

MEMA

MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER MARYLAND

MIEMA



Governor Martin O'Malley

Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER MARYLAND

This past year brought new challenges and exciting accomplishments for those of us who work in state and local emergency management.

While we were blessed with a relatively peaceful year, we did experience several emergency incidents, and continued to build on our already close partnerships with Maryland's 26 local emergency managers. Our regional administrators continued their good work, successfully completing the second year of a new program linking MEMA to our local emergency managers on the scene of disasters.

We are proud to announce the State of Maryland is now nationally accredited in emergency management, receiving this prestigious accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program on the first attempt in 2007.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency made a smooth transition with Governor Martin O'Malley's administration, and effectively worked to build new partnerships with new secretaries and administrators on the state and local levels.

This annual report outlines our accomplishments of 2007, but is really evidence of steady annual progress in an agency ready to serve its partners and citizens in any emergency.

John W. Droneburg III
MEMA Director

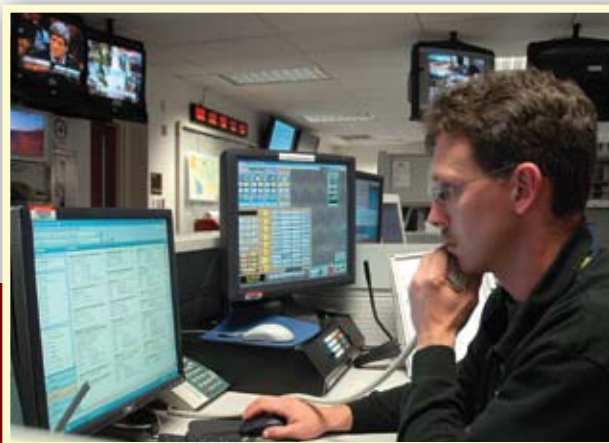


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MARYLAND JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER

The Maryland Joint Operations Center (MJOC) is the state's premier communications and information sharing hub, and its interoperable communications abilities were tested throughout 2007 with outstanding results. In January, MEMA was tasked to coordinate a critically important event—the inauguration ceremony and parade for Governor Martin O'Malley. Along with the Maryland National Guard, MEMA assumed a role as co-incident command, planning and coordinating all operational phases of the event in support of state and local planners.

The MJOC was also the primary communications hub during the historic peace summit in Annapolis in November, 2007, stationing regional administrators at emergency operations centers in Ann Arundel County and Annapolis. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was also partially activated to coordinate activities and communications between state and local responders.



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The MJOC, which operates 24/7, continued to be a critical source of information for local emergency managers and other agencies during several storms, conducting numerous statewide conference calls with the National Weather Service.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and local emergency managers continued to improve interoperability in Maryland by coordinating communication and testing technology in 2007.



MEMA also hosted the state's first-ever Mobile Command Unit Rally, allowing first responders to test communications interoperability and inspect other agencies' equipment and the Maryland Joint Operations Center (MJOC). Approximately twenty agencies from local, state and federal jurisdictions met on the grounds of Camp Fretterd Military Reservation to participate in the May exercise.



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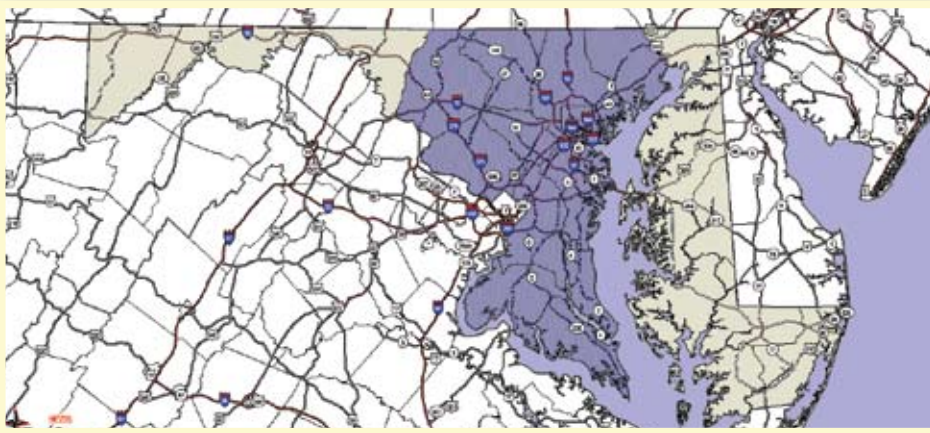
UNPRECEDENTED PREPAREDNESS

The National Hurricane Center predicted another busy hurricane season in 2007, and MEMA and the state of Maryland met the season with extraordinary preparation. A series of conferences and training activities ensured that MEMA would be ready.

The preparation kicked off with MEMA's annual Severe Storms Conference, which featured an array of national leaders in emergency management and weather forecasting. Geared toward emergency managers and other first responders, the conference featured the head of the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region III Director, a Weather Channel meteorologist, plus sessions on helping special needs residents and community preparedness.



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REGIONAL RESPONSE '07

In late April, Maryland and neighboring states prepared for the mythical Hurricane Zephyr as part of Regional Response 07, an exercise designed to foster regional coordination during a major disaster. In early June, Governor Martin O'Malley and his cabinet secretaries came to the State Emergency Operations Center in Reisterstown to plan how the state would begin to recover from a major hurricane.



One of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunter aircraft visited Martin State Airport in Middle River as part of its east coast tour. Hundreds of area residents and school children visited the plane to learn about the study of hurricanes.

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WORKING TOGETHER DURING A CRISIS

The regional administrator program entered its second year in 2007, continuing to serve as liaisons between MEMA and local emergency managers and to provide assistance where needed.

In March, a privately owned dam in Oakland was compromised because of a large structure built by beavers. MEMA administrators handled logistics under a unified command system with Garrett County and Oakland officials, and helped coordinate the delivery of resources from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Maryland Military Department and various other state and local agencies.

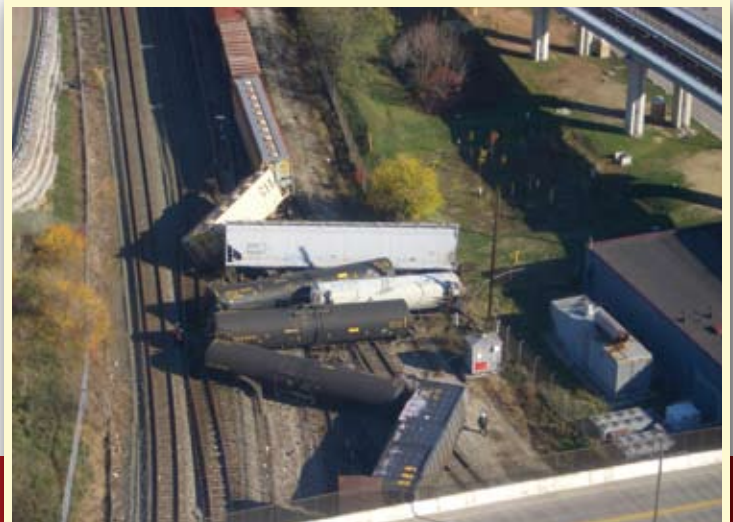


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A second incident occurred a month later when two miners were trapped in a strip mine along the Garrett and Allegany county line. MEMA administrators again worked in a unified command along with the counties, the local fire chief and the State Police. They also coordinated responses from several Urban Search and Rescue Teams, search dog teams, the State Highway Administration, the State Fire Marshal bomb robot, and the Maryland National Guard.

Regional administrators also assisted at two smaller incidents in South Baltimore—an overturned tanker truck and fire on Interstate 395 in Baltimore in May—and a minor CSX train derailment near M&T Bank Stadium in the fall.



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DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The Maryland State Emergency Operations Center played host to as impressive an array of military and emergency management leaders as any state has ever entertained in one year. State, national and international leaders joined the usually cadre of visitors to learn about the capabilities of MEMA and the Maryland Military Department.

Shortly after the January inauguration, Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown were briefed by Adjutant General Bruce F. Tuxill and MEMA Director John W. Droneburg III about the capability of the department (of which MEMA is a part) and the many recent improvements. The Governor also was presented an authentic flight jacket like one that had been worn by his father.

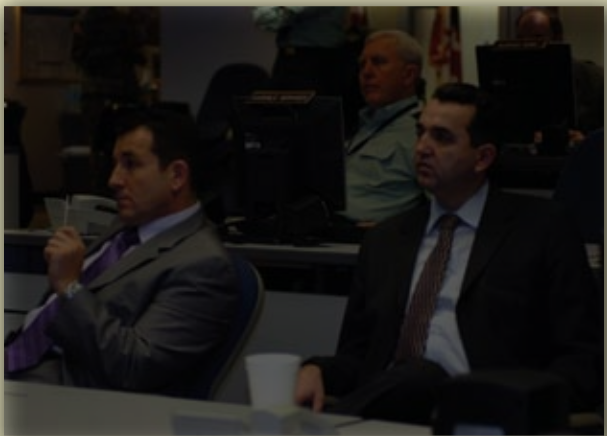
In March, the Maryland Military Department and MEMA conducted a briefing for U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison. This was the first time that a federal cabinet official visited MEMA and the State Emergency Operations Center.



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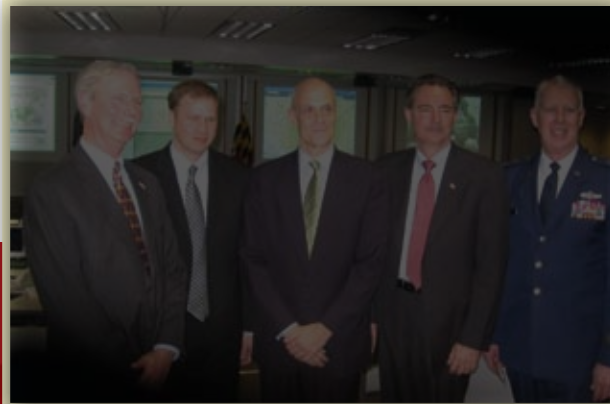
About a month later, the Military Department and MEMA conducted a briefing for Third District Congressman John Sarbanes and members of his staff regarding the capabilities of the department and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.



Two more distinguished visitors came to the SEOC in September, when Gen. Gene Renuart, Commander of the United States Northern Command, and Lt. General H. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, visited for a similar briefing. During that briefing, MEMA had a chance to display some of its interoperable communications tools as Renuart and Blum took part in a Department of Homeland Security weather conference call over a secure network. Other members of the traveling party viewed the same conference over a non-secure network in a conference room adjacent to the SEOC.



In December, a delegation of officials from Bosnia visited in December for a tour of the facilities and presentation. This was another in a continuing series of activities with Bosnians under the State Partnership Program, which emphasizes civilian and military cooperation as a way to foster democracy and encourage a market economy.



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

MEMA continued to spread the important message of emergency preparedness at many events throughout 2007. The Family First campaign, which urges Maryland families to prepare to self-sustain for 72 hours following any emergency, acquired a new mascot, Buddy, the emergency preparedness dog. MEMA employees distributed the popular Family First magnets at the Maryland State Fair, and at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore's "BooZoo", placing emergency information directly into the hands of thousands of Maryland families.



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MEMA employees also distributed tens of thousands of copies of our popular hurricane preparedness brochures at statewide conferences. The State Emergency Operations Center hosted students—our future emergency preparedness—from Joppatowne High School and continued an aggressive campaign to spread the emergency preparedness message through the media. On Memorial Day, MEMA employees showed their big hearts by spreading cheer at Baltimore’s Veteran’s Administration Hospital and handing out gifts to patients.



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EXERCISES AND TRAINING KEEP FIRST RESPONDERS SAFE

Training and exercising are important components to readiness for any organization, and MEMA takes that philosophy to heart. The agency helps to organize training for thousands of responders around the state offered by MEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, the Maryland Police Corrections Training Commission and others. Then, the MEMA exercise and Training staff helps to develop real-life exercise scenarios to help test that training.



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Among this year's exercises: three separate hurricane related drills. The Delmarva Emergency Task Force had a drill that included the nine Eastern Shore counties of Maryland, all of Delaware and two Virginia counties in March. That was followed in April by Regional Response 07, which included local emergency management agencies from around Maryland, along with partners in the National Capital Region and FEMA Region 3. Finally, on June 1 (the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season), Governor Martin O'Malley and his cabinet exercised the short-term recovery issues from a major hurricane battering the Free State.

Other significant exercises involving MEMA included the biennial exercise for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, and Maryland's portion of Operation Vigilant Guard, a National Guard Bureau homeland security/terrorist response exercise designed to enhance the preparedness of National Guard forces in performing their roles as the first military responder in all domestic emergencies. The Maryland portion took place in a parking lot near M&T Bank Stadium south of downtown Baltimore.



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EMAP ACCREDITATION: A MILESTONE FOR MARYLAND



The Maryland Emergency Management Agency and other agencies that respond to emergencies found out just how good they really are in 2007. Maryland worked through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) last fall and Maryland became the 15th state overall to attain accreditation. Most notably, however, is Maryland is now the first state to accomplish accreditation on its first attempt.

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The evaluation examined a broad spectrum of Maryland's emergency management program activities over fourteen areas, including program management, mitigation, operations, planning, continuity of operations, recovery activities and public information. The evaluators checked to make sure the agency's plans dovetailed with the appropriate standard operating procedures. Evaluators then interviewed staff for background information and to ask about real-world experience in using the plans and procedures.

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MEMA EMPLOYEE SAVES MARYLAND'S TAXPAYERS MONEY

State facilities and property need to be prepared for emergencies just like home and business owners. On December 7, MEMA State Mitigation Officer J. Carver Struve won the state's 2007 Innovative Idea Award for his development of the state's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Insurance companies were in the process of setting premiums for Maryland's catastrophic loss policy. State Treasurer Nancy Koop said Struve was instrumental in convincing insurance company representatives to reduce the policy premium by nearly \$1 million. Struve received a glass trophy and a monetary prize of \$1,000.



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MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

MEMA and the Maryland Military Department continue to demonstrate our continued advancements in interoperability this year. September's successful National Guard Bureau sponsored exercise, 'Vigilant Guard', is evidence of our capabilities. The homeland security/terrorist response exercise was designed to enhance National Guard forces in performing their duties, if called to duty as domestic first responders. The exercise was in support of local first responders, with communications coordinated through the Maryland Joint Operation Center at MEMA.

MEMA and the National Guard continue to successfully operate the Maryland Joint Operations Center, and, like MEMA, the Guard throws its support behind local emergency managers, ready to respond if called to an emergency...and ready to recover when the emergency ends.

*Major General Bruce E. Tuxill
Maryland National Guard*



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