



THE mEMO



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Civil Air Patrol: Youth are Part of Vital SERT Asset

By Julia Jarema, NCDPS Communications

During emergencies and disasters, the North Carolina State Emergency Response Team relies on members of the Civil Air Patrol to help locate downed aircraft, find missing persons, assess damage left behind by tornadoes, hurricanes or floods and provide aid to victims. Each of the 1500-member cadre has been trained to work in any number of positions from pilot, to radio operations, emergency services, search and rescue and more.

The group is a critical component of the state's emergency response team and is comprised of more than 800 adults and 700 youth. And they are all volunteers.

One of the many dedicated volunteers is Lt. Col Donald Beckett, the disaster relief officer for the North Carolina Wing of the CAP. Beckett estimates he has put in several thousand volunteer hours over the years. As disaster relief officer for the CAP, "I oversee many programs at one time. So in addition to working in times of disaster, I spend a great amount of time managing programs and spending time with operations like Encampment," said Beckett. But in his paid job, he works in the Secretary of State Office's information technology section.

For one week each year, scores of these volunteers gather for the Civil Air Patrol Encampment, the CAP equivalent to basic training.



Cadet/Major Marvin Newlin reviews the daily schedule with Cadet 2nd Lt. Joshua McCoy during the Annual Civil Air Patrol week-long Encampment.

"We come to learn about the Civil Air Patrol, what our missions are and how to be professional," said Cadet Major Marvin

Newlin, the 17-year-old commander of the Burlington wing. "Encampment teaches cadets what they need to know that will help them in their Civil Air Patrol career."

In June, 188 of these vital volunteers banded together for encampment at the National Guard facility in Butner. They spent time in the classroom, out on the field and up in the air to expand their expertise in aerospace education, and hone their leadership, first aid, radio communication and weaponry skills.

For the 150 cadets, youths 12 - 21 years old, the annual encampment provides an opportunity to learn the techniques and search patterns that both ground and air teams use to search for missing persons.

Cadet Major Newlin says he loves the experience and camaraderie that he has gained from his three years with the Civil Air Patrol.

For the past two years, Newlin has competed as a member of the Cyber Patriot Team. More than 5,000 of these five-person teams compete against each other in this national cyber defense competition. Each team earns points based on their ability to identify images of infected computers, secure them and then lock them down. He hopes his CAP experience will help him one day secure a position in cyber security for the U.S. Air Force.

Cadets also heard presentations on Drug Demand Reduction (DDR), the Civil Air Patrol's equivalent to DARE. DDR is instructionally designed to keep kids away from drugs and alcohol. With literature and other visual aids, cadets experienced multiple simulations that helped to bring the instruction to real-life.

First Lt. Joel Lipsey, a retired fire protection engineer from Durham, has volunteered with CAP in North Carolina since 1986 as an anti-drug counselor/teacher. As the DDR Director, 1st Lt. Lipsey educates 39 squadrons from across the state.



An ALE Agent teaches a cadet the proper handling and firing of the AR15 as part of the weaponry class during the Civil Air Patrol Encampment in June.

During Encampment, all 150 cadets had the opportunity to experience the negative effects drugs can have as they wore special goggles and tried to walk a straight line.

“Our primary mission in DDR education is to keep kids away from drugs, alcohol and energy drinks. And we try to instill in them a sense of responsibility and obligation.” said Lipsey.

It is those character traits, along with dedication, devotion and service, which have become hallmarks of the Civil Air Patrol program.

Tammy Martin assisted with research for this article.

Emergency Alert Messages Coming to Cell Phones

By Bob Boyd, NCEM

Starting in July, cell phone users may receive warning messages about severe weather, a chemical spill, or some other hazardous situation. The messages are made possible by the new Commercial Mobile Alert System, referred to as CMAS.

CMAS is a partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission and participating wireless carriers including T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint Nextel and Verizon. The system allows public safety officials to send geographically targeted emergency alerts to wireless devices. The system uses cell broadcast technology to simultaneously deliver emergency alert messages to multiple recipients. This is different from the short message service technology used to send text messages. Emergency alert cell broadcasts will work even if a wireless network's circuits are overloaded causing voice, text and data transmissions to fail.

One of the primary advantages of CMAS is that it sends critical emergency alerts when radio or television may not be available, such as when the recipient is outdoors, at work or at the pool. The system does this using Wireless Emergency Alerts. The WEA messages are similar to a text message, but are limited to only 90 characters.



Three types of WEA are available:

1. Presidential messages, issued only during national-level emergencies.
2. Imminent threat messages, issued for severe weather, natural hazards, man-made hazards and civil disturbances.
3. AMBER Alerts, issued for child abductions

WEA messages have a distinctive ringtone and vibration to alert you of the emergency message. However, they will not interrupt active calls or data sessions.

As with any new technology, several questions are frequently asked about CMAS.

Q: How much will this cost for me?

A: Nothing. CMAS is a free service and **you will not be charged** for any alerts you receive.

Q: Can they track my movements if I use CMAS?

A: No. The CMAS technology is a one-way communication. No government agency or private company can track your location or movement using CMAS.

Q: What if I don't want to receive WEA alerts?

A: WEA capable devices allow you to opt out of the imminent threat and AMBER alerts, but there is no way to disable Presidential alerts.

Q: Can I sell my weather radio and cancel my subscription to receive text message weather alerts from that big cable weather network?

A: No. WEA messages are limited to only 90 characters. The messages notify you of a threat in your area ("tornado sighted") and basic instructions to protect yourself ("take shelter now"). WEA will not replace warning systems like NOAA weather radios or commercial weather services that provide detailed emergency information.

To receive WEA messages, you must have a cell phone or other wireless device that is Wireless Emergency Alerts capable. For a complete list of WEA capable devices, check your wireless provider's website or www.ctia.org/WEA. Many new Android phones are now WEA capable. iPhones are currently not WEA capable, but Apple has announced they will provide a future software upgrade for iPhone 4 and 4S users enabling the feature. It is expected that most commercially available phones will be WEA capable by the end of 2014.



Harnett County Activates Coop for Health

By Beverly Williams, Harnett EM

On April 28, the Harnett County Health Department had a waterline break within the building, flooding approximately 80 percent of the building's first floor. County officials said the water main break was caused by large

amounts of dirt and mud building up in the Reduced Pressure Zone, which prevented water in the building from flowing back into the county's fresh water supply. The back flow valve was located in a first floor closet.

The flooding was discovered by Health Director John Rouse.

"When I walked into the room containing the RPZ, the water was as high as my chest," explained Rouse. "The entire first floor of the department was covered in ankle-deep water."

County building officials happened to be in the building that Saturday preparing for an event later that evening. According to county officials, had the back flow valve failed some other weekend it could have gushed more than 20,000 gallons of water *per hour* through the night.

"A three inch pipe at full pressure does not take long to make a mess of things" added Rouse.

Within minutes, the county building department shut off the water. Harnett officials contacted a cleaning company that specialized in water damage and by evening the crew had begun draining the water from the first floor to get rid of standing water and prevent further damage. Crews used numerous high-powered fans to expedite evaporation and began monitoring moisture levels throughout the building. Water saturated the Health Department's waiting areas, lab, offices, walls and clinical areas. While the medical records area received considerable amount of water damage, patient charts were safe.



Harnett County Emergency Management used the temporary State Medical Assistance Team hospital to provide temporary health services to county residents while the health department repaired after flooding damaged the building. Above: One of the examining rooms. Below: SMAT facility offers help.

The health department remained closed for three days until officials could come up with a temporary solution that would allow the agency to provide health services for county residents.

Harnett County Emergency Service Director Gary Pope offered an innovative solution. "Instead of moving care, bring emergency care to the building," he said. In times of emergency, the State Medical Assistance Teams, or SMATs, can set up quickly and provide medical care on short notice. Similar units have been used in the wake of tornadoes and hurricane across the country."

The county used mobile medical units as a temporary site so the Harnett County Health Department could provide access to health services.



“I had to do something so we could continue to operate,” Rouse said.

“We had the facilities and the need. Everyone was ready,” added Pope. The mobile medical units were provided by a consolidation of counties throughout the Capital Region Advisory Committee team. Harnett County Emergency Management/SMAT III personnel along with teams from WakeMed in Raleigh and Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital in Dunn were on site and had the temporary structure in place in a day.

The full-service tents were temperature controlled and included a large waiting area and individual treatment rooms. The mobile unit provided space for examination rooms, lab equipment and medical supplies. The county IT department set up a Wi-Fi network to the units, allowing staff computerized access to the main building. Each unit included a three-ton air conditioner to keep patients and staff comfortable. Through this joint collaboration county public health officials were able to provide access to clinical services. The first patients were guided through five days after the flood episode.

“We can do anything in the tents that we can do in our normal office,” Rouse stated. “The main difference people will notice is it will be a little more congested because of the smaller facility.”

The Harnett health department used the mobile units to continue their operations for about a week.

“We plan for a variety of emergencies,” explained Pope. “But I don’t think anyone had expected an emergency quite like this.”

Cleanup and repairs on the Harnett County health building are continuing. The agency expects to move fully back into the facility in August.

Preparing for Plane Crashes in Pasquotank County

By Christy Saunders, Camden/Pasquotank EMD

Training and planning for air crash emergencies is not optional for Pasquotank and Camden counties emergency responders; it’s a necessary requirement.

The counties are along the flight path for many major airlines and medical aircraft flights. Commercial air applicators are also common sights.

The largest air operation in the area, however, is related to the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Regional Airport, a joint civil-military airport along the Pasquotank River, four miles southeast of Elizabeth City. The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City alone conducts an average of 300 operations per day, increasing the potential for air craft emergencies.

In 2010, using HMEP grant funds, area responders participated in an air crash/hazmat exercise on the USCG base. The after-action review from that exercise prompted the creation of an aviation consortium. The consortium consists of emergency agency representatives from Pasquotank and Camden counties and Elizabeth City, as well as representatives from local, regional and private agencies and state and federal agencies.





Trained responders and volunteer CERT members help a survivor from a mock plane crash as part of the Pasquotank-Camden exercise.

In 2011 the aviation consortium, along with Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management, sponsored a tabletop exercise to focus on the coordination efforts and critical decisions that would be involved in a major air crash emergency. Sixty-two participants discussed planning, onsite incident management, emergency public information and warning, fire

incident response, emergency triage and pre-hospital treatment, medical surge, and decontamination in a scenario depicting the crash of a small commuter plane into an apartment building.

The tabletop was followed by a full-scale exercise the next month and 96 participants gathered at USCG housing to practice their response to a simulated plane crash, structure fire and collapsed structure.

While “hands on” drills are usually advantageous during scenarios with a sense of urgency, it was the tabletop that proved the more beneficial of these two exercises.

Representatives from multiple agencies (other than emergency management) were able to provide valuable information that will aid in both planning and response. Various issues were even identified during the exercise development process as the exercise design team was made up of representatives from multiple disciplines and organizations. Lessons learned will be a part of future aviation disaster drills and these will continue to be a part of preparedness activities in Pasquotank and Camden counties.

Talking Turkey in Duplin

By Doug Haas, NCEM Area Coordinator

At the mention of Duplin County, various images may come to mind. Some may think of wine, since some of the finest wines produced in the state come from Duplin. For others it may be Duplin’s other agricultural interests, poultry and swine. Some may recall the manure aroma they catch while driving through on Interstate 40. Duplin residents call that the smell of money!

Duplin, and its next door neighbor Sampson County, are the two largest poultry producers in North Carolina. They are a big part of making the state the top turkey producer in the country

with a value of more than \$772 million in 2011 (USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service). So it makes sense that the local emergency planning committee has many members from the agricultural industry. Naturally, exercises with local poultry plants are big events involving most responders and often many family members. The exercises are so beneficial, it makes it worth sacrificing a beautiful summer Saturday!

On June 16, Duplin Emergency Management partnered with the nation’s largest turkey producer, to exercise emergency response to a simulated ammonia leak at the Butterball plant near Mount Olive. Nearly 100 emergency managers, law enforcement, medical staff,



hazmat technicians and agricultural workers participated in the six-hour exercise. Participants included: firefighters from many of the county fire departments; EMS technicians; sheriff deputies; hospital medical staff; Butterball Plant safety, security and hazmat personnel; the Wilmington regional Response Team; State Highway Patrol troopers; and emergency managers from the state, Onslow and Pender counties.

Smoke wafted slowly as victims were brought to safety by rescuers dressed in Level A suits. They were decontaminated before being transported by ambulance to Duplin Avant Hospital. Other victims took themselves to the hospital, and were decontaminated there before being treated in the emergency room.

Above: First responders rescue, treat and decontaminate exposed workers as part of the mock ammonia leak incident at the Butterball plant in Duplin County.

The major objectives for the exercise were to: evaluate the interaction between the Butterball hazmat team and the responders; use Unified Command; and demonstrate effective communication and coordination between responding agencies and the plant. All objectives were met.

The exercise ended with an after-action review from each group and a meal provided by Butterball (no, it wasn't turkey). A great response, great participation and a beautiful day made for a great exercise!

Gates Preps Schools for Safety

By Chris Gwin, NCEM Area Coordinator

You dropped off the kids at school and went to work just like a hundred times before. But this day would change everything! Just before lunch you learn there has been a shooting at the school. All you know is that multiple people been shot, police have one shooter in custody and another shooter has been killed.

This is a nightmare for any parent! But it is a reality for the public school system and first responders.

People who have experienced similar traumas say you don't know what it's like until you go through it. Well that's exactly what officials in Gates County did, but without the loss of life.

Gates County Emergency Management Director Billy Winn spent months planning this exercise in tragedy with help from numerous agencies. This exercise was designed to see how the Gates County Public School System, Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol, Parks Service Law

Enforcement and local EMS work together in a disaster to coordinate response and save lives. Winn enlisted the help of his emergency management partners from Chowan, Hertford and Perquimans counties and N.C. Emergency Management. As the exercise unfolded, Cordell Palmer, Chris Smith, Jarvis Winslow and Chris Gwin helped to maintain command and control of the situation. The local Community Emergency Response Team staffed and ran the exercise logistics with great success. The drill was funded by a training and exercise grant to Gates County from NCEM.



“I think the biggest thing we learned is that we can never let our guard down,” Winn explained. “We can’t assume that school shootings are only restricted to inner city or urban area schools. The reality is these tragedies can and do occur in small rural counties like ours. Each and every community, big and small, across our nation needs to prepare for events of this magnitude.”

Left: Emergency responders remove a wounded student while county leaders coordinate emergency response efforts during the mock school shooting exercise in Gates County.



Albemarle CERT Practices Ability to Respond to Neighbors

By Patty Moore, CERT Coordinator

On May 22, the Albemarle Community Emergency Response Team held a full-scale exercise at the Albemarle Plantation, a Perquimans County subdivision comprised of 29 neighborhoods. In the scenario, a 75-mph tornado touched down in the neighborhood damaging homes and wounding people. Several victims (played by some of the responders’ spouses) lay wounded inside the homes.

Winn said the entire team learned a lot through the realistically simulated environment of a school shooting.

Quickly and efficiently, 20 CERT volunteers rallied at the community center to await assignments from acting Incident Commander, Liz Alter, Albemarle CERT program coordinator. The rescuers donned their personal protective gear, and travelled in groups of four to their assigned street. Since safety and teamwork is stressed in CERT training, groups worked in pairs to survey damaged homes to determine if the structure was safe to enter, then assess and remove victims trapped inside.

The exercise concluded after all teams located, treated and transported the “injured” back to the command center. Afterward, participants discussed their experiences: what went right,

what didn't necessarily go as planned and what they learned.

"I think the exercise went well, and I was pleased to see that what we have learned over the past year was demonstrated in the drill," Alter said. "For instance, last year we dropped someone off the stretcher because we did not know how to properly secure them. This year, we practiced proper carrying techniques and also were able to treat the victim with basic first aid."

Perquimans County Emergency Management Coordinator Jarvis Winslow, NCEM Area Coordinator Chris Gwin and CERT Program manager Patty Moore provided essential feedback to exercise participants.

Established in 2008, the Albemarle Plantation CERT trains year-round, so that they can always be ready to assist their families, neighbors and emergency responders in their community.

"We learn from each monthly and annual exercise," Alter explained.

DPS Agencies Partner on Emergency Response

By George Dudley, DPS Communications

Managers and supervisors from the Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice divisions of the Department of Public Safety are better prepared to respond to severe storms, explosions and other destructive calamities after attending a forum created for them by Emergency Management.

NCEM Director Doug Hoell said approximately 80 people attended the session, presented in the State Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh. The participants represented the Adult Correction, Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement divisions.

"Our leadership team recognized that we're all in the same department, and we need to become

familiar with support we can provide for each other when a disaster or some other emergency strikes," Hoell said. "We believed a forum like this would be an opportunity to bring in managers and supervisors from our agencies, and to help them better understand what we in Emergency Management do."

The forum began with an overview of the State Emergency Response Plan, followed by a listing and explanation of Emergency Management's "inventory of capabilities and response resources that the other divisions can draw on," Hoell said.

Among the participants were managers, administrators, superintendents and directors from prisons, probation offices, juvenile detention and development centers, and field emergency management offices.

One of the goals of the forum was to strengthen the connection among the agencies relative to emergency management.

"We sought to educate the participants about North Carolina's Emergency Management system, about how it works and how to access necessary resources and support," Hoell said. "We want to build partnerships."

The connections among our top division leadership are already strong, he said.

Documents, directories and speakers illustrated the inter-division cooperation possibilities.

Speakers included:

- Emergency Management Branch Managers Dianne Curtis and Joe Wright explained the regional operations concept and scope.
- Russell Green, Alexander County emergency manager, who, for example, has worked with Alexander Correctional Institution. Green once helped supply a tanker truck that was used to keep the prison's chiller operating after a pump failed.

- John Dorman, Emergency Management's assistant director for geospatial technology management, explained flood plain mapping and how the information is important to local emergency preparedness. For example, flood plain mapping can identify areas that could be isolated by flooding.

Spotlight on Scot Brooks, Moore County Emergency Manager

By Gary Jones, NCEMA Executive Director



Scot Brooks has a history of service to his community both as a local emergency responder and as a private citizen.

He has worked with Moore County Public Safety for eight years. As deputy director of public safety, Scot is responsible for emergency management, as well as the E-911 and

emergency medical services programs that involve a full-time staff of 85 employees.

But he began his emergency response career 25 years ago as an emergency medical technician and paramedic for Randolph and Alamance counties.

After seven years as an EMT, Brooks spent two years as a flight paramedic with Carolina Air Care providing critical care transportation for UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. In 1997, he began managing the Lee County EMS system as director of Central Carolina Advanced Life Support and remained in that position for seven years.

NCEM Area Coordinator Steve Powers said Scot is a great example of a professional emergency manager who is always interested in furthering the profession. "Scot is a go-to guy who will bend over backwards to provide quality services to the citizens in Moore county," Powers said.

As Moore County's emergency manager, Brooks has had numerous opportunities to broaden his disaster experience. Last fall, he served on the four-person overhead team, deployed to Hyde County during Hurricane Irene. Scot describes their role as handling basic emergency operations center duties to relieve some of the burden from Justin Gibbs, Hyde County's emergency services director. The deployed team spent close to a week of 20-hour days managing WebEOC messages, ordering resources and developing daily incident action plans.

Of course, Scot didn't have to travel far to help an EM colleague. Last year, he provided backup to Shane Seagroves, Lee County's emergency services director, as they responded to destruction from the April 16th tornado outbreak.

Seagroves said Brooks was on the scene within 10 minutes of the tornadoes entering Lee County and immediately sent Moore County first responders to help. When both directors

found out the Lowe's store had collapsed, Brooks called Seagroves and offered to respond to that incident so that the Seagroves could continue his response to the St. Andrews community that was hit earlier. Scot remained in Lee County for over a week until the response activities transitioned to a recovery operation.

"I think the world of Scot Brooks," explained Seagroves. "Scot is well versed in every aspect of emergency response. He handles disaster communications, really knows the incident command system, and is able to get out and pound the ground during search and rescues or manage an emergency operations center."

Shane describes the two county's relationship as something special, saying that they do not wait for a call for assistance, but instinctively know when they are needed and just show up.

During the March 2009 shooting at the Carthage rehabilitation home, Scot activated the EOC to handle the onslaught of incoming calls from family members of the home's residents, concerned citizens national and international media. He also helped open a family reception center with the American Red Cross, to provide meals, grief counseling and support to the family members.

Scot and Patty, his wife of 22 years, have raised two sons in their Chatham County home. Joshua is a junior at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte while Matthew is a junior at Chatham Central High School. Scot has spent a lot of time coaching their baseball teams over the years; first their elementary school teams, then American Legion and high school teams. Scot admits that if he isn't at work, he can likely be found on the ball field.

In addition, Scot volunteered to spearhead the Heart Safe Moore County program to provide public access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) by placing them in schools, businesses, industrial sites, sporting venues and other commercial areas. Thanks to his efforts, 330 AEDs have been installed,

earning the county national recognition by the American Heart Association as a "Heart Safe Community."

Another of Scot's interests has been working with handicapped hunters. Through his church, he assisted last year with a two-day hunt for wheelchair sportsmen that included 26 hunters and more than 40 others helping with the program. A lot of pre-planning was necessary to locate areas that had not been over hunted and to find wheelchair accessible deer blinds. The team then worked to match hunters with associates who could accompany the hunters in the field and to clean/dress/pack bagged game.

Scot is proud of the state's emergency management community, as well as the residents of Moore County.

"Our residents are always ready to support community-based response programs, whether it is the 10 CERT teams or the local county animal response team," Brooks said. "Our residents are always able to find the time to participate in programs that benefit the community."

And the same can be said of Scot Brooks.

The mEMO is produced monthly as a joint publication by North Carolina Emergency Management, a division of the N.C. Department of Public Safety, and the NC Emergency Management Association. Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Julia.Jarema@ncdps.gov