



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

March 29, 2007

2:30 PM

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Headquarters
645 New London Ave. – Cranston, RI
Planning Room

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/ Attendance

Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts	Janet Essex (Governor's Office)
Col. Brian Goodwin (RING)	Lt. David Hayden (RISP)
Robert Warren (RIEMA)	Leo Messier (Providence EMA)
Lt. Col. Patricia Ryan (RING)	Robert Thorne (DHS)
Dr. Anthony Cirillo (DOH)	Amanda Milkovits (Projo)
Norm Menard (Red Cross)	Tony Gharios (Purvis Systems)
Marisa Albanese (Red Cross)	Larry Grimaldi (DEA)
Rep. Joseph Trillo	Scott Caron (Smithfield EMA)
Paul Stasiuk (National Grid)	Thomas Walsh (TSA)
Al Araujo (Pawtucket EMA)	Candie Cooke (DOH)
Edward LeBlanc (USCG)	Brittan Bates (RI EMA)
James Weaver (USCG)	Steve Kenny (NUWC)
Klaus O'Neil (Governor's Office)	Chris Laccinole (DVA)
Brian Pires (ATAC)	Joseph Salter (TSA)
Richard Brown (E.P. EMA)	

II. Approval of the minutes from January 31, 2007

Lt. Governor Roberts offered a motion to accept the minutes of January 31, 2007. The motion was seconded by Director Warren and passed unanimously.

III. Introduction

A. Comments from the Chairwoman, Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

Lt. Governor Roberts welcomed Col. Goodwin and congratulated him on his promotion to brigadier general on April 1st. Lt. Governor Roberts welcomed the rest of the council members and guests and introduced the two main issues discussed in today's meeting: The Tall Ships test exercises mainly focused on interoperable communications and also the federal hurricane exercises taking place at the end of April and beginning of May.

Lt. Governor Roberts thanked the Coast Guard for taking the lead on the Tall Ships exercises.

She also acknowledged the extremely hard working staff at RI EMA for all of the preparations for the federal hurricane drills. Lt. Governor Roberts said all of the behind-the-scenes work might go unnoticed in the public but that RI EMA's work will keep all of us safe.

B. Comments from Col. Brian Goodwin, representing MG Bray

Col. Goodwin echoed Lt. Governor Roberts's statement on the importance of the Tall Ships exercise and also mentioned the possibility that President Bush may attend. He stressed the remarkable team work RI EMA creates and the MG wants to add to that atmosphere with the hurricane drills.

IV. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Report – Robert Warren, RIEMA

Director Warren spoke about the last meeting of the subcommittee, including the creation of a new work group: the transportation safety working group, headed by TSA's Joe Salter.

Director Warren informed the committee that the Family Services working group finished the Family Resources plan and will need to test the plan with an exercise after the hurricane drills are complete.

V. Tall Ships Exercise Briefing – Lt. James Weaver USCG

Lt. Weaver presented the council with two slide shows detailing the extent of the Tall Ships exercises to test communications capabilities. The highlights of the slide shows are provided below. The entire slide shows can be accessed on Lt. Governor Roberts's website (www.ltgov.state.ri.us):

- Tall Ships will arrive June 25-27
- 10,000+ spectators will visit the ships from June 28-30
- July 1 will be the Parade of Ships and departure.
- There are 21 ships participating in the event
- The Coast Guard is responsible for marine event permitting, navigation safety, maritime security and passenger vessel safety.

- The Coast Guard's priorities are waterside security, waterway management, approval of security plans for vessels and host facilities, inspection of visiting vessels, enforce applicable laws and mission readiness for possible incidents.
- Coast Guard will utilize two cutters, the marine safety team, Station Castle Hill, 24 auxiliary vessels and crews, facility inspectors, vessel inspectors and facilities from Cape Cod.
- The Coast Guard will lead the event and exercise and will partner with Tall Ships RI, U.S. ICE, U.S. CBP, FBI, Secret Service, U.S. ACOE, TSA, RISP, RING, RIEMA, RI EDC, RI DOT, RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team, RI DEM, Newport police and fire, and the Newport Harbormaster.
- The USGC will use the Tall Ships to evaluate and improve maritime security plans.
- The exercise will test the RI Port Security Communications Network, the HOMEPORT system, 800 MHz, WebEOC and some VHF systems.

Lt. Governor Roberts asked Lt. Weaver if the use of auxiliary Coast Guard crews was a usual occurrence in these situations. Lt. Weaver said it was and they are a key component to large scale events.

Rep. Trillo asked if the small range of the exercise (Aquidneck Island) is appropriate to test the 80 MHz system. Director Warren responded that the key to the 800 MHz system is not range but interoperability. The system will communicate to the EOC during the drills so there will be range testing as well.

Lt. Governor Roberts asked Lt. Weaver when an after action report would be ready. Lt. Weaver said he was not sure but would report back to the council.

VI. Hurricane Exercise Presentation – Robert Warren, RIEMA

Director Warren acknowledged the work Britton Bates and Tom Kilday have been doing in preparation for the exercises. Director Warren also presented a slide show detailing the hurricane drill. The highlights of the slide shows are provided below. The entire slide shows can be accessed on Lt. Governor Roberts's website (www.lt.gov.state.ri.us):

Director Warren explained that the purpose of the drills is to see how RI EMA and the Department of Defense interact. The drill will begin on April 30th, but the real work will be between May 3rd and May 5th. The EOC will be active 72 hours from the hurricane making landfall. The event will bring thousands of dollars into the state's economy because FEMA is locating its major operations (JOF) at the Cranston St. Armory. Britton is working with local first responders and EMA directors to make sure information is being driven from bottom to top for the purpose of the drill.

The EOC will deactivate on the Sunday of the drill, May 6th.

Lt. Governor Roberts asked Director Warren how visible the event will be to the public and if the community on Cranston St. will be informed of the increases military and police presence.

Director Warren said the community has already been informed. He also noted that public information officers from FEMA Boston will be involved in the drill. The drill includes simulated press conferences at the CRC.

Candie Cooke from the Health Department added that Newport Hospital will conduct a pandemic drill during the hurricane drill.

Britton Bates from RI EMA added that the federal hurricane hunter aircraft will be in Quonset on Monday, April 30th, the first day of the drill.

Rep. Trillo asked if there will be video documentation of the drill. Director Warren said the drill is not visually stimulating, but there will be an after action report to highlight the events. Lt. Governor Roberts noted the Web EOC would keep a good transcript of the event communications. Director Warren agreed.

Britton Bates added that Emergency Support Functions (ESF) would also be conducting visual drills. For example windshield damage events.

Lt. Governor Roberts asked Director Warren if the drill would focus on wind or water damage. Director Warren said that the drill would be complete destruction in every sense of the word.

Lt. Governor Roberts asked Director Warren if there would be any emphasis on special populations. Director Warren said the drill will see what local EMA officials will request from the EOC.

VII. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestions

-Creation of Private Sector Integration Working Group

Lt. Governor Roberts said she hoped by now council members know that she sees the EMAC as a problem-solving organization. She said this is the only group in the state that combines every component of our emergency management system and the synergy that we create can solve problems across government and our communities.

Lt. Governor Roberts proposed a workgroup to address the challenges we discovered during the school illness incident. She explained that Dr. Gifford brought up the confusion when private entities, including United Health, volunteered both financial and personnel support.

Lt. Governor Roberts want this group to figure out ways to accept this type of support. This is not charity donations through the Family Assistant plan. This is support offered directly to incident command for incident management.

In the coming weeks Lt. Governor Roberts will appoint community members to work with her staff and the RI EMA staff to streamline this process and ensure we will not have to worry about implementation during an incident. She hopes to have a proposal for this group by the May meeting.

-Other new business

-Rich Blott from Congressman Langevin's office informed council members of a homeland security information event.

-Director Warren informed EMAC that the federal grant process has been finalized a week ahead of schedule. He thanked Leo Messier (Providence EMA), Amy Grybowski, Tom Kilday and others for their work. The state has requested the maximum amount of funds available and will reallocate the disbursement of funds when the final amount is allocated from the federal government.

-Tom Kilday informed the EMAC of a debris management conference in the end of May.

-Joe Salter informed the EMAC of the large scale IED/hijack exercise planned for September.

-Representatives from the Hospital Association informed the EMAC that the capacity system went on line and is working very well. They are also working on a patient tracking system with the same vendor that created the capacity system. A field test will occur soon.

-Brian Pires has offered the ATAC system for publicizing bulletins related to exercise trainings.

VIII. Adjournment

- Lt. Governor Roberts announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 24th at 2:30. She acknowledged some council members have looked at their schedules for the year and we have some conflicts such as the TSA exercise in September. She asked members to let staff know of any other conflicts so we can reschedule meetings to accommodate the greater group.