

# DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

45 Years of Service

June 2007



## Wildfire Assistance Contract

A new contract between 10 Tanker Air Carrier and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection took effect June 15, 2007 and provides for \$15 million worth of DC-10 air tanker assistance for fighting wildfires. The firefighting air tanker is equipped to drop 12,000 gallons of water or fire retardant and can create a fire break three-quarters of a mile long in eight seconds. Last year the jumbo jet was used in six wildfires in California and one in Washington state.

"We think... it is going to be a game changer," said Rick Hatton, a managing partner for jet owner 10 Tanker Air Carrier. "It is very effective, especially when trying to contain a large fire."

## 3D Laser Technology Speeds Disaster Recovery

In the aftermath of any disaster, public and private agencies need immediate information about damage to infrastructure, residential neighborhoods, educational and business structures to shape debris management, recovery and rebuilding plans. Traditionally, gathering this data has taken weeks and sometimes months depending on the size of the community and the severity of the damage.

That's begun to change as consultants like PBS&J, a nationwide engineering firm with expertise in risk and emergency management, information system building and program management, have combined the flexibility and mobility of advanced technologies, such as 3D laser scanning, to create a rapid asset management, disaster response solution.

Travis Reinke, Program Manager in PBS&J's newly formed Applied Technology Group, explains, "Before, during and after a disaster, our goal is to find ways to gather information and document conditions quickly and easily. With the help of 3D laser scanning technology, we can cut the time to gather data from weeks to just minutes and at a significantly reduced cost, and sometimes as the only practical alternative."

*(continued, page 4)*



(FEMA Photo: Amanda Bicknell)

## South Dakota Floods

Several DERA members deployed on state and federal response and recovery teams throughout eastern South Dakota in May and June. The above photo illustrates the severity of flooding from record rainfall on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Aberdeen, South Dakota and vicinity. Several counties and three Indian nations received federal disaster declarations.

Flood waters continue to go down very slowly and many homes have been wet for more than a month. Heavy rains flood the Elm River easily at Columbia, South Dakota to the northeast of Aberdeen. Runoff collects and stages higher and higher as it moves southwest through the watershed and hits Aberdeen.

"I toured the damage in Aberdeen and rural Brown County recently, and it is clear that a very large number of families, farms and businesses will be in great need in coming months." U.S. Senator John Thune told DERA.

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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

The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, International

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## DERA International

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Longmont, CO 80502

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Incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.  
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### Partnerships & Affiliations Include



From Your

## Editor's desk

This summer DERA's Florida operations, in an effort to increase preparation for the 2007 Hurricane Season, will host its first "Disaster Camp" -- a joint collaborative effort between Many Waters Disaster Response Engineers and DERA Radio Operators. This one-day camp will pave the way for engineering expertise and resources to be made available to Emergency Response Radio Operators. To participate, email [ops@disasters.org](mailto:ops@disasters.org)



Recently, the DERA Florida HF station was upgraded with digital capabilities and incorporated into SHARES through our affiliation with the local Coast Guard Station. (See article below)

Please continue to support our fundraisers and efforts on your behalf at regional coordination. We are still looking for regional coordinators in several areas of the country. We have opportunities at every level. If you would like to lend your talents and get more involved, please contact me.

God Bless,

-Catherine Lawhun

## Shared Resources (SHARES) Program: USCG Auxiliary

In March of 2007, the Auxiliary National Executive Committee (NEXCOM) and the Office of the Chief Director of the Auxiliary (CG-3PCX) approved participation by CGAUX HF Stations in SHARES (SHARED RESOURCES) which is a part of the National Communications System. For further information click on the link below for the announcement memo from DVD-OT Bill Scholz.

<http://www.auxodept.org/documents/SHARES%20Announcement.pdf>

## FCC Review Released

Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks  
**Released: June 8, 2007**  
[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-107A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-107A1.doc)

## WSSPC Annual Conference

We cordially invite you to register now for the 2007 WSSPC Annual Conference, held in conjunction with the International Code Council's education program, September 30 - October 3, 2007 in Reno, Nevada.

"Risk Communication, Building Codes, and Consequences: The Future of Earthquake Safety in the U.S." features the nation's top scientists, emergency managers and engineers speaking about the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program; earthquake provisions in the International Building Code; creating a new generation of effective earthquake safety, preparedness, and mitigation messages; performance based engineering issues; and earthquake disaster scenarios for major cities in the United States. For more information, contact:

Western States Seismic Policy Council  
801 K Street, Suite 1436  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-444-6816  
[www.wsspc.org/Conference](http://www.wsspc.org/Conference)  
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# South Dakota Flood

(From page 1)

The damage from this storm is evident in numerous communities in the eastern portion of the state. Damage was especially severe in twelve counties including Aurora, Beadle, Brown, Clark, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Miner, Sanborn, Spink, and Yankton. Many of these counties experienced record-setting quantities of rainfall and subsequent flooding, as well as tornadoes and other high winds. The storm caused significant damage to dams, electricity infrastructure, individual homes, cropland, and numerous other facilities across the region. In sum, the economic and emotional toll of this damage will undoubtedly be enormous.

In northern Kansas, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, the Salvation Army is providing relief and shelter to residents whose homes were damaged by severe flooding. Salvation Army teams are in Ottawa and Riley counties in Kansas where more than 30 homes were damaged and one person was killed due to flooding. In South Dakota, the Salvation Army is distributing clean-up kits and providing emergency assistance to families.

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## Increased Federal Share for Disaster Assistance

Congress has determined that the federal cost share should be 100% in both the Public Assistance Program and the Assistance to Individuals and Households Program, for damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, Rita, and Dennis in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, and Texas. Slipped into the Iraq War funding supplemental appropriation (as Section 4501 of the 2007 War Supplemental) was a short provision stating that "the Federal Share for disasters is increased to 100 percent of the eligible costs under Sections 403, 406, 407 and 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in connection with Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, Dennis, and Rita. This 100% Federal share "shall apply to disaster assistance applied for before the date of enactment of this Act," and "shall be limited to projects for which

a 'request for public assistance form' has been submitted."

Under the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (PL 109-88), Congress designated up to \$750,000,000 in the "Disaster Relief Fund" to be used for Community Disaster Loans authorized under section 417 of the Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Normally, loans under Section 417 can be cancelled when communities were unable to manage operating budgets due to insufficient revenues, but cancellation was prohibited for loans funded under the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005. Sec. 4502 of the 2007 War Supplemental amends section 2(a) of the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (PL 109-88) to restore communities' ability to have loans cancelled as provided under section 417(c)(1) of the Stafford Act.

Last year, in another emergency supplemental appropriation (the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006" PL 109-234), Congress had authorized FEMA to reimburse State and local governments, for a 12 month period, the cost of utilities in temporary housing units provided for evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and other 2005 hurricanes – as long as the government had agreed to provide those utilities in a lease signed before February 7, 2006. Section 2503 of the 2007 War Supplemental extends the 12 month term to 24 months. Most of these leases had already been assigned back to a FEMA contractor, so it is not clear how many communities will take advantage of this extension. However, it is clear that FEMA regulations (which had limited payment of utilities for temporary housing) proved to be impractical given the housing needs created by Hurricane Katrina and other 2005 hurricanes.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami-Dade County last week revised its list of the costliest as well as deadliest hurricanes. According to the NHC, 2004/2005 produced seven of the nine costliest hurricanes to strike the U.S. coastline since 1900 and did \$167 billion in total damage. And all seven struck Florida -- Charley, Ivan, Frances and Jeanne in 2004; and Katrina, Wilma and Rita in 2005.

The report is available from the NHC Internet site through this link:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/NWS-TPC-5.pdf>



## New Member Roster

**Carl Russell, KE5AKI**

Albuquerque, NM

**Jon C. Shoemaker**

Ft Carson, CO

**Raymond Hornung**

Hudson, WI

**Leslie Lewis**

McKinney, TX

**John H. Boldt, P.E.**

Columbus, IN

**Joseph McIsaac, M.D.**

Avon, CT

**John Robert Bridge**

Austin, TX

**Colonel Jaime R. Roman, KG6YYT**

Sacramento, CA

**Lawrence Poh**

Singapore

**Kevin A. Sweet**

Tauton, MA

**George F. White**

San Antonio, TX

**Robert P. Moser, Jr., M.D.**

Tribune, KS

**Robert H. Conn**

Ocala, FL

**Albert E. Jones**

Holly Springs, MS

**Anne Hutton**

Irvine, CA

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

# 3D Laser Technology Speeds Disaster Recovery

(continued from page 1)

3D Laser Scanning, also known as High-Definition Surveying (HDS) is a non-intrusive means of rapidly collecting detailed and accurate as-built data. A 3D Laser Scanner emits a narrow eye-safe laser beam that “sweeps across” a target object, such as a bridge or building, gathering literally millions of closely spaced measurements in a matter of minutes. These scanned measurements are collected and grouped into compressed point cloud databases that can be easily manipulated on standard desktop and laptop computers displaying a dense representation of the object. This data can be viewed, navigated and analyzed much like a 3D model created in a traditional CAD system.

In one recent case, PBS&J relied on 3D laser scanning technology to help restore the Penn-Wyatt House in Virginia, an architectural masterpiece of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after a tornado destroyed its custom slate tile roof and turreted pavilion. It only took a few hours for the PBS&J survey team to complete the as-built condition assessment, while standing on the Penn-Wyatt grounds. This project could not have been performed to the required level of detail with conventional survey techniques.



PBS&J also relied on HDS to survey more than five miles of the Tennessee Department of Transportation's roadways, including all ramps, side streets, intersections and multiple bridges and overpasses, in preparation for a major highway reconstruction. It would have taken survey crews three months using conventional survey methods to complete this project.

With HDS, the PBS&J team required less than three weeks to complete the field data acquisition. Over 300 million points on an average of three-inch spacing were captured throughout the project. The cost of HDS is typically ten percent less than conventional methods, which requires lane closures that significantly impact traffic flow. With HDS, no traffic control was needed and no lanes were closed on this heavily traveled highway. The Tennessee Council of Engineering Companies recognized this project with a 2006 Surveying and Mapping Honor Award.

Growing confidence in the accuracy, affordability and speed of HDS-driven surveying and mapping services has prompted interest from federal, state and local agencies immediately following a disaster. For instance, PBS&J surveyors have been called in by Gulf Coast communities looking to continue rebuilding and revitalization efforts. The city of Gulfport, Mississippi is evaluating the benefits of using HDS to collect building façade data and existing sidewalk, lighting and pavement conditions for use in revitalizing the city's downtown district.

Mayor Warr in Gulport comments, “It's imperative that we continue to rebuild our residential and business districts as quickly as possible. While we know the reconstruction in the Gulf will take many years, the application of tools like HDS allows us to immediately understand current conditions, and thus prepare short- and long-term development plans.”

An added demand for efficient HDS services is the federal requirement, known as GASB 34, that communities with public assets over \$500,000 in value implement an asset management plan that delineates infrastructure assets and describes maintenance plans to ensure long-term life.

Reinke adds, “PBS&J disaster management teams use data derived from HDS surveyors to determine structural integrity and monitor further movement of surfaces (walls or pavement). Coastal cities are becoming more aware of this technology and are using it to supplement their asset management system. With an accurate as-built of all critical infrastructure available before an event, and the acquisition of such data post-event, engineers can quickly determine the structural integrity of affected areas and make the necessary decisions on how to proceed.”

Similar efforts were recently used to determine the structural integrity of two historic buildings located on The Strand in Galveston, Texas that have withstood numerous hurricanes over the last century. Exterior façade cracking

discovered during recent renovation has the property owners concerned about safety and reliability of the structures. By scanning the exterior and portions of the interior, PBS&J was able to easily provide multiple detailed vertical section views of the buildings that the structural engineer used to find the source(s) of the problem and make the necessary repairs. The data was also tied to local control monuments that will allow for deviation monitoring of the structure over the next several years.

Laser Scanning technology is widely used by PBS&J to create asset built models of a wide variety of structures including bridges, highways, buildings, power plants and more. PBS&J has the ability to reduce time and costs with the application of multiple scanners and personnel on any given project, in any place across the country, at any given time.

For more information, contact Travis Reinke at (281) 529-4287 or [treinke@pbsj.com](mailto:treinke@pbsj.com)

## Low Power FM Stations



Senators Maria Cantwell and John McCain have introduced a Senate bill to authorize hundreds of local, noncommercial [Low Power FM radio stations](#) to communities across the country. A companion bill was introduced in the House. The [Local Community Radio Act of 2007](#) would remove the artificial restrictions imposed on LPFM by a 2000 law passed at the urging of corporate radio giants and NPR, claiming that small community stations would interfere with the signals of larger stations. While these claims were debunked by a taxpayer-funded study in 2002, Congress has not yet acted on those results, denying many communities the opportunity to apply for LPFM stations.

If passed, this bill will pave the way for educational groups, nonprofits, unions, schools and local governments to launch new local radio stations across the country. Get additional details from the

[Prometheus Radio Project](#), and express your support for local radio by signing the online petition at [ExpandLPFM.org](#).

"In California, we've seen the value of radio stations that are local and community-driven," said Jeff Perlstein, executive director of Media Alliance. "It's high time Congress put these public resources -- these radio frequencies -- to work for the public."

"LPFM is a low-cost, high-democracy form of community media, said Anthony Riddle, executive director of Alliance for Community Media. "There ought to be a way for every community with the will and an idea to have its own voice. Congressmen Doyle and Terry shouldn't just be applauded-- they should be joined by every other member in supporting this eloquent and simple ideal."

"While other forms of media are consolidated and homogenous, Low Power FM remains an innovative outlet for local and diverse voices," said Amina Fazullah, staff attorney for U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). "This legislation is a great step forward towards a responsive media that serves citizens and not the corporate interest."

## DHS awards \$4 million to prevent fire death and injury

The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on April 20th the first round of Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants, awarding 52 grants totaling almost \$4 million to fire departments and fire prevention organizations throughout the United States. Under the FY 2006 program, FP&S will award approximately 300 awards totaling \$27 million to fire departments and other eligible organizations to reduce losses from fire and fire-related hazards. FP&S projects focus on preventing fire-related injuries to children, seniors, firefighters, and other high-risk groups. FP&S also supports innovative fire prevention solutions and research on improving firefighter health and safety.

## U.K. Floods

On June 24th, record-breaking rains in England and Wales had resulted in widespread, deadly flooding. Several towns had been inundated in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands, many dams were at risk of failure, and thousands of people had been evacuated to shelters. At least four fatalities were reported and RAF helicopters had been

flying round-the-clock rescue missions for several days.

David Rooke, head of flood risk at the Environment Agency, said on June 25 that the situation was "still very difficult" in parts of Yorkshire and the Midlands. "But the situation is improving, river levels are dropping and obviously a massive clean up is under way," he said.



## NIUSR Announces Founding of "The Alliance"

Santa Barbara, CA (PRWEB) May 29, 2007 -- The president and founder of the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue (NIUSR), Lois Clark McCoy, announced today the addition of NIUSR as a founding member of "The Alliance." The announcement comes as NIUSR celebrates their 30th anniversary.

McCoy said, "Being a founding member of The Alliance is like getting a traditional pearl necklace for our anniversary. It took some time to form, but the natural connection that NIUSR has with other members of The Alliance made it worth the wait. We look forward to working with organizations that share our objective of making America a safer place."

McCoy said, "It has always been our position that working with others to respond to emergencies is vital to achieve success so we are very proud to make official our common goals with other founding members....With partners like the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, International Association of Emergency Managers, American Red Cross, National Council on Readiness and Preparedness, Regional Alliances for Infrastructure and Network Security, Marine Corps Warfighting Training Lab, the Office of Emergency Services for the Governor of California, Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, San Diego State University Foundation and San Diego State University Master's Program in Homeland Security we are confident that this partnership will serve the public and fulfill our mission."

## Tribal Interoperability

*Reprinted from MSU Policy Review on Interoperability Montana, June, 2007*

**By Jolene Jacobson**

**Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes**

Tribal nations play an important role in interoperable communications throughout Montana. In particular, four tribes on Montana's 565-mile border with Canada have been actively participating with the Northern Tier Interoperability Project. On May 26, 2004, each tribe signed letters of intent to join the Northern Tier Interoperability Consortium to set the basic framework for providing secure communication capability between Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies.

This type of tribal collaboration is precedent setting because Indian Nations are sovereign nations, meaning, in the words of the U.S. Supreme Court, they are "domestic dependent nations," which exercise inherent sovereign authority over their members and territories. Tribal nations have the right to petition the Federal government for their own Homeland Security funding. Instead, they chose to partner with the Northern Tier Interoperability Project because of mutual and critical communications interoperability needs between levels of government and across jurisdictions.

The cooperation between the Blackfeet Tribal Nation, Glacier National Park, and the Interoperability Montana Project is unprecedented in the area of mutual benefit and planning. The Divide Mountain radio communications site is located on tribal lands and Glacier National Park has agreed to build it for mutual use by the Northern Tier, the Blackfeet Tribe, the Park Service and other Federal and state users.

Indian Nations represented in three consortia are as follows:

**Big Sky 11 Interoperability Communications Consortium (Big Sky 11)**  
Crow Tribe  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

**Central Montana Interoperability Communications Consortium (CMICC)**  
Rocky Boy's Indian Nation,  
home to the Chippewa-Cree Tribe

**Northern Tier Interoperability Consortium (NTIC)**  
Blackfeet Tribe  
The Flathead Indian Nation,  
home to the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
Fort Belknap Indian Nation  
Fort Peck Indian Nation



(CAP/FEMA Photo)

## **SALVATION ARMY BRINGS RELIEF AFTER DEADLY TORNADOES RIP THROUGH KANSAS**

The Salvation Army is continuing to provide relief after storms tore through Kansas on May 4, 2007, killing at least 12 people and nearly obliterating the town of Greensburg .

Salvation Army emergency disaster services teams, including two emergency disaster mobile feeding units (canteens), were deployed immediately. The canteens are capable of feeding up to 2,000 people a day.

Dee Smith, emergency disaster services director for The Salvation Army in Kansas and Western Missouri said, "Basically we're out there doing an assessment of the needs and will provide basic services making sure people have shelter, food, medicines and anything else they might need. We will be in place to assist the community for as long as we are needed."

Salvation Army officers (ministers) provided emotional and spiritual care to residents and first responders responding to the horrific storms.

Robert Haneke, WGØQ, Kansas ARES District 5 DEC reported assistance coordination between SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) "It has been a pleasure to work with June, Dee, Brian and Richard and to be able to supply some of the ARES operators to help in SATERN's relief efforts.

Most of the credit for securing and coordinating operators checking in, to volunteer, goes to Jim Zeltner, WBØOAO in Pratt, KS. Members were checking in with him and it is he, who had contact with the hams with the satellite dish and could coordinate their deployment. Jim is also coordinating bringing in Echolink to the affected site.

Current operators in the Haviland and Greensburg area include WØIE, KBØFJI, WBØVLB and KBØZFM. Net control operators in Pratt include WBØOAO and KØWCM. Also NØFEK supplied valuable communications out of the area in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

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## **Corps of Engineers Releases New Orleans Risk Analysis**

June 20, 2007 -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has now released the prototype risk assessment for the hurricane protection system in the New Orleans, La., vicinity. This comprehensive risk analysis was developed by the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) as part of their mission to study the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the protection system.

The first set of publicly-released risk products on June 20 are prototype drafts that will receive additional detailed technical review and public comment. Samples of the risk products, interactive map links, and other information can be accessed at <http://NOLArisk.usace.army.mil> or at <https://IPET.wes.army.mil>.



## Maintaining Separate Identity of the National Weather Service Critical to Emergency Managers for Protection of Life

On May 17, 2007, the director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC), Bill Proenza, was quoted in the *Miami Herald* as stating that millions of dollars are being spent on a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) self-promotion campaign while front-line National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters and those providing other services are wrestling with budget shortfalls.

NOAA has undertaken a campaign to bolster its identity. The campaign includes a 200-year anniversary celebration, which is puzzling to many professionals in the field since NOAA was established in 1970.

The NOAA campaign also includes the re-branding of its agencies. For example, a NOAA Web site – [www.weather.gov/banners/nws.php](http://www.weather.gov/banners/nws.php) – showcases a proposal to use the NOAA emblem in place of the NWS emblem in the banners of virtually all federal weather-related Web sites. Further, according to the *Miami Herald* article, it has been confirmed that officials are considering changing the name of the National Hurricane Center to the NOAA Hurricane Center or NOAA National Hurricane Center and changing the National Weather Service to NOAA Weather Service or NOAA National Weather Service.

On May 18, 2007, the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) issued a public statement applauding the National Weather Service for providing life-saving weather warnings and information important to our nation's security for 137 years. IAEM is urging Congress to include language in a bill to direct the Department of Commerce (DOC) and its bureau, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to preserve and make permanent the agency name of the National Weather Service (NWS) and the

use of the NWS emblem in association with all products, services and facilities of the NWS throughout the nation, including at the national prediction and/or guidance centers, such as the NWS National Hurricane Center and the four CONUS NWS regional field management offices.

Members of IAEM, local emergency managers, interact on a daily basis with the Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) around the country to alert citizens of pending bad weather or to gain information on the weather's effects on other all-hazard events (such as fires or chemical spills). "The National Weather Service is critical to the safety and welfare of local communities," stated Larry Gispert, IAEM first vice president and emergency manager for Hillsborough County, Fla. "Citizens recognize the NWS emblem and their forecasts and warnings. Anything that could diminish the recognition of the agency's important messages may put our citizens in harm's way."

IAEM is further concerned that weakening the identity of the NWS could impact the agency's budget. According to Proenza in the *Miami Herald* article, NWS has a shortfall of more than \$700,000 over several years in a hurricane research program, and NOAA has allowed other important initiatives to go unfunded. "IAEM urges Congress to stop this nonsense and direct money into programs crucial to saving lives during weather-related events," stated Gispert. "With appropriate funds, the NWS will remain the premier agency responsible for ensuring the public's safety when dealing with severe weather events in the United States."

*The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is a non-profit organization consisting of nearly 3,000 emergency management professionals from local, state and the federal governments, military, private industry, and volunteer organizations. IAEM has consistently promoted the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters since its founding in 1952 as the U.S. Civil Defense Council. IAEM is a partner organization of DERA.*

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## EIIP hosts PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS GROUP

DERA Partner EIIP hosted a live Q&A session with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Readiness and Response Program. The Corps is in the process of establishing multidisciplinary response teams, trained and equipped to respond to public health crises and national emergencies, such as

natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or terrorist attacks. Earlier this year, the HHS Inspector General issued a report on the Corps' response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, with recommendations for continuing improvement.

Their guest was **Captain Neal Walker, Ph.D.**, Division Director for Recruitment in the Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO), Office of the Surgeon General. A licensed (clinical) psychologist and trained as a ready responder, he has participated in two major deployments in Florida and Mississippi. Serving in a senior role as a mental health consultant and provider, he witnessed first hand a range of mental health problems among other environmental disasters resulting from hurricanes impacting Fort Pierce FL, New Orleans LA, and Gulfport MI.

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## EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IN SOUTHWEST CHINA

Salvation Army emergency disaster services personnel are bringing aid to people in areas of China's Yunnan province after an earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale caused major damage on June 3, 2007. The quake killed at least three people, injured more than 300 and leveled tens of thousands of homes. Due to the enormity of the damage at least 180,000 people had to be evacuated and it is estimated that over 500,000 in the region were impacted.

Salvation Army emergency response teams are working with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, local relief agencies and the mainland relief authority to distribute drinking water, food, milk powder and blankets. As Salvation Army personnel continue to address the immediate needs of residents they also are working with local authorities to assess additional needs and prepare to provide long-term assistance.

Due to heavy rains in areas impacted by the earthquake many roads were impassible which made it difficult to bring aid to remote regions. Recently, Salvation Army workers were able to access impacted areas in the mountains. Homes in the region are mostly two-story wooden houses raised on stilts. The lower floor is used for livestock, and the upper for grain storage and human living quarters. Many of the homes collapsed as a result of the quake mixing the grain with sand and mud, causing a major food shortage.

## **Membership Invitation**



Established in 1962

### **MISSION**

**Preparedness - Response - Education**

**DERA is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.**

***Our members work together as an active, world-wide network of disaster preparedness specialists, response and recovery teams, trainers, consultants, technical experts, researchers and project managers.***

We help disaster victims by improving planning, communications and logistics, reducing risks and mitigating hazards, conducting community preparedness programs, and by sponsoring emergency response missions.

***We sponsor a school awards program that encourages students to study the effects of disasters and to conduct projects that reduce local hazards and improve community preparedness, safety and environmental protection.***

As a prominent international professional association, our membership is composed of key leaders in the field of emergency management from around the world, including key government officials, volunteers, consultants, business managers, researchers, educators, students and wide range of charitable groups.

***Our quarterly newsletter, DisasterCom, brings current information about developments in emergency management and reports on the activities of our global membership.***

We sponsor research projects and the publication of emergency management guides, case studies, technical assessments, and preparedness materials.

***If you share our vision of commitment and service, we would welcome you as a member.***

*Please complete the application that follows or contact us for further information.*

**DERA  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502**

Also, please visit us at [www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org)

# Professional Affiliation Membership Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Please Select Membership Classification**  
**Enclose Check, Purchase Order, or Charge Card Authorization for Dues**

**Professional / Technical / Academic**  
 \$50.00 per year  
 \$25.00 for Unpaid Volunteer, Student, Retired

**Nonprofit Organization**  
 \$75.00 per year

**Executive / Management**  
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**Governmental Office**  
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**Lifetime Individual**  
 \$450.00

**Small or Independent Business**  
 \$125.00 per year  
*Please contact us for corporate membership*

Amounts are in U.S. Dollars. Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank. Add \$5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or \$20 for Global Priority Mail. Rates good for 2006-2007.

**CHARGE AUTHORIZATION**

*I authorize DERA to charge the following account for membership dues as marked above:*

**Please Check:**  VISA     MasterCard     American Express     Discover     Purchase Order Attached

Card Number:  Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Year

Card Verification Number (CVN) \_\_\_\_\_ Last 3 digits after signature on back of Visa/MC/Discover. On front of AmEx.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

06-07-NW

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

**DERA - Membership**  
**P.O. Box 797**  
**Longmont, CO 80502-0797**

**Did a member refer you  
for membership?**

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_