



FOCUS





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CDP Superintendent
Mike King

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A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the newly revived *Focus*. This is a monthly newsletter designed for the Center for Domestic Preparedness contractor and federal staff. We aim to keep everyone in touch with recent and upcoming activities. The content comes from the happenings at the CDP and is meant to highlight organizational accomplishments as well as display the daily tasks that make our stellar training a possibility. The cover image is intended to highlight a different course each month as a reminder of the training we do on a daily basis.

Publication date will be the 15th of each month. We encourage and accept suggestions and submissions in writing about upcoming events, notifications, and public announcements. Please email PAO with any information by the 1st of the publication month so there is time to make changes to the layout and design. All submissions are subject to review and screening.

Benjamin Crossley
Editor

ON THE COVER:

The Law Enforcement Protective Measures (LEPM) and Law Enforcement Response Actions (LERA) courses provide instruction regarding WMD-related topics that include terrorist tactics and targeting, as well as hands-on training designed to show CBRNE-specific response skills.

"You never know what you're going to walk into," said Deputy Raan Lindsay, from the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department. "It may be a methamphetamine lab or WMD event. This training keeps us alive by not making us victims."



Charles "Mike" King is sworn in by Tony Russell, Director, Training and Education, National Preparedness Directorate, at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala. Photo by Benjamin Crossley

Mike King Selected as CDP Superintendent

Story by Shannon Arledge

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Preparedness Directorate's (NPD) and National Training and Exercise Division announced Charles "Mike" King as the new Superintendent for the CDP.

King was sworn in as the new CDP Superintendent Dec. 16. King has been the Acting Superintendent at the CDP since May 2013. Tony Russell, Director, Training and Education, National Preparedness Directorate, administered the oath, as Beth King held the Bible.

"I am humbled and proud to be selected as the Superintendent of the CDP," said King. "The CDP has enjoyed strong leadership over its history, and I am honored to be a part

of that tradition. The CDP mission to train emergency response personnel across the nation is more vital than ever in today's world. I am privileged to continue to lead a staff of immensely talented individuals who work daily to achieve a high standard of excellence in all operations, and I am confident that the CDP's role as a premier national training center will continue to grow and develop as a result of their unparalleled efforts."

"We are honored and excited about the future of the CDP," said Russell. "It was a wide search and we selected the best person possible. The CDP is a national asset and important to FEMA's response and training mission. Mike will ensure the future of that mission."

King joined the CDP in 2005

as the Director of Operations and Support after working seven years as a contract consultant to the United States Army. In October 2008, he was appointed as CDP Deputy Superintendent serving as the Chief Operating Officer for oversight and management of CDP. King retired from Army service in 1997, at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 21 years in the Military Police Corps.

King holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia and a Master of Science degree in Business Administration from Boston University. Originally from Macon, Ga., King is married and has three children and four grandchildren.

Focus Newsletter accepts suggestions and submissions in writing. All submissions must be submitted by the 1st of the month prior to publication. All submissions are subject to review and screening. "Focus" is an authorized publication for Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) employees and families. It occasionally includes articles expressing views and analyses by individual authors. The contents of those individual articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Homeland Security, or the Center for Domestic Preparedness and publication herein does not imply endorsement.

ROLE PLAYERS: MAKING IT REAL

Story by Shannon Arledge
Photos by Benjamin Crossley



American citizens depend on a skilled response force as their source of security during a threat, or following a disaster or mass casualty event. Training at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) focuses on incident management and emergency response to a catastrophic disaster. This training requires the finest teaching methods and the best instructional and support staff available.

Since 2006, the CDP has employed Role Player/Actors (RPA) who support training in a variety of roles. RPAs simulate survivors in a variation of disaster scenarios depicting chaotic scenes of emergency response and tragic consequences.

"Everything here is based on making training real for the students," said Craig Burt, an RPA controller. "RPAs bring the real world to training. It is more realistic when the responder students are working with a living person and all their emotion, as opposed to dealing with a mannequin

or piece of cardboard."

A city mayor, pregnant woman, injured traveler, inebriated patient, hostile father, gunshot victim, and a variety of other RPAs pack the inside of a hospital or scream for help following a subway railcar crash. RPAs add to the chaos as emergency responders treat the

injured, decontaminate survivors, and mitigate a disaster scene.

"Training that includes actual people in the emergency scenes [better] represents a crisis," said Stephanie Horton, an RPA. "Explosions and bad things happen--it is the world we live in and first responders are the ones who rush to the call. I feel our participation is super important to training."

"Our training is enhanced by the Role Player/Actors," said Chuck Medley, assistant director of Training and Education. "Feedback from the most seasoned responders makes our role playing/actor program necessary.

"We make the students uncomfortable and they learn more. It is a wonderful job and I'm proud to do my part. We are helping."

The attention to detail and genuine care for training is evident in our product and role players set the benchmark."

Prior to 2006 role players were pulled from fulltime support duties and integrated into the training curriculum. This integration interfered with daily organizational responsibilities. The CDP now employs approximately 75 RPAs, who usually work 30-40 hours each month. Having a pool of RPAs allows instructional and other support staff to focus on training and adds a touch of realism to the scenarios and exercises played out on a weekly basis.

"We portray a scene emergency responders will deal with in an actual situation," said Mary Smith, an RPA. "We make the students uncomfortable and they learn more. It is a wonderful job and I'm proud to do my part—we are helping."

"I don't believe anyone realizes the level of training going on here," said John Cassell, RPA. "It is amazing and self-satisfying knowing I had a part in helping people train to save lives."

"Our role players range in age from 19 to 77 years old," said Burt. "It is hard to have a 19-year-old act the part of a 70-year-old and look realistic. We have the versatility to match the age to specific people."

"Role playing and acting makes the students stop and think and work a lot harder," said Michael Peek, an RPA. "Our acting pushes them and stresses them and not just allow a student to go through the motions."

"The emotion is intense," said Smith. "Sometimes we are so into character we actually cry and the students do as well. When responders respond with tears, you know you are reaching them and they are giving it their all."

Role playing and in-character acting



isn't for everyone and not all who are selected make it. According to Burt, the students are the best judge. Once selected, RPAs are trained in the application of moulage (makeup and molds depicting injuries), they observe the more seasoned RPAs, and study emotional responses and how most people act in a

variety of situations.

"Our RPAs are passionate and take it very seriously," Burt added. "We explain the vital role they play in training the first responders of our nation. They may be the difference between responding to a situation and saving lives or freezing up and costing lives. The first responders are our first line of defense here at home and deserve the best training."



Taste Fest | 2013

Story by Wendi Feazell Photos by Benjamin Crossley

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) federal employees hosted their third consecutive Taste Fest, raising more than \$1,300 for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Nov. 19.

The Taste Fest fundraiser is one of the most anticipated events for the CDP staff, according to Cindy Woodard, this year's CFC chairperson. Participants purchase a ticket for unlimited tasting of all the

dishes. Taste Fest raised \$661 for the Combined Federal Campaign. The CDP Employee Association matched that amount bringing total amount raised to \$1,332.

Taste Fest featured nine different cuisines including Cajun, German, Mexican, and Southern. Federal staff members prepared more than 50 different dishes ranging from appetizers to desserts.

The dessert table included a do-it-

yourself-cupcake bar and chocolate fountain that was a very popular addition this year, according to Woodard.

Another new addition to Taste Fest this year was the Gluten/Allergan Free table, catering to those staff members with food allergies.

The CDP has raised approximately \$23,324 from individual pledges and fundraising donations so far this year.



Santa Brings Christmas Spirit

Story by Benjamin Crossley Photos by Shannon Arledge

“Ho, Ho, Ho,” exclaimed Santa Claus at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). Thanks to the collaborative efforts with the CDP Employee Association (CDPEA), Santa was able to get away from the North Pole for a breakfast on Dec. 14. More than 40 kids arrived to enjoy Breakfast with Santa, the second time the CDPEA organized the event. The breakfast was open to all CDP employees and their families.

Donuts, fruit, candy canes, milk, and juice were all available to guests as they anxiously awaited the arrival of the guest of honor, Santa Claus. Despite the less than optimal

weather, Santa arrived right on time, and proceeded to greet the boys and girls with hugs and high fives and occasionally bellowing a “Ho, Ho, Ho” in excitement.

“The turnout was great: We had over 90 people show up—about half of them kids—on a morning when the weather was bad,” said Kent Davis, who organized the event. “I hope even more folks show up for next year’s event.”

Santa, along with Mrs. Claus and a few helpful elves, handed out presents to all of the children. Each child also had the chance to have their portrait taken with the jolly old

man after all gifts were distributed.

“This was a great family event, and one of the few occasions we have to invite children of all employees to the CDP,” said Davis. “It is heartwarming to see employees from the many different areas of the CDP get together and socialize in a fun setting. . . . But the best part is watching the kids’ reactions to Santa Claus when he calls their names out to come up and get a Christmas present!”

After all photos were taken, Santa hopped in his sleigh parked outside and returned to the North Pole to finish planning his around the world tour on Christmas.



CDP Takes 2nd Place at Parade

Story by Lisa Hunter
Photos by Shannon Arledge

The CDP took second place in the Dec. 12 Anniston Christmas Parade float competition with its portrayal of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

The float depicted the scene in which Ebenezer Scrooge (portrayed by John McKenzie) is awoken from sleep by the ghost of his partner, Jacob Marley (Kent Latimer).

The float's cast of characters also included Bernice Zaidel as the Ghost of Christmas Past; Grant Bissey as the Ghost of Christmas Present; Lisa Hunter as the Ghost of Christmas Future and Kathryn Barnhill, age 5, granddaughter of Cindy Woodard as Tiny Tim.

In addition, several CDP employees dressed in Victorian costumes joined the parade

procession, handing out candy and waving to the parade watchers.

The CDP Employee Association paid for the float decorations and the costumes.

"This has become an annual tradition that we really look forward to," said Grant Bissey, the CDP EA president. "It's one of the ways we give back to the community and it's great to see how much everyone enjoys the parade."

Bissey, along with Latimer and Clay Calkins served as the float construction crew.

In addition to this year's award, the CDP has taken the first-place prize twice in the last four years. Because of the extensive number of employees who were deployed last year in support of Hurricane Sandy relief, the CDP did not enter a float in last year's parade.





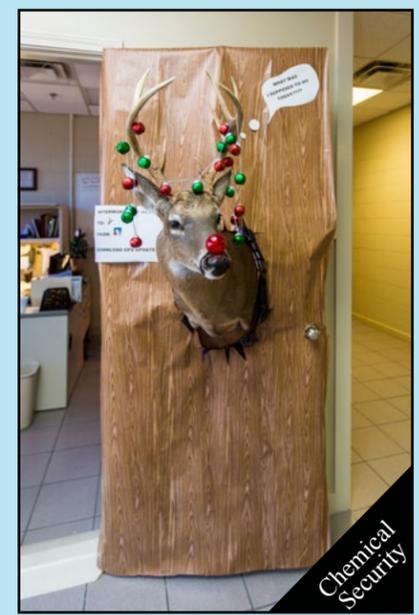
2013 CDP Holiday Door Decorating Contest

Story by Benjamin Crossley Photos by Shannon Arledge

Henry Monica Enterprises, Inc. (HME) won the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) 2013 Door Decorating Contest for the holiday season. Ten HME employees will

enjoy a pizza party courtesy of the CDP Employee Association. Human Resources came in second place and Beacon came in third. The Door Decorating Contest raised \$230.

All of the money was donated to the Combined Federal Campaign, a program designed to support employees and improve the quality of life for all.



Chemical Security



Team URS



FEMA Security



Team URS



Curriculum



Curriculum



HR



HME



Beacon



Beacon Travel



Team URS



External Affairs

2nd

1st

3rd

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Civil Rights in America

Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

in the City of Washington on Tuesday, the seventh day of January,
thousand nine hundred and sixty-four

An Act

To enforce the constitutional right to vote, to equalize the educational opportunities of the States, to provide for the protection of the rights of citizens to be free from discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities, public accommodations, and public facilities, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to enforce the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Civil Rights Act of 1964."

SECTION 1. VOLUNTARY

Section 201 of the Act of 1964, and the Act of 1964, are hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) Under the heading "Section 201" there shall be inserted the following: "Section 201. (a) It shall be the duty of the Commission on Civil Rights to investigate and report to the President and the Congress on all matters pertaining to the enforcement of the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to advise the President and the Congress on the need for any legislation to carry out the purposes of this Act."



Jan. 20 will mark the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service.

The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

February is Black History Month, or National African American History Month, and is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history.

The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

1 donation can help save the lives of up to **3** people

CDP Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 28
10:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Library | Building 61

Photo ID or American Red Cross Donor Card required



FEMA

Federal Staff Meeting

Building 61 | Room 2001

January 22

1:00 PM