



January, 2011

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# FEMA Region III Recognizes JCHSEM/Citizen Corp Council with “United We Stand” Award

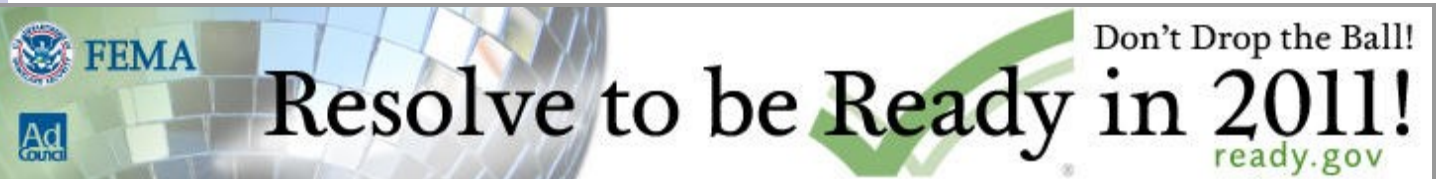
Kearneysville, WV-Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management has been notified by FEMA Region III Regional Administrator, Mary Ann Tierney, that they were selected for FEMA’s “United We Stand” Award.

Ms. Tierney’s letter stated, “I wish to extend my congratulations to you and your staff, and the Citizen Corps leadership and volunteers of Jefferson County for another outstanding year of stewardship and service in 2010. In particular, I want to commend you for your efforts during another successful National Preparedness Month. As a small token of FEMA Region III’s appreciation, we are honoring the Jefferson County Citizen Corps Council with the 2010 FEMA Region III United We Stand Award. The award certificate recognizes Jefferson County Citizen Corps Council for dedicated service and commitment to engaging and educating Jefferson County residents about what it means to be prepared for emergencies. Jefferson County developed and executed an impressive 23 separate preparedness initiatives during the month of September. This surely required a tremendous effort on the part of your staff, partners and volunteers. Particularly impressive was the creativity and breadth of your events and initiatives, including those assisting homebound seniors, and those engaging children, families and businesses.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Jefferson County Citizen Corps continue to demonstrate a significant commitment to building the resiliency of Jefferson communities. Please extend my thanks and congratulations to your leadership, partners, and volunteers for these and many other efforts. As Administrator Fugate says, “We are all part of the nation’s emergency management team.” In Region III, we are committed to enhancing efforts for greater individual and community responsibility for preparedness through public education and awareness, and community engagement and planning. I recognize that Jefferson shares this commitment. We are fortunate to have Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Jefferson County Citizen Corps as part of our team. I eagerly look forward to 2011 and the promises it holds as our region’s Citizen Corps Programs and partners work to build the resiliency of our communities. I offer to you the support of my staff in this regard. Please also feel free to contact me personally any time.”

“I deeply appreciate FEMA’s recognition of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff,” said Barbara Miller, JCHSEM Director. “We have an very strong team that works tirelessly with the community to help them to understand how to prepare, how to put together a disaster supply kit, how to develop family disaster plans and business continuity plans. Additionally, we have focused on children, the elderly, people with special needs, and household pets. Receiving news of this award this week was a wonderful way to end the decade! We look forward to continuing to serve our community throughout the new year with new challenges and new opportunities.”

For information about additional awards given by FEMA during the National Preparedness Month Challenge, go to [http://test.fema.gov/txt/about/regions/regioniii/r3\\_npm\\_results.txt](http://test.fema.gov/txt/about/regions/regioniii/r3_npm_results.txt)



**Darryl Madden, Director, Ready Campaign**

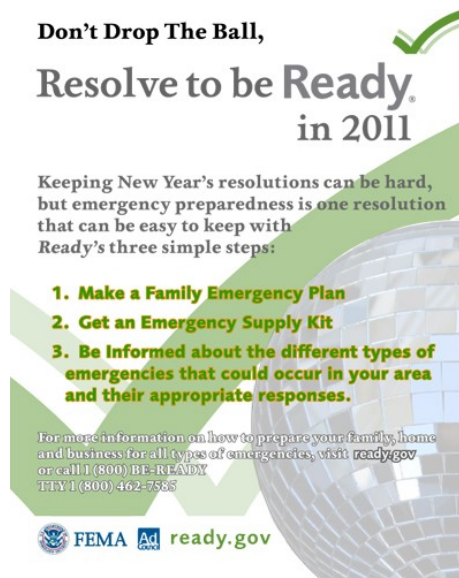
For many, the New Year is a time for making resolutions and goals for the year to come. Spend more time with the family, lose 10 pounds, exercise more and/or reduce debt are resolutions that appear on many of our lists, but the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *Ready* Campaign is asking you to *Resolve to be Ready* by making an emergency preparedness resolution.

Americans who make New Year's resolutions are 11 times more likely to report continued success changing a problem than comparable individuals who have not made a resolution, according to the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*. The *Ready* Campaign would like to make an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by providing the tools and resources needed to take the three important steps: get a kit, make a plan and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and their appropriate responses.

Flooding, winter storms, wildfires and earthquakes - no matter what Mother Nature has in store, preparing ahead of time can help to protect against her nastier surprises, speed recovery, and reduce losses - not to mention regrets. By following the *Ready* Campaign's three steps, preparing for an emergency can be a simple and realistic resolution you can keep all year long. You and your family can update or initiate your own emergency preparedness plan, build your own supply kit and be ready for winter storms, spring nor'easters or summer power outages.

Free preparedness resources, such as a Family Emergency Plan template and an Emergency Supply Kit Checklist are just a click away at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov). The *Ready* Web site also has a special section for kids, ages 8-12, (*Ready Kids*) and small- to medium-sized businesses (*Ready Business*).

Emergencies will happen, but taking action now can help us minimize the impact they will have on our lives. Preparedness is contagious. What starts with one family can spread throughout a neighborhood, and every prepared community frees up emergency responders to take care of those who are in dire need. Preparedness is a shared responsibility; everyone is going to have to play a role. So *Don't Drop the Ball, Resolve to be Ready in 2011*.



# Preparing for Success: Preparedness & Grant Planning Workshop (Region 3)



WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety has announced that they will be holding a series of Grant Planning Workshops throughout the state to prepare those who plan to ask for Homeland Security funding. The workshop for WV Homeland Security Region 3 will be held on February 3 at the North Fork Mountain Inn at Smoke Hole from 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. The purpose of this workshop is to help leaders, managers, and planners in public safety, emergency management, and homeland security arenas develop a better understanding of the Target Capabilities List (TCL) and how the TCL supports state and local preparedness and planning efforts in concert with the homeland security grants process. This knowledge is important as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is placing greater emphasis on using the TCL to measure preparedness and the effectiveness of homeland security grant programs.

The “Preparing for Success” workshop is intended to help participants understand homeland security initiatives and develop a working knowledge of the utility of the target capabilities in planning, training, exercises, grant requests, and other preparedness activities. The long term goal of this workshop is to build preparedness capabilities within the State of West Virginia through: a.) a better understanding of national strategies and initiatives; b.) an appreciation of the relationship between national strategies and the preparedness of state and local jurisdictions; c.) enhanced collaboration among local, state, and federal agencies and departments; and d.) the development of a working understanding of the homeland security grants program. To enroll for this free class, go to [www.wvdmaps.gov](http://www.wvdmaps.gov) then click on the TRAINING portion of the website to register. If you need assistance with using the site, contact Pamela Holstein Wallace, Region III Coordinator at 304-279-3819 or Christian Fernley, WVDMA PS Training Coordinator at 304-558-2930.

## 3rd Annual Regional State Border Coordination Workshop in Gettysburg

On January 24-25, 2011, the states and urban areas of the All Hazards Consortium will hold the 3rd Annual Regional State Border Coordination Workshop. The AHC will further develop the findings and discussions that came out of the 2nd Annual State Border Coordination Workshop regarding existing catastrophic evacuation planning efforts within the states of NC, VA, DC, MD, WV, PA, ED, NJ, & NY including efforts, challenges and opportunities to achieve the long-term vision of a coordinated plan and support of integrated planning. The workshop will be held at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center in Gettysburg, PA. Invited to attend are: Homeland Security Advisors; Emergency Management Directors; Transportation/Interoperability/Mass Care/Resource Management and Credentialing SMEs; Private sector companies dealing with interstate border issues and emergency response; Research, non-profit and volunteer organizations; FEMA Regions III, II, IV; Federal partners from DHS, HHS, DOT; and Academia and researchers. Visit their website for more information and registration information:  
[www.ahcusa.org/stateborderworkshop.htm](http://www.ahcusa.org/stateborderworkshop.htm)

## **JCHSEM Counter Terrorism Committee to meet at American Public University System's New Academic Center in Charles Town**

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Counter Terrorism Committee will hold their January meeting at American Public University System's new Academic Center in Charles Town on February 8th. Dr. Frank McCluskey will speak to the group about APUS, their Homeland Security and Emergency Management programs, and their experiences since they've become a part of the Jefferson County Community. Below is a recent news release about APUS:

**Charles Town, W.Va.,** [American Public University System](#) (APUS) opened its new, energy-efficient academic center in the heart of Charles Town, West Virginia. APUS is a regionally and nationally accredited online institution of higher education operating through two universities, [American Military University](#) (AMU) and [American Public University](#) (APU), which educate more than 75,000 adult learners worldwide.

"The new academic center will further enable faculty and staff to collaborate in supporting and educating thousands of aspiring students," said APUS President & CEO Dr. Wallace E. Boston. "By empowering our students to identify new opportunities, analyze risk, and seek innovative approaches to problems, we are helping prepare them for leadership in a rapidly changing world."

Highlights of the 45,000-square foot, four-story brick facility include the following:

- Meeting and office space for more than 140 APUS faculty, academic staff and student advisors;
- A library with one of the nation's major collections for research in military studies and military history; and
- Energy-efficient design featuring advanced thermal insulation of windows and walls, variable lighting and cooling to manage energy use, and solar panels to provide a portion of energy requirements.

APUS will seek gold-level certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for the facility, which was constructed to standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. "The environmentally-friendly features employed in construction and in material selection were designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a healthier work environment for employees and a cleaner environment overall for the community of Charles Town and Jefferson County," noted Dr. Boston.

"Integral to the APUS mission is a commitment to expanding access to affordable online higher education in a manner that supports local communities and respects the environment," added Dr. Boston. APUS is a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment – a promise to work toward reducing the online institution's already low carbon footprint in the years to come. This includes the use of environmentally-friendly office products, an extensive recycling program, and the use of two electric vehicles for local business travel.

Located in the center of the *Charles Town – Ranson "Commerce Corridor"*, a 1.5 mile segment with more than a dozen abandoned and under-utilized Brownfields slated for new office and retail development, the new "green" facility represents a major economic investment in the downtown area. At the same time, the building's architecture is designed to preserve and complement the character and history of Charles Town with a blend of old and new design elements.

Congratulating APUS and the Charles Town-Ranson community on their achievement, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus stated, "Charles Town and Ranson have developed a vision for the Commerce Corridor as an area-wide brownfields plan, and this APUS Academic Center is the first step towards a broader revitalization of the Commerce Corridor. It is because of this track record of success in redeveloping brownfields in the Commerce Corridor that the EPA selected Ranson as one of 23 pilot communities to receive assistance under our new Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program."

Since 2002, APUS has renovated several local buildings, including the former County Office Building, the former Jefferson County Hospital and Knott Nursing Home, the former Acme grocery building and ABC building, the former Avanti Restaurant, and the former home of Mayor Thomas Claiborne Green, one of John Brown's defense attorneys. With the addition of the new academic center, the university owns or leases 15 properties in Charles Town.

### **About American Public University System**

American Public University System, winner of the Sloan Consortium's 2009 Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education and a recipient of Sloan's Effective Practice Award in 2009 and 2010, offers 79 online degree programs through its American Public University and American Military University institutions. APUS's relevant curriculum, affordability and flexibility help more than 75,000 working adults worldwide pursue degrees in subjects ranging from homeland security to management and liberal arts.

## Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair

The Steering Committee works with the JCHSEM Director to guide the activities of JCHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCHSEM is a Department within the Jefferson County Commission, who has overall responsibility for the department and its employees. The Jefferson County Commission appoints all members to the steering committee. This committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Animals in Disaster Committee, Kelly Parsons, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Animals in Disaster Committee is responsible for developing and updating the Animals in Disaster Plan and to work with the JCHSEM to make recommendations regarding the Animals Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan. They will also identify potential resources for animals before, during and after a disaster. The committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the months of January, April, July, October at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee-Chair –Pamela Holstein-Wallace, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee is responsible for training and planning for issues of people who have mobility problems, people who have sight or hearing problems, people who speak a language other than English as their first language, the elderly and the very young, people who use oxygen or other medical devices and anyone who may need special assistance during times of disasters and/or evacuations. This committee will work with the JCHSEM to update the portion of the Emergency Operations Plan that deals with these special needs. This committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the months of March, June, September, and December at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. This room is handicapped accessible.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Katherine Dunbar, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee is responsible to communicate the organization's activities to the public and to build support for JCHSEM's programs. They work with the Director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCHSEM, the opportunities for additional involvement and support by updating citizens and businesses about what the partners are doing and how the community will and is benefiting from these efforts. Additionally, they are responsible to assist the program manager in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month except December at 8:30 a.m. in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly Morgan-Frye, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Partnership Development committee assists the staff in identification and recruitment of potential partners and what they have to offer in community preparedness. This committee will be responsible for activities to promote partnership or membership development and recruitment of volunteers. This committee meets quarterly in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. at 9:30 a.m. on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee will examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. Additionally, they will look at specific buildings, infrastructure, etc. to determine which are most susceptible to risks. A Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, WVOHSEM, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in July, 2003. The committee currently updated the original document. This committee meets on an "as needed basis". Please call the office at 728-3329 for exact dates and times.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Barbara Miller, Director, Chair

Membership to this sub-committee of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee is limited to members of law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security, emergency communications, Red Cross, schools, health care, fire companies, ambulance authority/EMS, and government, due to sensitive homeland security issues. The committee works on issues of planning and training for counter terrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, contact either [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org) or [tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org)

Times, dates, places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts or EOC activation. If you have questions, call the JCHSEM office.

**Jefferson County Homeland  
Security and Emergency  
Management**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST**

The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, planning, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Volunteer and community participation is encouraged and welcome. We currently have committees on Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning; Emergency Planning for Special Populations; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; Animals in Disaster, and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group. We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, Storm-Ready, Community Rating System, and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S group.



**January Meetings and Events**

- 4 JCHSEM/Citizen Corps Council Steering Committee Meeting at 8:30 a.m. at Jefferson County EOC
- 6 HAM Radio Testing Night at 18:00 at Jefferson County EOC HAM Room
- 11 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at 2 p.m. at American Public University System Academic Center
- 12 Public Awareness, Education/Training Committee at 8:30 a.m. JC EOC Conference Room
- 17 Martin Luther King Day-Office is Closed
- 18 EOC Training for Jefferson County EOC Command and General Staff 1300-1600
- 28 Floodplain Managers Workshop by Kevin Sneed, WVDHSEM 9 a.m.—5 p.m.
- 29 EOC Exercise from 1300—16:00 at Jefferson County EOC for Command and General Staff
- 31 JCHSEM Partnership Development Committee at 9:00 in JC EOC Conference Room

January Quarterly Partnership Meeting TBA. Watch your email for details!