



# FOCUS



**Student Services Resident Training**  
*from* **PHOTOGRAPHY to SCHEDULING**



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*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.*

## CDP Welcomes FEMA Corps



Left to right: Suzy Gilioli, Garrett Brown, Chelsea Roth, Emily Goltart, Erick Ortiz, Allie Johnson, Sandy Smith and Britni Piegors comprise FEMA Corps Fox 1.

### ON THE COVER:

*Jessica Joiner is one of six Apprio team members responsible for the group photos for all of resident CDP courses. The images are made available free of charge to students on the CDP Training Administration System.*



# COBRA Hot Entry Recognition Program



100

Kevin Bacchus  
Angela Busby  
Erica Johnson  
Marc Lugo  
Scott McDaniel  
Edwardo Rios  
Edward Upton  
Lakieta Windham

300

Heather Hollingsworth  
Tonya Huthcheson  
Jared Joiner  
Raymond Newberry  
Scott Sparks  
Lauren Pinson  
Eugene Rossiter  
Merideth Strain

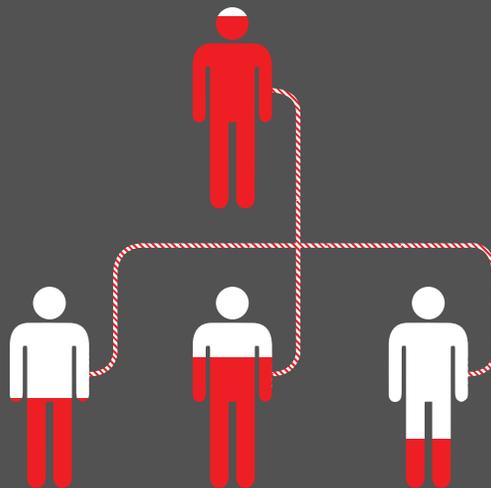
500

Robert Childs  
Dennis Herbert  
Bruce Mitchell  
Donny Sparks

700

Toney Battle  
Ronnie Garrett  
Phillip Hudspeth  
Scott McKenzie  
Tina Reddick  
Schach Van Steenberg IV

**1** donation  
could save up  
to **3** people's  
lives



**CDP Blood Drive**  
**Tuesday, July 22**  
**11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Building 61 | Library**

# Behind the Scenes

# with **Dave Grooms**

Story by Wendi Feazell Photo by Benjamin Crossley

As a Lead General Supply Specialist in the CDP's Asset Management Office, David Grooms is the Team Leader responsible for prioritizing, assigning and reviewing purchase requests for equipment and supplies.

Grooms joined the CDP staff in May 1999, working in the Training Department. He worked in various positions to include Training Scheduler, Logistics and Logistics Manager until he assumed his current position as Lead General Supply Specialist in June 2009.

Grooms begins his work day drinking a cup of java and checking for any issue that requires Asset Management involvement, processing purchase requests and conducting annual 100 percent inventories.

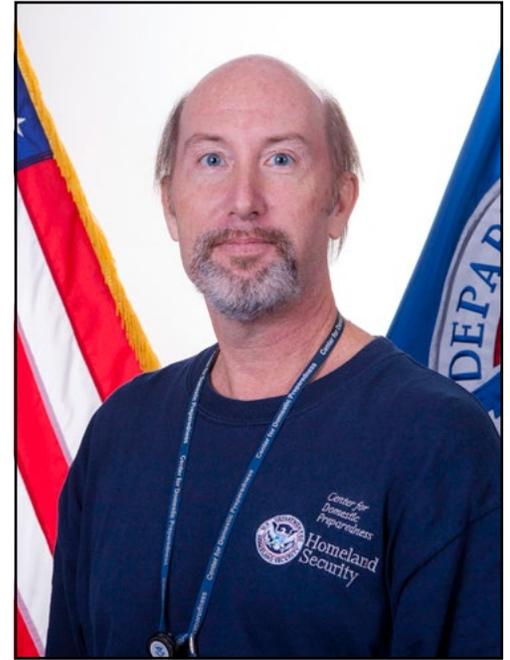
Grooms is responsible for purchasing equipment and supplies, as well as responding to requests for

equipment or consumable issues. He researches numerous vendors for the best value when purchasing for the CDP. Once an order has been received, Grooms secures the packages for processing and issues the item to the end user.

In addition to his other duties, Grooms sets up dates and times for hand receipt items to be turned in and processed through one of the three inventory programs management overseen by Asset Management.

In his 14 years working at the CDP, Grooms said coming up with a new female FEMA identification clothing and trying to get 30-plus Federal female employees to agree on a style was the most unusual job he has done.

"I support the CDP mission each and every day by providing the best in customer service. Our team possesses the ultimate "can do" attitude while taking on all tasks with



positive energy. Every day we strive to be better through knowledge and abilities to organize and structure to provide benefit to both the CDP and first responders we serve," said Grooms.

## CDP vs FEMA Corps

**Thursday, July 17  
McClellan Duck Pond  
6:00 p.m.**

FEMA Corps members have officially challenged the CDP to a soccer match. The CDP needs both players and fans to come out and support their fellow employees.

Contact Mike Aguilar at x0106



# \$3.5 million property purchase will enhance CDP training, campus

Story by Lisa Hunter Photo by Benjamin Crossley

The CDP is in the final stages of closing a deal that has been more than three years in the making to purchase \$3.5 million in property from the McClellan Development Authority.

The purchase of the 138-acre parcel which includes 17 buildings will immediately allow the CDP to improve its training for our nation's emergency responders, something that will benefit everyone across the United States, according to CDP Superintendent Mike King.

"This property purchase will benefit the Center for Domestic Preparedness on several fronts," King said. "First, it's a cost-savings measure for the taxpayers in that the CDP has now purchased property and facilities that it has been leasing. The purchase of these facilities will actually pay for itself in fairly quick fashion due to the elimination of rental payments.

"Second, this purchase will allow the CDP to consolidate its training campus into a more contiguous footprint at McClellan," King explained. "The CDP currently consists of six detached plots of land. This

purchase will provide a much more connected campus, with room to expand training in the future if required."

The new purchase includes the following:

- The buildings that make up the Advanced Responder Training Complex
- Currently leased dormitories that will increase the CDP's lodging capacity by 240 rooms once the dorms are renovated
- Land around the COBRA Training Facility and other current CDP buildings that will serve as a security buffer between CDP facilities and other businesses that may open on McClellan in the future

"The property purchase will benefit the continuation of CDP training by developing a stronger, more robust center that has adequate space, enhanced training facilities and improved productivity," King said.



*Dave Grooms and his family enter Northville at the COBRA Training Facility.*

# Bring Your Family to Work Day

Additional Bring Your Family to Work Day photos are posted on the [CDP Employee Association Facebook](#) page.

Feel free to download them at the link below:

[www.facebook.com/thecdpea](http://www.facebook.com/thecdpea)



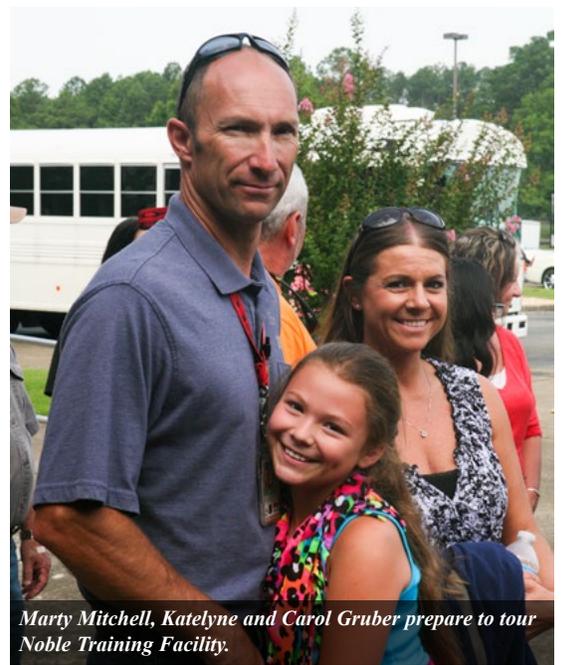
*Eduardo Rios and Scott Sparks along with their families prepare to tour Noble Training Facility.*



*Wendi Feazell and Jennifer Willis along with their families tour Northville at COBRA Training Facility.*



*Family members play with moulage at Noble Training Facility.*



*Marty Mitchell, Katelyne and Carol Gruber prepare to tour Noble Training Facility.*



*Zach and Maverick Hood tour the Advanced Responder Training Complex.*



*Family members tour the street scene at the Advanced Responder Training Complex.*



*Catie Hulsey administers medication to a human patient simulator at Noble Training Facility.*



*Cole Cortis examines a crime scene at the Advanced Responder Training Complex.*

# Student Service Resident Training: Organized Chaos



*From left to right: Jessica Joiner, Stephanie Lamberth, Deborah Bearden, Monica Simpson, Kelli Dover, April Martin, Kathy Johnston, Sandra Pagan and Mellione Richards pose in an Apprio space. These are nine of the 12 professionals that make up the Student Services Resident Training team.*

Story and Photos by Benjamin Crossley

Professionals come from all across America and the world to attend specialized emergency responder training at the CDP. They coordinate with CDP regional coordinators and their state officials in an effort to take part in the finest training in the country for civilians. Upon their arrival at the CDP campus, students meet the CDP representatives at in-processing, the student services resident training team.

The resident training employees are a small part of the student services team, but Apprio is the lead contractor in charge of making sure everything from in-processing to graduation happens smoothly and supports the CDP training mission. They are present not only at the beginning and end of every student's training but throughout the entire process.

"We are here for the students," said Jessica Joiner, in-processing coordinator. "From the moment the students arrive at in-processing to the

day they get their certificates, we are here to answer questions and facilitate anything they might need during their training week."

Going above and beyond might be required as student needs can be unexpected. Joiner, as well as other Apprio employees, often handle situations that require special attention and building a rapport.



*Monica Simpson prepares graduation packets for students.*

"We get students that are nervous about going through COBRA training and do not want to have blood drawn," said Joiner. "I've sat and talked with students to put them at ease and gave them the confidence to continue which is something I wouldn't have expected."

Prospective students work with regional coordinators to attend CDP courses. Student service resident training employees support the coordinators by answering inquiries regarding the registration process, how to obtain a FEMA Student ID and how to create a CDP Training Administration System (CTAS) account. After the lengthy task of getting a student through the entire process, the rest of the team starts their work.

Student Services Resident Training employees coordinate all of the elements that go into building the schedule. The students' week is mapped out from the moment they

are registered to ensure the optimum amount of training can occur. The streamlined training relies heavily on the ability to manage several hundred students training in four different facilities.

“One of the biggest challenges of building the schedule for students is aligning and staggering each requirement,” said Melissa Clark, operations coordinator. “We have to make sure the cafeteria isn’t being overrun; that the paramedics are able to draw blood and perform vitals screenings on certain students; transportation isn’t overwhelmed; and that the general flow of students’ day is in harmony with what the instructors need.”

With all of the elements in balance, a single change can require the student schedule to shift and be revised. Just one change in a bus pickup or class length can throw off the training schedule, requiring a rewrite. At check-in, students receive a folder containing a variety of information, ranging from a biweekly menu to a medical form. Kelli Dover, a registrar clerk, assembles the folders following a color-coded system and the constantly updated schedule and roster.

“Attention to detail is essential,” said Dover. “We make sure the students have all of the supporting paperwork they need for the class



*Deborah Bearden examines a student's application before filing it.*

they are attending, and have all supporting badges for each class. We really have to be flexible.”

At the end of the week, students receive a graduation package that contains their training certificate, hometown news release form, email roster, fact sheet, media flyer and other relevant documents. Monica Simpson, a registrar clerk, assembles and presents the information to students once they have successfully completed their courses. She is part of a team that conducts graduations and presents graduation packets to the students. Simpson, along with all of the other Student Services Resident Training employees, has many individual responsibilities, but the team always comes together in a pinch.

Just as in every department at the

CDP, coordination and teamwork in Student Services Resident Training make it possible to complete a difficult task.

“We have wonderful teamwork,” said Simpson. “We come together to get the task completed on a deadline no matter what may be happening.”

When the CDP asked Apprio to improve customer service, the Apprio team rose to the challenge and learned a completely new skill outside of their fields of expertise. Six members of the team learned how to shoot, edit and manage the group photos. They now use CTAS to disseminate the photos, so the students no longer have to pay for their class photos.

“Adding photography was definitely a test for us, but I think we really rose to the challenge,” said Joiner. “Now I love it. The students seem very pleased with the change and I use the skills I learned to take better photos at home.”

The Apprio staff always works hard to ensure the best quality customer service, whether it is coming in on Sunday to greet students or providing a photo, Joiner said.

“Having a hand in supporting the training of first responders all over the world really gives me a satisfying feeling,” said Dover.



*Sandra Pagan (left) and Kathy Johnston meet with Ramon Nelson.*



*Students participating in the 2014 Junior Law Enforcement Academy examine and triage a human patient simulator aboard a subway car in the Advanced Responder Training Complex.*

# CDP welcomes Jr. Law Enforcement Academy

Story and Photo by Benjamin Crossley

The CDP hosted 15 teenagers from the 2014 Junior Law Enforcement Academy June 25. The teens range in age from 15-18 and are students at various high schools in the local area.

This is the fifth year the Anniston Police Department (APD) and the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department have sponsored the academy and the second year the CDP has participated in training the students.

"It is a great opportunity for the students to know that a resource like [the CDP] is out here," said APD Lt. Curtis McCants, a 22-year veteran.

During the week-long academy, students learned the basics of traffic stops, emergency medical technician procedures, visited the county jail, observed a K-9 unit drug search and fired both pellet and live weapons, said McCants. The students put some of

their hands-on training to the test at the CDP.

CDP staff members trained the students on how to react to a possible active shooter scenario, how to preserve and collect evidence, and how to triage survivors in a mass casualty event. The students trained in the CDP's simulated subway system and in venues designed to simulate real-world places such as campsites, warehouses and bedrooms.

The teens used first-responder training by stabilizing a human patient simulator with severe wounds. They also examined a crime scene where they logged evidence and discerned possible events.

"It was awesome," said Chase Heindl, a 17-year-old Alexandria High School senior. "I loved the realism of the subway scene. I got to stop a person

from bleeding, go in and investigate a crime scene and clear rooms."

"I enjoy the idea of saving lives and the action of it," said Kendra Miranda, a senior at Weaver High School. "I've learned that you have to be prepared for anything."

In several of the venues, the teens, armed with simulated weapons, practiced clearing rooms using techniques they had learned earlier in the week.

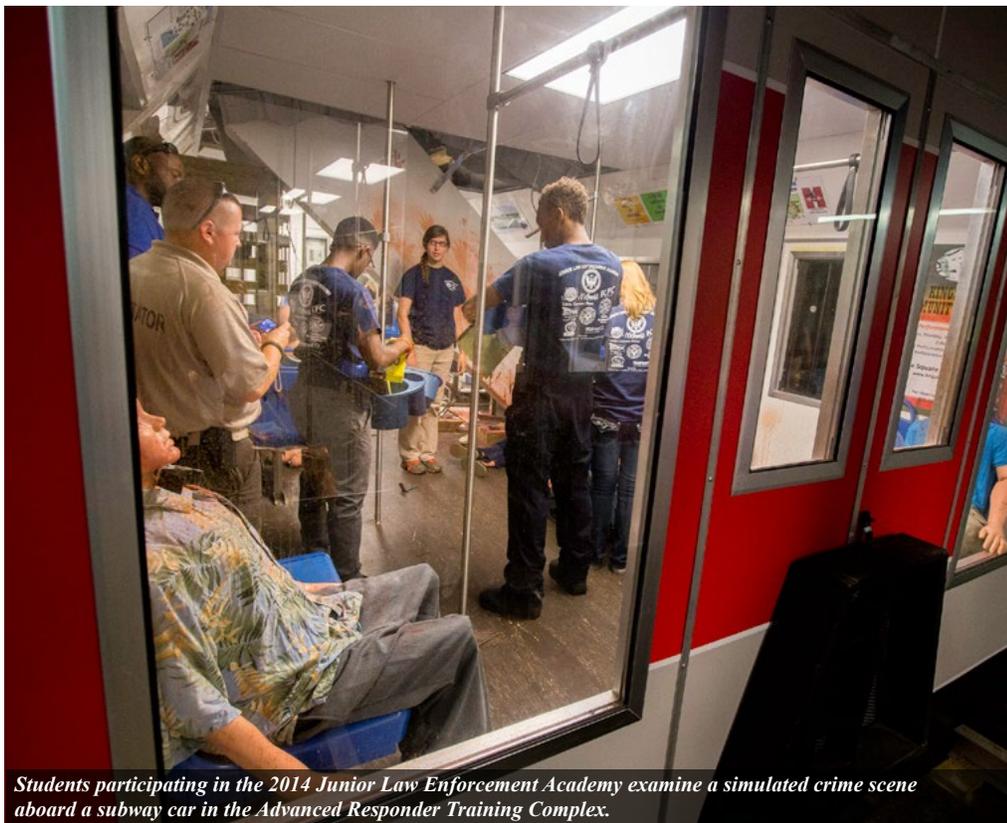
Aside from the action-related elements of the training, students also learned how to survive in an active-shooter situation. The CDP instructors highlighted pointers on how to survive a possible incident, as well as what signs to watch for in everyday situations.

"We increased their knowledge of the law enforcement career [field] and

how to respond to several scenarios,” said Gary Phippen, CDP lead instructor for law enforcement. “Unfortunately, active-shooter situations occur throughout the year and I hope that these students can take away some knowledge that would help them in the future.”

“I think this type of training is very beneficial to these young adults,” said Donnie Belzer, the CDP main facility training manager. “This gives them insight into the law enforcement career and I think we have made a positive impact.”

The weeklong academy is held every summer. More than 60 students have graduated the academy in the past five years. The program is funded by community contributions, so the students do not have to pay to participate in the academy. The donations cover the costs of meals, necessary equipment and the academy T-shirt the participants wear.



*Students participating in the 2014 Junior Law Enforcement Academy examine a simulated crime scene aboard a subway car in the Advanced Responder Training Complex.*

## What national park has the world's longest cave system with more than 400 miles mapped?



Please email your answer to [crossleyb@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:crossleyb@cdpemail.dhs.gov) by **JULY 22** for a chance to win two free movie tickets. The email should have “MOVIE TICKET GIVEAWAY” as the subject and the answer in the body.

This is a contest and by submitting a correct answer by July 22, your name will be entered into the random drawing for the free movie tickets.

# WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?



**Stephanie Coley**  
Travel Clerk,  
Apprio

*“Where the Red Fern Grows” by Wilson Rawls because it is such a sweet book.*

*“Heaven is for Real” by Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent because of the description of Jesus through the eyes of a child.*



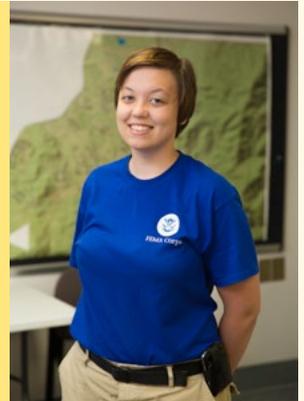
**Jondra Pearce**  
Supply Technician,  
FEMA



**Carlton Haenel**  
Facility Operations  
Specialist, COR, FEMA

*“Moby Dick” by Herman Melville because it is a story that teaches a moral that if you do not keep your passions in control it can lead to dire consequences.*

*“Looking for Alaska” by John Green because it has been a deep and important book to me for many years.*



**Chelsea Roth**  
Public Assistance,  
FEMA Corps



**Tom Jeffers**  
Instructor, Leidos

*“Forgotten Sundays” by Gerry Sandusky because it is an interesting look at the professional football family and everything that is related to that.*

*I enjoyed the series “Left Behind” by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins because it deals with the end times.*



**Victor Williams**  
PC&E Lead, URS