

# MICHIGAN Citizen Corps Preparedness Quarterly



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## Citizen Corps Initiatives



## Citizen Corps Awards Outstanding Performance

Each year, the Michigan Citizen Corps Program rewards outstanding teams and individuals from the various partner programs.

The 2006 awards honored an outstanding CERT team member and a neighborhood watch team.

Mr. Terry Decker, a member of the West Central (Kent County) Community Emergency Response Team was recognized as the 2006 Michigan Citizen Corps Volunteer of the Year. Terry has trained more than 200 area students in disaster preparedness, fire safety, first aid skills and light search and rescue. In the nine months leading up to the award, he logged more than 500 volunteer hours performing such duties as creating ID badges, training session set-up

and tear-down, evaluation of regular CERT classes and Train the Trainer sessions.

For it's work in reducing crime in Columbia Township (Van Buren County), the Columbia Township Neighborhood Watch Team was honored

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Sgt. Kevin Sweeney presents award to CERT Volunteer of the Year Terry Decker



Columbia Township Neighborhood Watch Team receives award: L-R Deputy Ron Douglas, Sheriff Dale Gribler, member Anne Willetts; Undersheriff Jim Carol, Columbia Twp Supervisor Dale Bradford, Neighborhood Watch Chairman John Huizenga, Commissioner Harold Johnson, member Tim Krizan, MSP Sgt. Kevin Sweeney.

## Being Prepared: It's More than Just Stocking Food and Water

By Capt. Eddie Washington Jr., Deputy Director for Emergency Management and Homeland Security

To many people, "preparedness" simply means storing food, water and other supplies in case of a major emergency. While those steps are important, the concept encompasses much more than that. Preparedness includes prevention, readiness, training, education, and awareness. Citizen Corps and its program partners provide help in all these areas.

Citizen Corps volunteers undergo an intense training regimen, taking courses like basic personal preparedness, disaster first aid, disaster mental health, light search and rescue, and shelter operations.

They help train ordinary citizens in disaster preparedness and response, teaching

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Capt. Eddie Washington Jr.

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Jay Roorbach

*The better and more efficiently volunteers are treated, the better they feel about the organization they are donating their time to.*

*Volunteering is a two-way relationship. Volunteers may not be paid, but there is always something that they are seeking from the experience.*

## Coordinators Corner: How Do We Keep Volunteers Involved?

By Jay Roorbach, Michigan Citizen Corps Program Coordinator

Well, we have come to the end of another successful year in our never ending effort to make the citizens of Michigan better prepared. We at EMHSD would like to acknowledge all of your hard work and dedication toward making Michigan Citizen Corps successful. However, there is no time to rest!

Naturally, the staff at EMHSD has already hit the ground running with the rollout of the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) grant application and we plan to keep that momentum going while providing the best support to all of you in the field.

One question keeps coming up in conversations. "I have trained some of our citizens, now how do I keep them involved?" That certainly is an interesting question, one that we at the state level do not have all the answers to. What I would like to do is offer some insight, and then encourage you to work together and share your best practices to address this very important issue. There appears to be a lot of research into sustaining volunteer resources, and I was able to find some ideas to help address it. Here are some general suggestions:

- \* After recruiting volunteers, find or develop opportunities for them to get involved right away.
- \* Give volunteers titles- Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Lead Organizer, etc.
- \* Have clear goals and expectations of what your volunteer will do.

- \* BE FLEXIBLE- have volunteer projects on weekends & weekdays, mornings and evenings. This kind of diversity of opportunity will enable volunteers to balance school, work, family, and service!
- \* Make sure volunteers understand the importance of the task they are doing, and how it fits into the overall project/agency/ mission.
- \* Never allow people to feel that you wasted their time or that they weren't really needed.
- \* Provide food and refreshments after projects.
- \* Give honest and sincere praise, make people glad they came and participated.
- \* Make any project an "event"- make it more interesting than staying home and watching it.
- \* Recognize volunteers in speeches, media events, meetings, etc.
- \* Have parties, retreats, picnics, and other "off-duty" events.

Looking at the reasons why people volunteer is extremely helpful when recruiting. However, motivations are equally important when thinking about volunteer retention. Volunteering is a two-way relationship. Volunteers may not be paid, but there is always something that they are seeking from the experience. This is the hook that gets them into volunteering in the first place. Such motivations can

include:

- \* Learning new skills
- \* Using old skills
- \* Addressing a specific problem in the community
- \* Having fun
- \* Work experience
- \* Feeling useful
- \* Making friends

The better and more efficiently volunteers are treated, the better they feel about the organization they are donating their time to. Key things to remember are clarity and consistency - volunteers should know where they stand. This means:

- \* Fully inducting volunteers into an organizational structure
- \* Keeping volunteers advised of their rights and responsibilities
- \* Having a volunteer policy in place
- \* Having a named supervisor to go to with problems
- \* Maintaining clear discipline and grievance procedures
- \* Taking equal opportunities and diversity seriously

I hope these suggestions offer some good solutions and insight into the issues raised without being too specific. We are always available to discuss individual programmatic issues with local coordinators, and encourage you all to share information with each other on the Citizen Corps ListServe (email address listed on page eight).

## Performance Awards (continued from page one)

as the 2006 Neighborhood Watch Team of the Year.

Since 2003, the watch team has worked in coordination with area deputies to decrease breaking and entering crimes in their township, from 15 a month in 2003 to less than two per month in 2005.

The watch team boasts 313 members, 17 block captains and five marked patrol vehicles. They meet monthly, continuously offering training to members in areas such as disaster preparedness, fire safety, basic first aid, disaster psychology and light search and rescue.

Congratulations to Terry and the Columbia Township Neighborhood Watch Team and best wishes for continued success in your efforts to prepare and secure your neighborhoods and communities.

## Being Prepared (continued from page one)

residents how they can help themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods in times of disaster or emergency. And they get the word out about the need for preparedness, educating the public by word of mouth, brochures, press releases, and public service announcements.

Preventing yourself from being caught off guard is a form of preparedness. But even if you have stockpiled the necessary supplies, do you have a plan? How and where will family members meet if an evacuation is necessary? How will they contact each other if they are scattered in different locations and the cellular phone system is overloaded? Do you keep handy a contact card with names and phone numbers for relatives, emergency responders, and your homeowners' insurance company?

"Readiness" has a slightly different connotation – one that

forces us to realistically assess whether we have a practical and feasible emergency plan, and to practice carrying out the plan if possible.

Take New Orleans, for example. The city had an evacuation plan to get disadvantaged, elderly and physically handicapped residents out of town in the event of a major hurricane, but the plan was not carried out. During a recent conference in Washington, D.C., I learned that in order to get everyone out of New Orleans prior to Katrina's sledgehammer blows, evacuation would have needed to begin *three weeks* before the storm hit!

At that point, Katrina was somewhere in the eastern Atlantic Ocean, and obviously there is no way to accurately forecast the path a hurricane will take over a 21-day period. The point being that even if local, state and federal officials

are prepared, their best efforts often won't spare citizens from the physical, emotional and financial consequences of a disaster. Typically there is a window of 24 to 72 hours when citizens are on their own and must do whatever they can to survive while they wait for help.

Citizen Corps volunteers can help fill the void, but individual preparedness is still essential.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to learn from Citizen Corps volunteers in your area and support your local Citizen Corps programs by volunteering your time. Disasters and emergencies are often unpredictable, but in their aftermath one thing remains fairly consistent: We often realize we were not as well prepared as we could have been.

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*...We often realize we were not as well prepared as we could have been.*

## 2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness

The International Association of Emergency Managers and the National Emergency Management Association are hosting the 2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness - "*Partnerships and Collaboration Through Citizen Corps*".

The conference is scheduled for June 10-13 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia, and is open to all who are interested in making their communities safer, stronger and better prepared for all types of hazards.

Agenda and registration information can be found at [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com).



## 2007 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference & Expo

The 2007 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference & Expo, "Coming Together Under One Umbrella" is scheduled for May 8-11, at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

This annual conference provides information, products and services to emergency responders, emergency managers, public officials, education representatives and public health officials, each looking for the tools needed to detect, prevent and protect their communities from disasters,

both man made and natural.

A planned workshop track is dedicated to Citizen Corps, focusing on issues and topics of interest to all program partners. Speakers include federal, regional and state program coordinators, as well as potential workshops on topics such as weatherspotting and volunteer management.

Also planned is a networking session for all Citizen Corps affiliated members to come together and share stories, ideas and best practices. This

provides you with an opportunity to meet with your county and regional emergency management/Citizen Corps coordinators, as well as other program people in your region that you may not have had an opportunity to meet yet.

Assistance with conference registration fees and lodging costs is available through the recently distributed Citizen Corps Program grant.

We hope to see you at the conference!

*A planned workshop track is dedicated to Citizen Corps, focusing on issues and topics of interest to all program partners.*

*The certified 'Vet Corps' members are eligible to be first responders, assisting local, state and federal agencies in animal health and emergency situations.*

## MI Dept of Agriculture - Vet Corps

By Brad Deacon, MDA Emergency Management Coordinator

The Michigan Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Animal Industry Division has established the Michigan Veterinary Corps (Vet Corps), consisting of volunteer private practitioner veterinarians who have received additional animal disease training and emergency preparedness and response training. The certified 'Vet Corps' members are eligible to be first responders, assisting local, state and federal agencies in animal health and emergency situations. The Michigan Veterinary Corps is a cooperative program among MDA, Michigan State University

College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services (USDAAPHIS), Michigan Department of Community Health, and Michigan State University Extension.

After the initial orientation and training, Vet Corps members are required to receive ongoing training and education. In late 2005, planning began on a joint Vet Corps-MDA functional exercise to coincide with Michigan's participation in the national "Arden Sentry 06" exercise. Using Asian strain High Pathogenic Avian Influenza in domestic poultry as the base scenario, the functional exercise involved coordination of Vet Corps members, MDA field veterinarians and laborers, and USDAAPHIS VS Veterinary

Medical Officers and Technicians.

The exercise was planned to be a one day functional exercise on May 8, 2006 with morning educational sessions and an afternoon exercise, and was expanded to include an identical day on May 9, 2006 to accommodate the high level of interest and participation. The exercise was held at the  
(continued on page eight)



Participants were fitted with protective breathing apparatus used during the exercise



Participants obtained blood and swab samples from live chickens during the exercise

## Lapeer County Hosts First Annual Family Preparedness Day

By Mary A. Stikeleather, Lapeer County Emergency Management Director

In recognition of National Preparedness Month, Lapeer County Office of Emergency Management hosted it's first ever "Family Preparedness Day" on Saturday, September 30, 2006 in downtown Lapeer.

Although the weather was not the greatest, we still had an incredible turnout (we are in preparedness after all - so most of us had our rain coats handy)!

Our goal was to teach citizens how to prepare themselves for the first 72 hours of a large scale emergency or disaster. When they arrived, each person was given a punch card - on it contained the stations that were there. As they visited each station, they would get a mark on their card. Stations included: hands-on fire extinguisher training; variety of emergency response vehicles (including the new Storm & Fire demonstration trailer and the MSP WMD Trailer); a functioning decontamination unit; shelter-in-place hands on demonstration; Border Patrol camera and special canine demonstrations; start your own

disaster kit; pet disaster kits; bereavement services; child identification kits; EMS blood glucose and blood pressure checks; ....just to name a few.

Participants were able to talk and meet with first responders from various local, state and federal agencies, all while getting "goodies" for their home Disaster Supply Kit.

There were also special appearances by FEMA's own Rex the Mountain Lion and City of Lapeer's Sparky the Fire Dog, in addition to the many other activities for the kids.

Thanks to so many gracious donors, at the end of the day, when (or if) each participant got all the "punches" on their card, they were eligible to enter the door prize drawings.

This certainly was a "community" event. We are proud to say that the day was a HUGE success for us and we look forward to our 2nd Annual being even bigger and better!

*Although the weather was not the greatest, we still had an incredible turnout (we are in preparedness after all - so most of us had our rain coats handy)!*



Attendees received hands-on fire extinguisher training



Various emergency vehicles demonstrated their response equipment for attendees



FEMA's Rex the Mountain Lion entertained younger attendees

*All Citizen Corps program partners - CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, VIPS, Fire Corps and Neighborhood Watch - are eligible for this funding.*

*Concerned about preventing a dangerous situation, the Rockwood P.D. called out the Woodhaven Police Explorers and the CERT team to help search.*

## Citizen Corps Program Grants Announced

The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD) is pleased to announce the availability of \$736,514 in competitive grants for eligible Citizen Corps activities conducted by regions, jurisdictions, state agencies, governmental or non-governmental organizations.

Citizen Corps programs enhance the personal and collective preparedness of both the public and private sectors of our communities and continuously strive to actively involve our citizens in efforts to increase their own safety and security. This grant opportunity

offers them some assistance in meeting their goals.

All Citizen Corps program partners - CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, VIPS, Fire Corps and Neighborhood Watch - are eligible for this funding.

Authorized program expenditures include the following categories:

- \* Planning
- \* Equipment
- \* Training
- \* Exercises
- \* Personnel

Grants will be evaluated on information included in the application (how the project will

benefit the local community) and the completion of the required forms. The application will also be evaluated on how the project relates to the Federal Target Capabilities List and inter-agency participation. All applications will be considered. However, regional applications will be given higher consideration.

For additional information on the grant or application process, please contact one of the Michigan Citizen Corps program managers (contacts listed on page one).

## Rockwood CERT Team Scores an Assist

Carolyn Smalley, Rockwood CERT Team Coordinator

On January 19, 2007 Officer Steven Mercure, of Rockwood Police Department, activated Rockwood Citizen Corp's CERT Team.

Two days prior, in Rockwood, three men robbed a local Police Sergeant and his wife, after they returned home from an evening out. Through quick action on the part of the Rockwood P.D. and rapid cooperation from surrounding communities, all three men were apprehended that evening. They were involved in a chase prior to being arrested, during which, they threw their guns (2-9mm) out the car window. The three men told police the approximate area where they had thrown the guns; however, after two days of searching with ATF dogs, police officers, and the fire department, they had not yet located the weapons. Concerned about preventing a

dangerous situation, the Rockwood P.D. called out the Woodhaven Police Explorers and the CERT team to help search.

On Friday afternoon, I sent out an email to our active "call out team". I had 14 confirmed by the end of the business day. We were scheduled to meet at City Hall on Saturday, January

20 at 10 a.m. Our objective was to cover the area within the chase route that police and fire personnel had not yet searched. We ended up having 13 members show up, and we split into two teams. We were dropped at our search areas after having been briefed by Officer Mercure. We had our four CB radios to communicate, (continued on page seven)



Rockwood CERT Team 2 members (l-r) Cyndy Venier, Richard Baumia, Michael Van Bueren Jr., Carolyn Smalley, and Mayor Philip Smalley

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and two police radios to call in any findings. We were instructed on road-side safety, and those of us who didn't have them, were loaned reflective vests. We were also reminded several times not to touch anything we found.

The Woodhaven Police Explorers and Team 1 of our CERT group returned to the Police Department with no luck. When CERT team 2 was just about to reach the end of their route, they hit gold! One of the guns was found loaded.

Rockwood PD was called, and the evidence was collected! Michael Van Buren Jr. was the CERT team member who was the first to spot the gun. Way to go Mike!!

## Dearborn CERT Achieving Goals

Lt. Bradley Smith, Dearborn Emergency Management Coordinator

The City of Dearborn CERT Team is looking for a few more good volunteers.

Currently we have 114 members from both public and private sector - and are looking to grow to 125 members by the end of 2007.

Team growth was born out

of partnerships with Fairlane Town Center security (4 members), Ford Motor Company (40 members), and Henry Ford Community College (17 members).

Another goal for 2007 is to merge with more Dearborn businesses, as well as

Dearborn Heights and Henry Ford Community College to become a possible Regional Training Center.



Michael Berry, Maureen Celemer, William Davidson, Nancy Edson, Phillip Emma, Vincent Laing, Steven Leuders, Barbara Moravec, Charles Netzel, Mark Pronovich, Kim Pronovich, John Sczomak, Thomas Siedlikand, and Kevin Weston



Mary Fleury, Dennis Ginnard, Megan Hastie, Hassan El-Sabbagh, Ali Chaloub

## Citizen Corps/Preparedness Program Materials Available

If you are looking for materials to distribute at your next outreach program, we have a limited number of publications, pamphlets and brochures we can provide:

- \* Preparing Makes Sense. Get Involved Now.
- \* VIPS - Enhancing Public Safety Through Citizen Involvement
- \* Preparing Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense

- \* VIPS - A Citizen's Guide
- \* Ready Kids Activity Book
- \* Neighborhood Watch Needs YOU
- \* Ready Campaign Emergency Supply List
- \* Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- \* Are You Ready? - An In Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness
- \* "7 Signs of Terrorism" Multi-Language DVD's

Outreach materials are also available directly from the following web sites:

- [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)
- [www.citizencorps.org](http://www.citizencorps.org)
- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

For assistance with obtaining outreach materials, please feel free to contact one of the Michigan Citizen Corps Program Coordinators.



# Preparedness Quarterly

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Livestock Pavilion at Michigan State University, an ideal teaching and training facility.

The exercise was designed to enhance the knowledge of participants during morning educational sessions on pandemic flu, wild bird surveillance, the Michigan Avian Disease Response Plan, backyard flock issues, bird and sample handling, and reviewing the Incident Command System. In the afternoon, participants were provided a scenario that tested teamwork using the Incident Command System, donning, using, and later doffing protective gear, obtaining appropriate blood and swab samples from live chickens, chain of custody protocols, observing on-farm biosecurity, interviewing techniques, and communications using 800 MHz radios. The surveillance

testing teams were to be comprised of a random mix of participants from the federal and state departments of agriculture and the Vet Corps.

In addition to the 93 participants, there were observers from numerous federal and

state agencies, as well as from multiple county health and emergency management programs.

Due to the positive feedback from the 2006 exercise, MDA is planning to repeat it in the spring of 2007.



Participants inventory their protective gear and equipment before beginning the exercise

*The exercise was designed to enhance the knowledge of participants...on pandemic flu, wild bird surveillance, the Michigan Avian Disease Response Plan, backyard flock issues, bird and sample handling, and reviewing the Incident Command System.*

## Calendar of Events

February 23, 2007	CitizenCorps Grant Applications Due
May 8-11, 2007	2007 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference & Expo, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids
June 10-13, 2007	2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness, Alexandria, VA ( <a href="http://www.iaem.com">www.iaem.com</a> .)
October 9-11, 2007	Haz Mat Summit, Boyne Highlands

Visit our web site at

[www.michigan.gov/emhsd](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd)



Share information with other Citizen Corps members at:  
([MSP-EMHSD@LISTSERVE.MICHIGAN.GOV](mailto:MSP-EMHSD@LISTSERVE.MICHIGAN.GOV)).

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**We want to hear from you!**

Submit your articles to [citizencorps@michigan.gov](mailto:citizencorps@michigan.gov) or [mohrc@michigan.gov](mailto:mohrc@michigan.gov), with photos, when available.