

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
INFORMATION SHEET  
October 1, 2009

**Department of Military Affairs - Overall**

The Department recently hosted the *VIGILANT GUARD* Region VIII Exercise in Helena, Montana. It was a Full Scale Exercise (FSE) consisting of Command Post Exercises (CPXs) and Field Training Exercise (FTX) components. The exercise was designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to a regional earthquake response effort. The Field Training Exercises (FTXs) within the FSE were designed to provide specialized units with hands-on training opportunities tailored to supporting civilian partners in anticipated earthquake response mission assignments.

The exercise was a three day full-scale exercise involving National Guardsmen and federal and civilian participants from participating State, County, and Federal agencies. It was conducted 15-17 September 2009. The primary exercise venues will involve participants and resources from:

- *National Guard:* State National Guards from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, and National Guard Bureau.
- *State Civilian Government:* Department of Administration (DOA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPH&HS), Department of National Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
- *Local Civilian Government, NGO and Commercial Businesses:* Sheriff's Offices, Public Works, Rural Fire Departments, Health Departments, Library, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Lewis and Clark County, Broadwater County, Jefferson County, Helena Fire Department, Helena Police Department, Helena Public Works, Red Cross, Montana Rail Link, Qwest, CONOCO/Phillips, Helena School District, Helena Airport, St Peter's Hospital, St. James Hospital, Carroll College, and Veteran Affairs Fire and Administration.
- *Federal and International Partners:* FEMA Region VIII, US Army Reserves (USAR), US Naval Reserves (USNR), Defense Coordinating Office (DCO), USNORTHCOM, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia.

The VIGILANT GUARD exercise provided an opportunity National Guard Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), Joint Task Force (JTF) and Field Units to improve command and control and operational relationships with local, state/territory, regional, and federal civilian and military emergency response partners. The program also allowed local, state/territory, regional, and federal civilian and military emergency responders to identify strengths and weaknesses in current plans, policies and procedures while responding to a simulated homeland security threat.

Operation Fort Peck is the next planned emergency exercise, which will be conducted in the March 2010 timeframe. The scenario for this exercise will be a dam failure.

## **ChalleNGe Academy**

Currently 89 students are enrolled in the ChalleNGe Academy. This is significantly higher than several previous sessions at this point in the program.

The Academy is continuing to expand its network of resources to assist in identifying: potential candidates for our Academy; individuals in the communities throughout our state who are able to serve as mentors for our graduates; and opportunities for placement of youth upon graduation. We have partnered with various members of the education community to more readily identify youth who are struggling in the classroom and may be ideal candidates to attend Challenge. Passage of SB216 during the 2009 legislature has assisted in building a bridge between Challenge and school districts by providing for inter-local educational agreements and allowing school districts to claim one-half time enrollment under certain conditions for youth who are residents of the district and who attend the Montana Youth Challenge Academy.

In addition to our existing resources, the Academy is currently working with the Montana Association of Counties, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, and the Association of County Attorneys to establish a broad informational campaign to enhance statewide awareness of program opportunities and successes in those arenas.

The Montana Youth ChalleNGe Academy is significantly enhancing its outreach efforts to ensure an increasing awareness of the opportunities the Academy provides to our state's at-risk youth. During the 2009 legislature, the Academy was approved a 1.0 FTE recruiter to assist in more effectively identifying Academy eligible youth throughout the state. Other awareness campaigns include: television and radio; an updated promotional video; the creation of an eastern Montana admissions office; the Native American Youth Initiative; Cadet Ambassador Program; school district funding measures (SB216); staff and cadet focus groups; and the renaming of the ChalleNGe "Program" to the ChalleNGe "Academy"

The Montana Youth ChalleNGe Academy is establishing itself as one of the premiere academies nationwide by assisting other academies with the development of promotional materials and admissions strategies. The Montana Youth ChalleNGe Academy has, during the past year, shown the greatest amount of overall advancement and progression for any one year period of time, since the inception of Youth ChalleNGe in Montana.

## **StarBase**

As of 29 September 2009, 86 elementary students have completed the STARBASE Program for the 2009-2010 academic year. Total student participation to date since the 2007 beginning for STARBASE MT is 1,810 students. The program is funded 100% through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs –Resources Department. Currently, there are 59 programs in 33 states across the nation.

STARBASE "Fort Harrison" is a premier educational program for elementary school aged children to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of at-risk youth in math, science, and technology by exposing them and their teachers to real world applications of math and science through experimental learning, simulations, experiments in aviation and space-related fields as it deals with a technological environment and by utilizing the positive role models found on military bases and installations. The program also addresses drug use prevention, health, self esteem, and

life skills with a math and science based program. The program will implement policies, responsibilities, and procedures for execution of the program under the authority of Section 2193b of Title 10, United States Code and Department of Defense Instruction, 1025.7.

## **Army Program**

The Army National Guard continues to prepare Soldier's for future deployments, as well as receive Soldier's home from current deployments. 2010 is expected to be another year of high deployment activity for the Montana Army National Guard due to the deployment of the 1-163d Combined Arms Battalion with approximately 750 Soldiers, in addition to other smaller units.

The Missoula Armed Forces Reserve Center is currently under construction on Highway 93 North of Missoula. Expected occupancy date of that facility is June 2010. This project is 100% Federally funded as a Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC).

The Miles City new armory has been pulled forward and is currently at 100% design, awaiting federal funding for contract award.

### Stimulus Projects: (Federal and State Funded)

Armory Re-roofs (Statewide) are currently 74% under contract with additional bids being opened soon.

Latrine Upgrades are currently 100% under contract.

The Aviation Fire Suppression (Dip Site) at Fort Harrison is 100% contracted and nearing completion.

Weapons Security Vault Upgrades are currently 45% contracted with additional projects under bid.

Energy projects (Statewide) are currently 3% contracted with projects awaiting advertisement at A&E Division, Department of Administration. Energy projects financed with federal funds and contracted by the Department are at 67% contracted.

The Improvised Explosives Device training range, added by the last legislature is currently advertised, with bid opening set for October 22, 2009.

The Museum Addition project, added by the last legislature, is 100% contracted.

## **Air Program**

The Air National Guard has placed a high emphasis on recruiting and retaining the best Airmen possible while we safely convert from flying and maintaining the F-16 to the F-15 Eagle. Our current end strength is 102% of authorized manning; an increase from 98% one year ago despite an increase of 21 positions in authorized manning.

The Air National Guard has completed 6 or 7 construction projects pertaining to the F-16 to F-15 BRAC driven conversion. The 7th project titled Upgrade NDI Shop Building 26 & 32 has been awarded and construction will begin in October.

Energy projects underway include a \$225,000 project to install independent gas & an electric meter on all base facilities is 85% complete. Project will allow MANG to track energy consumption on an hourly basis by facility providing real time data to track energy waste. An in depth energy audit is also being completed by SAIN Engineering. Project is approximately 80% complete and will provide detailed information life cycle payback data on future energy reduction projects.

A new Base Master Plan study has been awarded to CH2MHILL a national recognized planning firm. Data collection has begun and project will be completed approximately May 2010.

Other projects currently in design include a complete remodel of the Operations and Training facility, a weapons storage area in Base Supply, a new Fire Suppression system for the corrosion control hanger.

## **Disaster & Emergency Affairs**

During state fiscal year 09, the State Hazardous Material Response Team, comprised of 6 regional components located in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula and Kalispell received a total of \$265,000 to supplement their internal department budgets in the areas of Outreach to local government, Training and Exercising within their respective discipline as well as with local responders and updating / replacing related equipment that included personal protection equipment, monitoring tools, etc. The allocation of state general funds were not used for regular maintenance of vehicles, administrative or for anything not related to the sustainability of the regional hazmat components. As mentioned above, the state passed through a total of \$265,000 to the teams, split equally between them. The teams used the funds as follows:

Outreach: - \$32,629;  
Training & Exercise: - \$126, 917;  
Equipment: - \$110,447; for a total of \$270,023.

The balance over the allocated amount was absorbed by the local teams from their local budgets.

The DES Division contracted with a private trainer to conduct basic ICS training to MDOT field staff across the state to be able to meet OSHA 1910.120 hazardous materials response requirements. Future training of these MDOT personnel and other local responders for Hazmat Operations courses are in the planning stage for SFY10.

Listed below are the highlights of the Divisions current priorities.

- The State Emergency Operations Plan is currently under revision to bring it up to date, and include changes to policy and procedures.

- The division is conducting a gap analysis project, to provide a comprehensive evaluation of emergency management needs.
- Local DES Coordinators are in process of revising their emergency plans.
- We currently have a project to provide Incident Command and EOC assistance, in the form of trained personnel to local governments, in times of emergency, if needed.
- There is a new round of Homeland Security Grant opportunities, the division is coordinating.
- The Website is being redesigned to develop a first class website.
- Increasing training and exercise opportunities for staff and DES Coordinators.
- Building a strong, customer oriented grant management team.
- Exploring ways to increase funding opportunities for local and tribal DES programs.
- Planning the Governor's 2010 Emergency Management Summit.

## VA

Division authorized five additional FTEs during FY09 Legislative Session:

+ Two FTE for veterans cemetery program, to be stationed at the Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Missoula. Status: Filled

+ Three FTE for veterans services program as veterans service officers, to be stationed in Billings, Great Falls and Missoula. Status: Announcement for all three positions completed; positions' fill process expected to be completed by Oct. 16, 2009.