



Michigan



Emergency Management News

Volume 05 Issue 2

June 30, 2005

Capt. Ort Steps Down as EMD Commander

Capt. John Ort has stepped down as commander of the Emergency Management Division (EMD) of the Michigan State Police, effective June 17.

Ort, who has served with the state police since 1979, began a new position June 20 as the Michigan Supreme Court's first Trial Court Security Specialist. He had served as commander of the EMD and deputy



Teresa Bingman, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm's deputy legal counsel, joins Capt. Ort at his June 10 farewell party at the Hazmat Center.

state director of homeland security and emergency management since 2001.

In that position, Ort was responsible for the statewide management and administration of emergency management and homeland security programs and activities.

"It has truly been an honor to serve as commander of the Emergency Management Division," Ort said. "Much of the success I have had is thanks to the excellent people who work in this division. They are the true professionals."

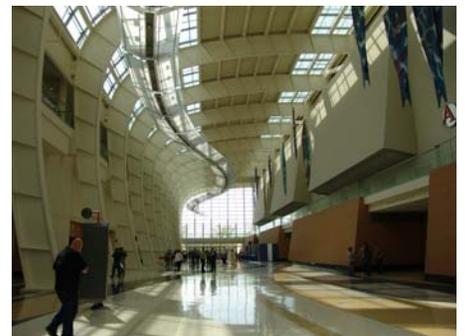
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The recently renovated DeVos Place in Grand Rapids proved to be an ideal venue for the 2005 Homeland Security Conference, which featured a record attendance of 1,400 people.



Left, keynote speaker George Tenet, former CIA director, addresses the conference on Friday, May 6. Above, registration proceeds smoothly in DeVos Place.



The general session attracts a huge crowd (left). DeVos Place (right) boasts 162,000 square feet of exhibition space and capacity for 3,200 banquet seats.



Largest Attendance Ever for Homeland Security Conference

Nearly 1,400 people attended the 2005 Homeland Security Training Conference in Grand Rapids May 3-6, with most giving it rave reviews and saying they were pleased with all the conference had to offer.

The Amway Grand Plaza and DeVos Place hosted the conference, which featured 70 vendors, a variety of workshops, and two keynote speakers: George Tenet, former CIA director; and David Kay, former United Nations chief weapons inspector.

The speakers discussed the dangers of conventional and cyber-terrorism, disease, and military threats posed by other nations. Tenet stressed the importance of information-sharing and local law enforcement's role in the War on Terror. Attendees – police, firefighters, EMTs, public officials, and employees from healthcare, schools and emergency management -- perused vendors' exhibits, networked with colleagues, and attended workshops on grants, communication, schools, medical issues, response, and planning.

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Ort Retires (From Pg. 1)

Ort has served as chairman of the Michigan Homeland Security Advisory Council, Michigan Homeland Security Task Force, State Emergency Response Commission, and Michigan Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council.

His accomplishments include statewide implementation of the Amber Alert program for missing children. He also brought the state's 111 local emergency management programs onto the Michigan Public Service Communications System – the only such system to function in the affected areas of Michigan during the August 2003 multi-state blackout.

Capt. Ort established a reputation for being computer-savvy and enthusiastic about technology.

During his tenure at EMD, Ort established a reputation for being computer-savvy and enthusiastic about technology.

He developed a number of web-based applications, and was responsible for the procurement and implementation of a Critical Incident Management System that received a 2004 award from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

Conference Report (From Pg. 1)

Mary Carouba, who co-authored "Women at Ground Zero" with Susan Hagen, related dramatic stories of female emergency responders called into action following the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks. One conference attendee called Carouba's presentation, "absolutely the most moving and touching speech I have ever heard."

Other speakers included Gregory Thomas of Columbia University, who discussed the state of school preparedness in an era of terrorism threats; Dr. Gregory Poland, who outlined the bio-terrorism threat and how disease outbreaks affect the healthcare system; and James Reese, who spoke about coping with change and dealing with stress.

"The Homeland Security Conference offers attendees an excellent opportunity to learn more about homeland security and emergency preparedness," said Insp. Kriste Etue of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division. "We must continue to focus our efforts and limited resources on building robust and sustainable preparedness and response capabilities."

Next year's conference is planned for May 2-4, 2006 at DeVos Place.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2005 SUMMIT

The Summit, sponsored by the Emergency Management Division and Michigan Emergency Management Association, is slated for Oct. 4-6 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Mich.

For more information, contact Jackie Hampton at (517) 333-5051.



From left, Matt Bower of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, Capt. John Ort of EMD, Col. Tad Sturdivant and Lt./Col. Timothy Yungfer enjoy a light moment together.



From left, Carol Mickle, Insp. Kriste Etue and Dawn Lake take a respite from the busy conference activities.



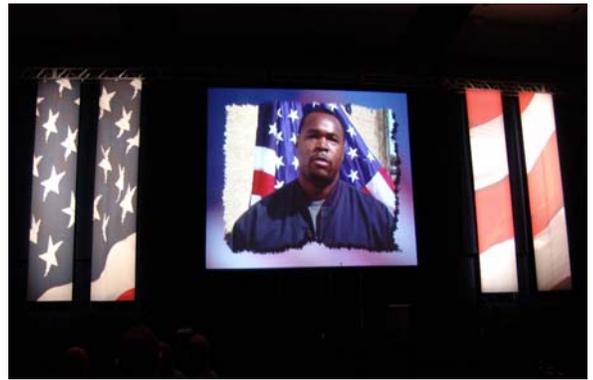
Above, exhibit hall visitors peruse some of the 70 exhibits. Below, Lt. David Wood salutes a Michigan Army National Guard color guard during opening ceremonies.



A strong lineup of speakers imparted information, ideas and inspiration to conference attendees. Clockwise from top left are Mary Carouba, James Reese, David Kay, and Gregory Thomas.



Clockwise from top left, Mary Carouba, co-author of "Women at Ground Zero," gives a moving speech about the courageous women responders of Sept. 11; James Reese counsels on handling stress and staying positive; former U.N. chief weapons inspector David Kay runs down the foreign policy crises facing America; and Gregory Thomas of Columbia University discusses how he kept New York schoolchildren safe on Sept. 11, and what other school districts can learn from his experience.



Lorenzo Williams of East Lansing was one of four members of the armed forces appearing in a video presentation played during the conference opening. The other three were state police Sgt. Bryan Sparks of the Monroe Post, William DeBack of Clarksville, and Jesse Nakfoor of Holt.



Visitors in the exhibition hall check out the American Red Cross exhibit.



Insp. Gene Adamczyk gets together with fiscal analyst June Martin.



From left, Jaclyn Barcroft, Kristi Wilton and Rich Law staff the E Team booth in the exhibit hall.



Vendors display protective gear for emergency responders.

Homeland Security Conference: Learning, Networking and Forging Friendships



A Hagemeyer vendor answers the questions of a potential customer.



EMD's District Coordinators gather in Devos Place. From left are Lt. Brian Whitsett, Dist. 6; Lt. Walter Davis III, 2-South; Lt. Mark Martinez, 2-North; Lt. Harry Partridge, 3; Lt. Donald Boomershine, 1; Lt. Barry Reber, 5; and Lt. Michael Tilley, 7. Absent was Lt. Don Brown, Dist. 8.



Capt. John Ort catches up on e-mail during a conference break, while Insp. Kriste Etue prepares to take her seat at the temporary work station.



Don't quit your day job! GIS specialist Kristi Wilton demonstrates a vendor's protective gear.



The 2005 Homeland Security Training Conference offered a great networking opportunity. From left are Region 1 Maj. Barry Getzen; Hart Post Commander F/Lt. Dave Roesler; and Region 2 Maj. Tony Gomez.



Camille Rice, left, Bridgeport Post commander; and Bonnie Kanicki- Wilson, assistant commander, were among the hundreds of law enforcement officials attending the 2005 Homeland Security and Training Conference.

Ready, aim, BUYER!
At least that's what this vendor is hoping for. Various high-tech firearms were among the products displayed by 70 vendors.



EMD planners Thom Higinbotham and Mark Wesley help out at the EMD exhibit.

EMD Honors Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest Winners

Students and Their Families Enjoy Capitol Ceremony

By proclamation of Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, March 20-26, 2005 was designated Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Each year, the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (MCSWA) holds a poster contest for fourth and fifth graders to promote the message of severe weather preparedness.

Nearly 1,000 entries were received in the 2005 poster contest; winners were honored in a March 21 ceremony at the State Capitol in Lansing.

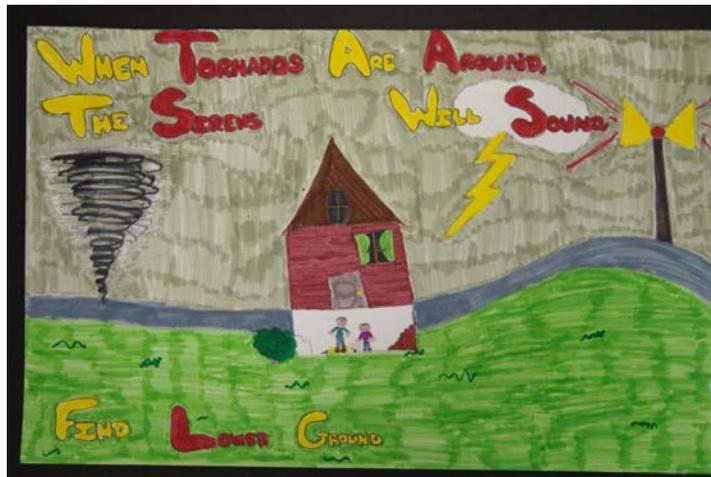
Megan Belcher of Susick Elementary School in Troy won first place. She received a \$200 savings bond. The second place winner was fifth grader Jessie Skop, also of Susick Elementary School in Troy, who received a \$100 U.S. savings bond.

Third place and a \$75 U.S. savings bond went to Brittany Laiho, a fifth grader from Aspen Ridge Elementary School in Ishpeming. Maggie Wright, a fifth grade student from Oakview South Elementary School in St. Johns, received an honorable mention and a \$50 savings bond.

The Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness was formed in 1991, and works to improve the public's awareness of severe weather events in Michigan. It provides educational information through a variety of activities to foster increased preparedness and protection from the effects of severe weather.



First place winner Megan Belcher reminds families to develop an emergency plan.



Jessie Skop's second place poster warns of the tornado threat.



Keep safety supplies on hand, says third place finisher Brittany Laiho.

We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire...Give us the tools and we will finish the job.

**-- Sir Winston Churchill
Feb. 9, 1941**

Upcoming Events

Summit, Oct. 4-6, Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Mich.
Questions can be directed to Jackie Hampton, 517-333-5051,
hamptonja@michigan.gov

National Preparedness Month, September 2005. Further information will be coming soon.

2006 Michigan Homeland Security Training Conference, May 2-4, 2006, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids. Questions can be directed to Jackie Hampton, 517-333-5051,
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Visit the EMD website @ www.michigan.gov/emd

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Michigan Emergency Management News

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Unit Costs: \$.275
Authorization: FEMA/CCA Act 390 of 1976, as amended.
This project has been financed in part by funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of FEMA.