Updates as of May 1, 2010

ICC Reconvenes Under the Obama Administration

On March 25, 2010, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (ICC) held its first meeting under the leadership of the Obama Administration.

To set the stage for the Council's work in 2010, earlier this year DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano directed federal Departments and Agencies to designate their Principal and Point of Contact representatives to the Council. The Secretary expressed her confidence that "...the Council will continue to shape a vision of emergency preparedness to advance the safety and security of individuals with disabilities, which will in turn benefit our entire nation."

The meeting, held at the Federal Communications Commission Building in Washington, DC, brought together the full Council, both Principals and Points of Contact. Ms. Margo Schlanger, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Secretary Napolitano's designate as Chair of the ICC, led the meeting and shared her thoughts on how the ICC's work in the months ahead will build on the capacity for federal departments and agencies to integrate the civil rights, functional needs, and varied perspectives of individuals with disabilities into emergency plans and operations. The meeting included an overview of the Council's history and achievements; a presentation by U.S. Department of Agriculture colleagues on a model practice of inclusive workplace preparedness; and the solicitation of member viewpoints regarding tangible outcomes of the Council for 2010.

A majority of the meeting time was devoted to member discussion focusing on the development of the 2010 ICC Work Plan. The Work Plan, framed in terms of issues and intended outcomes, advances the ICC's efforts in seven major areas:

1. Shaping the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)

In September 2009, FEMA launched the development of the NDRF. CRCL, in collaboration with FEMA's Office on Disability Integration and Coordination, is leveraging the expertise of the ICC to develop comments for submission to the NDRF Working Group regarding issues related to individuals with disabilities. Intended Outcome: The development and implementation of an NDRF that includes the considerations of individuals with disabilities.

2. Coordinating ICC Disaster Response Functions

Historically, the ICC has served as a communication "hub" for information exchange, a conduit for stakeholder issue resolution, and an outreach mechanism for other relevant governmental and NGO entities during disasters.

Intended Outcome: The development of documented procedures delineating the most efficient and effective response actions to be taken by the ICC before, during, and after a disaster.

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3. Improving Federal Work Place Preparedness

Experience indicates that inconsistencies in agency workplace emergency planning for individuals with disabilities remain despite the ICC's issuance of Preparing the Workplace for Everyone: a Framework of Emergency Preparedness Guidelines for Federal Agencies in 2005.

Intended Outcomes:

- (1) Obtain agency leadership support for implementation of the Framework.
- (2) Pursue mechanisms for mandating inclusive workplace planning through GSA policy and guidance, possibly modeling the mandates for environmental management.
- (3) Publish addenda to the Framework that apply best practices to emergent workplace preparedness topics (e.g. stairwell evacuations, visitor safety, and lock-downs in response to shootings or other violent incidents).
- (4) Create opportunities for the dissemination of best practices among Federal agency headquarters, regional, and field offices.

4. Creating a Web-Based Resource Directory

There are numerous, discreet web-based resources that exist across Federal agencies to provide information on policy, guidance, grants, and training pertaining to emergency preparedness and individuals with disabilities.

Intended Outcome: The development of an interagency web-based resource directory that will be located on the ICC website and updated on an ongoing basis.

5. Developing the ICC Annual Report to the President

Executive Order (EO) 13347 requires the submission of an Annual Report to the President documenting (1) the achievements of the Council in implementing the policy of the EO; (2) the best practices among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, private organizations, and individuals for emergency preparedness planning with respect to individuals with disabilities; and (3) the recommendations of the Council for advancing the policy of the EO.

Intended Outcomes:

- (1) The development of a concise Annual Report for 2009.
- (2) The establishment of a process for developing policy recommendations as part of the timely submission of future Annual Reports.

6. Testing the National Emergency Alert System

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) has never been tested at the national level. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), through FEMA and with the support of the White House, is proposing a test of this system in 2011.

Intended Outcome: Participation of disability stakeholders within the test of the EAS to identify accessibility and usability issues.

7. Participating in the 20th Anniversary of the ADA

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Issue: In July 2004, Executive Order 13347 was issued by the President as part of the commemoration of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the 20th Anniversary of the ADA, the ICC should highlight progress made in emergency planning with and for individuals with disabilities.

Intended Outcome: ICC member participation in the ADA 20th Anniversary events.

Also at the meeting, the ICC released its 2006 - 2008 Update Report which can be found at www.disabilitypreparedness.gov. Efforts are currently underway to develop the ICC's 2009 Annual Report to the President. The ICC will hold its next full Council Meeting in September 2010.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Announces Comment Dates on Emergency Alert System with Common Alerting Protocol

The FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau announced it is seeking public comment on what changes might be required to the Commission's Emergency Alert System (EAS) rules caused by the introduction of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is an open, interoperable, data interchange format for collecting and distributing all-hazard safety notifications and emergency warnings to multiple information networks, public safety alerting systems, and personal communications devices. In conjunction with appropriate alert transmission architectures, CAP will allow FEMA, the National Weather Service (NWS), a State Governor, or any other authorized initiator of a public alert and warning to automatically format and geo-target a particular alert simultaneously to the public over multiple media platforms such as television radio, cable, cell phones and electronic highway signs. CAP will also allow an alert initiator to send alerts specifically formatted for people with disabilities and for non-English speakers.

On April 15, 2010, a summary of the *Public Notice* was published in the Federal Register. Comments must be filed on or before May 17, 2010; and reply comments must be filed on or before June 14, 2010. Comment filing instructions are set forth in the *Public Notice*. The *Public Notice* is available at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-500A1.pdf.

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