



Regional Logistics Program

New York • New Jersey • Connecticut • Pennsylvania

Regional Catastrophic Planning Team (RCPT)

Newsletter Issue No. 4 • August 2010

Concept of Operations (CONOPS) Playbook

The most recent Concept of Operations (CONOPS) planning team meeting was held at the RIC on August 10th. During this meeting, the team reviewed the latest CONOPS Playbook draft which now includes: an updated hazard analysis and planning assumptions; a timeline based on the three phases of preparedness, response, and recovery; and an operations strategy section which outlines resource management, movement control, and distribution management strategies. The next draft, which will include updates from the August 10th meeting, will be issued to the team on September 8th, with comments from the planning team requested by September 16th.

The next CONOPS planning team meeting will take place on September 23rd.

Conference

The Regional Logistics Program is still reviewing options for venues and topics to be covered at the 2011 emergency management and logistics conference. Please send any recommendations to Nancy Harris.

Federal Integration Plan (FIP) Project

The Logistics Program team participated in three RCPT Federal Integration Plan (FIP) project sessions with federal partners this month. The objective of the FIP Project is to identify programs and resources from federal and other agencies that can have a significant and timely impact following a catastrophic incident. The project will result in FIP documentation that will be appended to the CONOPS document.



Regional Resource Management System (RRMS)

On July 29th, the planning team met in person at the RIC. Broad support was voiced for the recommendation that the region adopt the Emergency Exchange Data Language Resource Messaging (EDXL-RM), a standard that could provide a common language for managing resources between different incident management systems (IMS). The planning team also decided to focus attention on two interoperability platforms that exchange such messages: the DM-OPEN platform and UICDS framework. These are two freely available, government-led initiatives spearheaded by FEMA and DHS Science and Technology Directorate, respectively.

As a next step, the planning team will work with DHS's Science and Technology Directorate, FEMA's Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS) Division, and the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee. Together with these entities, the RRMS planning team hopes to address the long-term stability and expected development of UICDS, DM-OPEN, and the EDXL suite of messaging standards, while engaging federal officials on potential interoperability pilot projects for the region.

Eagle Flag Exercise

Earlier this month, Logistics Planners observed the Eagle Flag exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Eagle Flag, a full-scale logistics exercise, provided a forum for local, state, and federal agencies to simulate response to a Category 3 hurricane making landfall in New Jersey. The exercise covered three major operations: resource staging, medical response, and military cargo movement. Logistics Planners observed each component and will incorporate lessons learned into the Logistics Program's planning process.



Eagle Flag Exercise, August 2010

Volunteers and Donations Management Annex (VDMA)

The most recent VDMA planning team meeting was held in person at Westchester County OEM on August 17th. The discussion focused on updates to the Spontaneous Volunteer and Donations Management Plan Template draft. Topics discussed included: working with new or previously unknown community groups and how best to vet them; managing multiple volunteer reception centers and call centers; and liability concerns when operating a multi-agency facility.

Nancy Harris, Plan Lead, is collecting information from planning team members on expected staffing numbers and levels to meet call center and VRC demand; this, with additional forms and supporting information, will be added in to the next draft. A discussion thread for the VDMA is now available on the VJPO. **The next VDMA planning team meeting will take place on October 14th.**

Area Logistics Emergency Response Teams (ALERT)

During the last planning team meeting, recommendations for Area Logistics Emergency Response Teams (ALERT) governance were discussed. The team gained consensus on a recommendation to designate a permanent team administrator, with all team requests following established EMAC procedures. Next steps for this initiative include discussion on recall procedures, as well as the process for staffing the teams, which includes marketing and member recruitment. **The next ALERT planning team meeting will take place on September 22nd.**

Commodity Distribution Point (CDP) Field Operations Guide and Manual

The Commodity Distribution Point (CDP) planning team had their fifth meeting on August 3rd, during which they completed the first draft review of the full Field Operations Guide. The CDP Manual, which focuses on guidance for an entity tasked with managing multiple CDPs, is currently under development. The first section addresses organizational structure and has been distributed to the planning team for review. **The next CDP planning team meeting will take place on September 15th.**

Training Opportunity: GSA Advantage & GSAXcess Training

Date & Time: September 21, 2010; 1000-1500

Location: 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278

Region II GSA and FEMA invite local and state stakeholders in the NY-NJ-CT-PA Project Site to an upcoming GSA Advantage and GSAXcess training. GSA Advantage enables local and state governments to purchase disaster commodities, services, and supplies from pre-negotiated GSA schedules pre- and post-incident, which may result in lower prices and faster procurement times. GSAXcess allows state and federal entities to acquire excess federal property for free, paying only State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASP) and transportation fees, after passing federal screening. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Laura Swedlow, FEMA RII Logistics at 212-680-8670 or laura.swedlow@dhs.gov.

Regional Asset Database Project (RADP)

During the last planning team meeting, two relevant systems were discussed for applicability to the project. The first, the National Wildlife Coordinating Group Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) system illustrates a best practice in asset database management, allowing users to search and request available nationwide resources, with a standardized setup for sharing resources. The second, Application Programming Interface (API), is a technical tool that enables information-sharing between databases. The planning team is now in the process of drawing conclusions and generating next steps based on new research and the second draft of the resource cataloging system assessment spreadsheet.

Credentialing Annex

During the last meeting on July 15th, the planning team focused on the role of mutual aid agreements, such as EMAC and Intrastate Mutual Aid Programs, in facilitating the movement of credentialed responders across jurisdictions. The next draft of the Credentialing Annex is presently being updated to include background on mutual aid, content on resource typing and training, and guidance for credentialing spontaneous volunteers. **The next planning team meeting will take place on September 2nd.**

Staging Area (SA) Field Operations Guide

Logistics Planner Alex Marks presented an Overview Document of the Regional Logistics Staging Area (RLSA) Field Operations Guide at the July 27th planning team meeting. Alex is now in the process of drafting the Operations Section of the RLSA Field Operations Guide a component which requires a high degree of adaptation to regional needs. **This next piece will be ready for review at the next planning team meeting on September 9th.**

September 2010 Planning Team Meetings

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2 CRED PTM6 1100-1200	3
6 Labor Day	7	8	9 SA PTM6 1400-1500	10
13	14	15 RADP PTM5 1100-1200 CDP PTM6 1400-1500	16	17
20	21	22 ALERT PTM7 1400-1500	23 CONOPS PTM7 1100-1200	24
27	28	29	30	

Regional Logistics Program Contact Information

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- ✧ The Virtual Joint Planning Office (VJPO) is an information management tool the Regional Logistics Program uses to house draft program documents.
- ✧ For access to the VJPO or for more information on joining a planning team, please email RCPLogistics@RegionalCATPlanning.org.
- ✧ *Please note:* planning team participation is open to all.
- ✧ All documents mentioned in this newsletter are available on the VJPO.