

DISASTERCOM



DERA Newsletter

41 Years of Service

September 2003

Florida Flooding

July 21, 2003

Florida Governor Jeb Bush signed an official request for Presidential Declaration for Public Assistance for 7 counties and Hazard Mitigation for the entire state.

Cited were infrastructure losses of \$67.43, \$31.79, and \$28.50 per capita respectively, well above the \$2.70 county per capita loss threshold. The disaster impacts are primarily in Category D (Water Control Facilities), although significant losses in Categories G (Other Public Facilities), and C (Road Systems) were recorded. Sarasota County is in the process of evaluating the construction of a temporary road, to provide access to effect emergency repairs to a berm. On June 23, 2003, five shelters were opened throughout the affected counties.

On July 29, 2003, President Bush declared a major disaster for the state of Florida, triggering the release of federal funds essential to help these communities recover from their uninsured losses and expedite their recovery from this devastating event.

The rivers are rising, ponds and retention areas are overflowing, streets are now rivers and a number of homes flooding. More rain is predicted. Florida watches as hurricane season begins with predictions of a "very active" year. "This year is beginning to look a whole lot like 1998 with one disaster event after another in Florida." remarked Jody Hill, Director of the Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster Organization (FIND).



FAIRS Directors David Larsen and his lovely wife Gaynell, Longtime DERA members, at Dayton, Ohio Hamvention 2002

Building Global Friendships

For many years now the purpose of FAIRS has been to build friendships on a global scale. Although anyone examining their track record could certainly state; **'Mission Accomplished!'**, the organization continues its influence and assistance to an ever-expanding circle.

The Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service (FAIRS) was founded in 1991 as a membership foundation with hundreds of members world wide assisting in the goals of FAIRS. FAIRS operates with an all volunteer staff in all parts of the globe supported from FAIRS headquarters in the state of Virginia, U.S. Over the years, FAIRS has been assisted by many other organizations such as the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). FAIRS members gather on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 1200-1300 on 14.317Khz to discuss current projects. All are welcome to join.

FAIRS Projects

FAIRS has major projects in the following countries Russia, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Guyana and Dominica. These countries now have active local FAIRS groups. FAIRS members have projects of helping hams in other countries such as Haiti, Zambia, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, India, and others. Projects are funded from grants, membership dues and donations. Read more about their individual projects on page 6.

"Terrorist Bombings" Train the Trainer

By: Mark Moore

Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings; Technician Level, is a train the trainer course which prepares instructors to teach "Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings; Awareness" to first responders, and other individuals who, because of their situation may be in a position to; receive a bomb threat, be involved in an event, or be the first on the scene of a terrorist bombing. Taught by New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and supported by The Office of Domestic Preparedness, US Department of Justice, the purpose of the classes are to create a group of Technician Level instructors to serve as information multipliers that disseminate information to prepare as many first responders as possible for specialized activities needed in response to terrorist activities dealing with bombings.

(Continued on page 7)

DisasterCom is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

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Editor: Catherine Lawhun

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

See Back Page for Membership Application

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E I I P



A Note from your Editor

While discussing our feature article with David Larsen of FAIRS he pointed out ongoing difficulties in arranging for delivery of donated equipment to FAIRS groups abroad. David Larsen and his wife would welcome any type of collaboration with DERA members who may be planning to travel abroad as they might also provide a FAIRS function. This could certainly amplify the efficiency and economy we are capable of as a group through organized charitable efforts. I encourage you to contact him if you think you may want to help.

Additionally, FAIRS would like to coordinate with any DERA members wishing to travel to Martinique in April 2004 for the Carribean Hamboree.

Emergency Preparedness Training continuing at unprecedented rates all across the U.S. since September 11, and I have not been exempt. One would think that undertaking a 40 hour Hazmat certification would prove the most tedious for a person who does not have much background in chemistry, BUT much to my dismay, I found that learning Morse Code was the biggest challenge. If it had not been for the encouragement of some of our own membership and the persistence and interest in the background of the code's use that a private tutor was able to impart, I would have been unsuccessful in my first attempt. I was also privileged to sit for one the country's first courses taught in "Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings" (see article on page 1) It would be nice to think that the focus on training and preparedness that we have undertaken as a nation played an important role in the peaceful and timely resolution of the NE power grid failure.

Yours Truly,

-Catherine Lawhun

Catherine Lawhun is also President of Many Waters Resource Network, Inc. www.many-waters.com whose non-profit component is registering available volunteer engineering professionals for disaster response nationwide. For more information call 888-570-1344

Capability Assessment

National Emergency Management Baseline Capability Assessment Program (NEMB-CAP) is an effort to establish a baseline measurement of the nation's emergency management capabilities. Assessment teams have completed on-site evaluations in nine states, including Arizona, North Dakota, Iowa, Ohio, Alabama, Colorado, Florida,

Pennsylvania and Maryland. At least nine more states and/or territories and the District of Columbia are scheduled this year, and it's anticipated that others will be added to the schedule. The remainder of the states and territories will be assessed in 2004. The EMAP Standard is being employed. This assessment process was developed through a collaborative initiative involving FEMA, NEMA, the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and other stakeholder organizations including the National Governors Association, National League of Cities and The Council of State Governments. EMAP is overseen by an independent commission whose nine members are appointed by FEMA, IAEM and NEMA. FEMA is currently developing an online self-assessment support tool to augment the EMAP Standard, and which will replace the State Capability Assessment for Readiness (CAR) as FEMA's state emergency management capability assessment instrument. Meanwhile, efforts are under way to restructure the Local and Tribal CAR instruments to strengthen the terrorism and weapons and mass destruction components of those self-assessment tools.

ISBE 2003

The Annual Congress on Infrastructure Security for the Built Environment (ISBE 2003), which will be held in Washington, DC, Sept.16-18, 2003. ISBE 2003 will feature, a Federal Forum, a Congressional Leaders Forum, and 25 technical sessions focusing on a wide range of threat, vulnerability, risk management, and security issues.

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Emmitsburg Training

Pat O'Brien, community services division commander for the Frederick Police Department, sat among police and fire officials watching the drooling cow slide, part of Course E407, "Terrorism Training Course: Train-the-Trainer." Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the bucolic campus in Emmitsburg has become "the center of the universe" for anti-terrorism and emergency preparedness training, said Michael D. Brown, the Department of Homeland Security's undersecretary of emergency preparedness and response. This training facility opened in 1979, when the U.S. Fire Administration bought St. Joseph's College. The government opened the National Fire Academy, to train mostly firefighters, and the Emergency Management Institute, to school other organizations that coordinate with fire departments during a disaster. This year, Emmitsburg's U.S. Fire Administration training center expects to provide free training to 300,000 "first responders"-- usually fire, police and city officials. About 16,000 students train in Emmitsburg annually; others attend courses in their home states through video hookups or online. The government picks up the tab for the courses, along with student travel, meals and lodging. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, students' backgrounds haven't changed, he said. "What's changed is the level of interest." Although figures vary, the average cost for a two-week training session at Emmitsburg is \$650 a student, including travel, instructor and classroom materials, according to Tom Olshanski, the U.S. Fire Administration's press secretary. Each 25-student course costs about \$16,000 to deliver, not including the facility's overhead costs. The bulk of Homeland Security's preparedness budget pays for equipment, Sharro said. But preparing millions of public safety workers for terrorist attacks on their towns is proving expensive and the results difficult to gauge. "The proof in the pudding is how well that community responds in an emergency."

More Legislation:

The \$4.4 billion Congress has appropriated for first responders since 9/11 "is not getting to where it belongs," according to Rep. Christopher Cox (R-Calif.). To "unclog the pipeline" Cox, chairman of the house select committee on Homeland Security, said June 24 he was introducing legislation to streamline the process. Cox said his bill would base federal first responder grant money on a systematic analysis of risk.

The Salvation Army as first responders

As part of a newly formed agreement with Baltimore Emergency Management Officials, The Salvation Army Disaster team are contacted as first responders to natural and large-scale fire and other disasters throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan Area

POWER LOSS Memphis, Tennessee

The Salvation Army served for over a week after a violent storm, with straight-line winds over 100 mph, ripped through Memphis, Tenn. Ninety-five thousand residents and businesses are still without power, which is down from the 306,000 who were without power at its peak. Although without power themselves, The Salvation Army continues to minister throughout the affected areas. Salvation Army personnel and volunteers have served nearly 2,700 meals and 2,900 beverages to emergency response personnel and displaced citizens. Additional Salvation Army personnel from Nashville and Murfreesboro, Tenn., are assisting in feeding displaced residents, and four emergency disaster vehicles (canteens) have been deployed.

"Home Town" Security

Tom Ridge in an interview the last week in July addressed the necessary initiatives that need to be implemented at the State and Local level. "We're working to develop a national incident-management system," he said. "It's important you get the resources you need but equally important they are managed ... wisely." Ridge said that while billions of dollars have been sent to states and local "first responders" to emergencies, specific goals at the local level are essential. "What we've asked your governors and mayors to do is to get together on a statewide basis to build statewide homeland security plans," he said. "We need to build them from the bottom up. The homeland will be secure when the home town is secure."

French Heat Wave

French authorities have announced a plan of action after officials revealed an estimated 3,000 people have died of heat-related causes in the first weeks of August. Medical and mortuary personnel are being called back from leave and retirement while air conditioned tents have been erected to hold the deceased.

New Member Roster

Hibak Hersi
Toronto, Ontario

Frederick Schroeder
Damascus, MD

Timothy A. George
Louisville, OH

SECURE CORPS
Newtown, PA

David M. Schmitz, Jr.
Davenport, FL

Andrew Levine
Missoula, MT

Martin Alperen
St. John, VI

Sean W. Kelly
Crofton, MD

S. Michael Clinton
Tallahassee, FL

Thomas Nelson
Lagos, Nigeria

Kailash Chandra Dash
Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India

Gul Wali Khan
Peshawar, Pakistan

Kevin Lombardo
Vienna, VA

Bernadette Pasibalan Tan
Manila, Philippines

Kumar Prasad Poudyal
Kathmandu, Nepal

Cathy Dunwood
Stockton, CA

Nasser S. Al-Asiry
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Martin Stolmack
Denver, CO

Suzanne Boccia
Arvada, CO

Karthik Polsani
Pittsburgh, PA

Welcome to DERA!
*It is our sincere aim to help you
Achieve your professional and personal
goals*

Alabama.....

Inside the Pink Zone

The Army has never before tried to carry out such unforgiving work in such a populated area. The burning of 2,254 tons of chemical weapons, stored for decades is set to begin soon. About 35,000 people live within nine miles of the incinerator - the pink zone - and more than 250,000 are within a 30-mile circle. About \$140 million has been spent safeguarding the community. The work has been extensive. Special air filters and ventilation systems have been installed in 10 nearby schools to ward off fumes in an accident, but work continues at 28 more. Only 12,500 protective masks have been distributed to the 35,000 pink zone residents. Sirens and some 30,000 tone radios will alert people to an accident. More than 9,700 "shelter-in-place" kits - cardboard boxes containing duct tape, plastic sheeting, scissors and a training video - have been given out along with filtration systems for residents to seal up a room during any accident.

The Army decided in 1982 to construct eight incinerators nationwide to dispose of some 31,500 tons of lethal chemicals, but it has since decided to use chemical neutralization to destroy nerve agents in Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky and Maryland. The CENTECH Group has been hired to hand out the protective hoods and other safety equipment, easing fears is part of their job. Aside from the distribution of similar hoods on Capitol Hill after the anthrax scares, never before has the government provided civilians with safety gear on such a large scale. The goal is to treat this seriously, but not alarmingly.

India budgets \$200M for new information warfare agency

NEW DELHI - The Indian army plans to set up a dedicated information warfare agency in an attempt to overcome what government officials perceive as shortcomings in the gathering and distribution of critical information, according to a senior Indian army official. The information warfare agency would be part of the military operations directorate, the official said. Until now, the Indian army has been handling its information warfare operations through the military intelligence directorate, which has not proven to be an effective arrangement, the official added. The government has approved a budget of \$200 million to set

up the information warfare agency. The Indian army plans to invite bids from domestic information technology vendors for customized information-gathering systems to serve as the backbone of the new agency. Currently, the Indian army does not have a reliable or effective system through which it can obtain public information at a single source and there also is no channel through which the Indian army can gather required defense information held by numerous government offices, the official said.

'Mammoth task'

The Indian army expects the creation of an effective information warfare agency to be "a mammoth task," the official said. In fact, he said, the army has not even prepared the vision plan for the project. He added that the army planned to turn to independent defense specialists for suggestions on how best to build a credible agency. The Indian government plans to centralize all sources of military and intelligence information, according to an official at the Interior Ministry. Dedicated satellites, information technology infrastructure, and electronic equipment will be installed to help set up the centralized structure, which will be the hub of all security information. The new system is needed to avoid duplication and repetition of information gathering within the government, The Interior Ministry official added.

Czech communications system suffers further delays

The Czech Republic's current Vektor system, which uses Motorola's Sctel 9600 equipment for voice/data encryption through the telephone network, has been in use since 1993 and is due to be renewed by November 2005. The Interior Ministry also asked for tenders to be held later this year for communications infrastructure and cryptographic equipment. The Cabinet, however, rejected the plans, saying that any new proposal submitted before the end of 2003 required a second alternative solution in order "to decrease the burden on the state budget."

Graduate student's dissertation raises issues

A graduate student's professor called his dissertation "tedious and unimportant." The student didn't talk about it when he went on dates because "it was so boring they'd start staring up at the ceiling." But

since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the student's work has become so compelling that companies want to seize it, government officials want to suppress it, and al Qaeda operatives -- if they could get their hands on it -- would find a terrorist treasure map.

One student mapped every business and industrial sector in the American economy, layering on top the fiber-optic network that connects them. He can click on a bank in Manhattan and see who has communication lines running into it and where. He can zoom in on Baltimore and find the choke point for trucking warehouses. He can drill into a cable trench between Kansas and Colorado and determine how to create the most havoc with a hedge clipper. Using mathematical formulas, he probes for critical links, trying to answer the question: "if I were Osama bin Laden, where would I attack?"

There's a new concern publish or perish? "He should turn it in to his professor, get his grade -- and then they both should burn it," said Richard Clarke, who until recently was the White House cyberterrorism chief. "The fiber-optic network is our country's nervous system." Every fiber, thin as a hair, carries the impulses responsible for Internet Traffic, telephones, cell phones, military communications, bank transfers, air traffic control, signals to power the grid and water systems among other things. You don't want to give terrorists a road map to blow that up," he said. The press agreed not to print the results of the student's research. Some argue that the critical targets should be publicized, because it would force the government and industry to protect them. "It's a tricky balance," said Michael Vatis, founder and first director of the National Infrastructure Protection Center. Vatis noted the dangerous time gap between exposing the weaknesses and patching them: "But I don't think security through obscurity is a winning strategy." Catherine Allen, chief executive of BITS, the technology group for financial services roundtable, said the attendees were "amazed" and "concerned" to see how independent their systems were. Following the presentation, she said, they decided to hold an exercise in an undisclosed Midwestern city this summer. They plan to simulate a cyber assault and a bomb attack jointly with the telecommunications industry and the National Communications System to measure the impact on financial services. McCarthy hopes that by identifying vulnerabilities, the research will help solve a risk management problem: "We know we can't have a policeman at every bank and switched facility, so what things do you secure?"

The WSSPC Annual Conference September 20-24, 2003

The Western States Seismic Policy Council WSSPC Annual Conference September 20-24, 2003 has as its theme: *Toward Earthquake Loss Reduction: Developing Effective Communication, Realistic Strategies and Successful Mitigation Actions for Your Community.* Many western communities are preparing their mitigation plans in response to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. In the WSSPC annual conference this year, we identify communities in which citizens have worked successfully to communicate their concerns to policy makers who have taken actions to identify and mitigate their seismic risks. We will focus on the earthquake loss reduction process by bringing members of several successful communities together to discuss how they accomplished this process in their community and its results. There will be opportunities for panelists to interact with attendees and help them acquire insights based on lessons learned so that attendees can develop plans for seismic loss reduction actions in their own communities. To achieve our goal, we would like to request your help. As a person involved in seismic hazards issues, by contacting any individuals you know of who have concerns about unmet seismic risks in their communities. Whether they are an activist citizen, planner, building official, business leader or city council member, we're certain that they will be able to benefit by participating in the conference in order to learn more about how they can initiate loss reduction actions and urge them to attend the conference. If they have any questions, they are invited to contact WSSPC directly wsspc@wsspc.org. The WSSPC conference website is at <http://www.wsspc.org/events/ac2003/index.htm>.

Welcome to the Disaster Care Unit.

Courtesy of the Daily Inter Lake

The week-old program headed by the United Way is offering fire victims **one stop** to find housing, emergency food services, and temporary placement of pets and livestock. The unit, with the help of numerous volunteers and several non-profit groups, is housed this week in the Emergency Coordination Center in the basement of the Flathead County Justice Center. Sherry Stevens Wulf, United Way director, said most calls that come

in are related to the Robert and Wedge Canyon fires. More than 1,200 calls have poured into the center, where volunteers like Carter inform people of fire activity in Flathead County. Inside the center, maps hang from walls, televisions feed live news about the fire, and weather conditions are posted on charts. A list of people offering services — equipment, animal care, housing and food — is on another wall. "We are a mobile unit that can go anywhere," Wulf said of the Disaster Care Unit. "This is our role to respond in the event of a disaster." Wulf said the disaster unit also finds resources for county crews fighting the fire. The unit has sent mosquito repellent, food, tents, water and portable toilets to fire locations. "They call us first, and we find the resources and have it delivered," she said. "We support the incident command post for the county." She said the unit takes care of human needs, which frees the sheriff, Forest Service and emergency service officials to focus more on fighting fires. The Salvation Army is helping by providing food service for citizens battling fire on the front lines while the Red Cross provides housing for people evacuated from their homes. North Valley Hospital is the current site of the emergency shelter. "If people have been evacuated on short notice, the shelter will provide bedding and food service," said Rick Cunningham, director of the local Red Cross. The Disaster Care Unit focuses on coordinating volunteers as part of the nationwide Citizens Corps program established by the Bush administration following the 9/11 attacks. The program provides a standardized way to register, assess, train and assign volunteers. Those interested in volunteering or providing equipment should contact the unit at 758-5606 or check in at the shelter. The unit also can be contacted via e-mail at lepc@co.flathead.mt.us

Wyoming Fires

PARKMAN, Wyo. (AP) — Twenty summer cabins in north-central Wyoming were evacuated because of a quickly growing wildfire in the Bighorn National Forest, officials said Monday. The fire was one of scores in Wyoming sparked by lightning over the weekend. Another, temporarily closed roads in Jackson Hole, including the main route through Grand Teton National Park. At least seven fires in the state were burning on at least 100 acres. Across the West, there were 37 large fires.



Super Scooper Assists Firefighters

In just 10 seconds, 1,440 gallons of water rush into the 5- to 6-inch-wide slots on the bottom of the Canadair CL-215, nicknamed "the Super Scooper." With the touch of a button, the water pours from the plane with a force strong enough to snap the tops off trees.

West Glacier Fires

The demand for manpower and equipment was concentrated in West Glacier, where more than 30 volunteers were on duty at a time. Each of the four type-1 engines for wildfires requires three firefighters to operate. Each of the five type-6 engines takes two firefighters and the four water trucks each require one operator. Another six firefighters are offering logistics support. "Every 48 hours, those crews shift on all that equipment," Dresbach said. On Monday, he was busy incorporating the county weed department crew and equipment into his firefighting brigade. The weed department's trucks are similar to type-6 engines with pumps and water tanks, Dresbach said. Outfitted with hoses and hand tools, the trucks could be used to help with mop-up after the worst of the fire has passed.

"It's hard to tell when the sky's all smoky," he said. Infrared flights overnight will tell a fuller story, but the fire was mapped at 18,715 acres at the time. The west side of the fire continued to resist the direction set by firefighters.

Aspen Fire Damage

Aspen, CO.

During the "ASPEN FIRE" which is contained, but still burning over 330 structures were lost at a cost of over \$16 million.

Emergency Shelters

Missoula, Montana

The American Red Cross set up emergency shelters Sunday in Clinton and Florence, and on Monday, shelters in Condon and Plains shelters were up and ready. Although no evacuations have been ordered, Red Cross personnel have established the shelters at schools just in case area residents must evacuate as fire threatens their homes. People will be registered as they enter a shelter so their names and location will be available to Red Cross personnel to pass on if relatives call. Even if people decide not to stay in the shelters, Red Cross personnel would like them to stop by and register so the name is on a list of safe evacuees. "Friends and family who call the shelter will be informed concerning your welfare if you have registered," a Red Cross release said. Evacuees also are urged to call a relative or friend outside of the evacuation area to let them know they are safe. Donations to help cover the cost of shelters, supplies, gasoline and other necessary items would be appreciated. They can be mailed to 1001 E. Broadway, Suite 10, Missoula, MT 59802. The "Wildfire" brochure also is available at the East Broadway address. Based in Missoula, the Red Cross agency serves Sanders, Mineral, Missoula and Ravalli counties. Reporter Donna Syvertson can be reached at 523-5361 or <mailto:syvertson@missoulia.com>.

Completion of DoD-"Project-112"

A nearly three-year investigation of the operational biological and chemical warfare testing done from 1962-1973 by the Desert Test Center under Project 112 has been completed, according to a Department of Defense announcement on June 30.

Project 112 was a joint program initiated in 1962 out of concern for the DoD's ability to protect and defend against potential threats. The Desert Test Center planned 134 tests, conducted 50 tests and cancelled 84 tests. The 10 new fact sheets, along with the 46 fact sheets previously released, present information on every chemical and biological test done by the Desert Test Center under Project 112. One aspect of Project 112 was known as Shipboard Hazard and Defense, or SHAD. It was comprised of tests designed to identify U.S. warships' vulnerabilities to attacks with chemical or biological warfare agents and to develop procedures to such attacks while

maintaining a war-fighting capability. This DoD effort was undertaken at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs to respond to the claims of some veterans that tests conducted in the 1960s and early 1970s may have affected their health. The fact sheets cover tests performed both at sea and on land. The DoD has provided the VA the names of 5,842 military personnel who were present during one or more of these tests. Details from all 56 fact sheets have been compiled into a chart at: http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/current_issues/shad/shad_chart/shad_chart_8.shtml to make it easier for veterans to find information that may apply to their service. Veterans who believe they were involved in Desert Test Center tests and desire medical evaluations should call the VA's Helpline at (800) 749-8387. Veterans who have DoD-related questions or who are DoD beneficiaries and have medical concerns or questions should call the Deployment Health Support Directorate's contact center at (800) 497-6261.

Project BioShield

Statement by: Tommy G. Thompson

I commend the House of Representatives for their overwhelming passage of Project BioShield. Project BioShield will assist our country's best scientists as they continue to work to improve our nation's defense against biological and chemical weapons. Project BioShield will enhance their efforts by making available modern, effective drugs and vaccines to protect against enemy attack with biological and chemical weapons or other dangerous pathogens. We need to improve the medications and vaccines available to combat biological weapons. By bringing researchers, medical experts and the biomedical industry together, our nation can achieve the breakthroughs in bioweapons protection that we need to keep our families safe. Again, I thank the Members of Congress who continue to work to protect all Americans from the bioweapons that our enemies might use against us.

FAIRS Projects

The Ukrainian Digital Packet Radio Network

(Fairs: Continued from page 1)

Thousands of highly skilled Ukrainian ham operators could not serve their community due to the absence of modern communication equipment compatible with digital modes. Today this is possible

because of the success of this FAIRS project. Since 1991 in excess of \$50,000 in computers, radios and other equipment has been sent and is working very effectively in western Ukraine. It is used daily by the local Hams to communicate with each other and internationally via a single FAIRS APLINK station (U5WF) in Lviv, Ukraine. The grant funds allowed extending the present working network from the western Ukraine to Kiev with connections to Polish, Hungarian and Czech networks allowing international communications. An interconnection into the "Internet" was installed in Lvov allowing very high speed international communications. A voice 2 meter repeater and international APLINK digital station has been added to the network in western Ukraine. The project was able to attain a great multiplier effect on the use of grant funds by using FAIRS volunteers to install the equipment and train the operators. A number of FAIRS USA members have committed their skills to this project. USA FAIRS members Gordon Garrett K1GG, Presley Smith N5VGC and David Larsen KK4WW have already experienced FAIRS projects in Ukraine with numerous visits.

Bangladesh

March 1993 eight FAIRS members spent three weeks on a training and DXpedition in Dhaka. The purpose was to expand amateur radio in a country that had less than 10 active radio amateurs and to help establish an amateur radio disaster and emergency network. 17 Bangladeshi's passed the USA novice or technician level exam. Equipment and radios have been provided and currently there are new hams with modern hf transceivers and Bangladesh license. The official FAIRS station is S21FH licensed and operating in Dhaka. Manju Haque S21AM and Sharif Ahmed S21AS, are FAIRS Directors of Bangladesh operations. The Dhaka group now has an IRLP link operational.

Guyana

The first 2 meter repeater was put on the air in Guyana during 1995 with assistance from FAIRS. The FAIRS group in Guyana continues to grow and build acceptance for amateur radio with the direction of Peter Denny 8R1WD. FAIRS member Larry Vogt, N4VA has provided training for hams in Guyana.

China:

FAIRS Directors David and Gaynell Larsen (KK4WW and KK4WWW) have visited China and operated from the BY1QH Club Station at Tsinghua University in Beijing. FAIRS headquarters has helped with donations

of equipment and books including an hf amplifier for BY1QH.

Haiti and Zambia

FAIRS members Bob Friebertshauer W6YMR and his wife Virginia KD4NBW have made trips to Haiti to install communications equipment in areas where telephones were not available. They also made three trips to Zambia to install donated equipment for use with medical clinics in the Bush.

Dominica

FAIRS has been traveling to Dominica every year since 1997 and has helped provide the Dominica Amateur Radio Club (DARC) with solar panels for their repeater sites, handhelds, radios, antennas, etc. In January 2003 FAIRS members joined with a missions trip to supply much needed medical supplies. FAIRS is also working with DARC on a major project which includes a much needed hurricane shelter with an emergency communication center including living quarters. DARC hosted the Caribbean Hamboree in April 2003 and some FAIRS members were able to attend.

Floyd County Emergency Communications Center

The center in Floyd County, VA. consists of full amateur radio capabilities on hf, vhf and uhf using the FAIRS club call letters N4USA. Manned by the Floyd County ARES group, the center has generators, battery backup power, food supply and emergency stations ready to go to remote sites.

Member Profile

Many amateur radio operators have the desire to have their hobby provide benefits to helping others. Most of our members are in this category. Some are members just because they think the ideas of FAIRS are good but do not have time or funds at this time to contribute. They want to receive the newsletter and be on the lookout for things that will be a help. The more serious of this group contribute volunteer time to help in many ways with FAIRS activities. We have many members who are not hams but feel amateur radio and FAIRS projects are really worthwhile and may be a help in their country. Some of these non ham members are also very good financial contributors. We have members from various governments that are members and give FAIRS much needed help in their countries. There are foreign member hams in third world countries working hard to make amateur radio and FAIRS effective in their country. FAIRS could not have any successful operations

without this kind of in-country support. The most active in this group are Ukraine, Bangladesh, Russia, Guyana, and Dominica. There are individual members in foreign countries that have requested help from FAIRS and want to get activities started at their local level. FAIRS does its best but because of our limited resources we can't respond to all requests. We hope in time funds and volunteers will be available for all these requests. FAIRS welcomes all members who feel FAIRS is providing a good and useful purpose through amateur radio.

FAIRS Video Available

A 14 minute professionally produced video by Virginia Tech film producer Jerry Scheeler is available for those wanting to know more about FAIRS activities and also to learn about amateur radio in the former Soviet Union. For more information contact DERA member David Larsen, president and founder of FAIRS or FAIRS headquarters in Virginia at the following address: P. O. Box 179, Floyd, VA 24091 1-540-745-2322 - www.fairs.org

Homeland Defense Management Seminar™ Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

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The Executive Steering Committee for this conference includes: Elizabeth Dann, NIMA (National Imagery and Mapping Agency) Outreach Office Tiffany Hill, DC Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA) Sue Kalweit, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Chief, Integrated Geo-spatial Preparedness Team Patrick Fowler, ESRI, Patty Mims, ESRI. For information on exhibitor arrangements, please contact <mailto:danderson@marketaccess.org> Ms. Donna Anderson, 703/807-2740 For registration or general information about this event, please contact <mailto:pknight@marketaccess.org> Mr. Parrish Knight, 703/807-2748.

Fires in Spain continue

Fires continue to burn near Barcelona and in Portugal. The newest fires to break out in Spain were in Gerona province, which is between Barcelona and the French border. The fire forced roadblocks on five major roads and forced 2,000 evacuations. The fires since late July have been the worst, in terms of intensity and damage, in two decades. Portugal has poured the most resources into fighting the Faro area fires, including three German firefighting helicopters on loan and four other firefighting aircraft on loan from Morocco.

Terrorist Bombings Train the Trainer

(Continued from page 1)

Law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical and other personnel who would be "first responders" to a WMD bombing event attended the class. Personnel who attended the class were required to have had previous credentials as instructors, have a background in and be in a position to provide emergency service training.

Currently, in our area, one Awareness level class has been held and 5 more are programmed within three months with many more to be scheduled. We estimated that two instructors working as a team will train at least 150 responders within the next six months. The material is very pertinent to events involving bombings, which currently is the weapon of choice (85%) for terrorist acts in this country. The week long class included learning to deal with bomb threats, recognize bombs, and the means to mitigate injury to civilians both pre and post blast is taught. The class was very intense with very little time for side tracking. When the new instructors graduate they are given a teaching kit, which unfortunately for the smaller, poorer department requires expensive projection equipment. All in all the class is an excellent means to get needed information to those charged with protecting the lives and property of our citizens, and to get it to them as quickly as possible to reduce damage from future terrorist events.

Mark Moore is currently Battalion Chief for SAR at South Levy Vol. Fire & Rescue in Levy County Florida. He is retired from the Department of Defense as the Director of a Nuclear Reactor Facility and the Commander of its Emergency Response Team.

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