



DEDICATED TO THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE

NASHVILLE POST EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE REPORT JANUARY 2010

BACKGROUND

During the 2009 Term, with Marvin “Sarge” Summers as Post President, a charge was made to further develop and progress the existing Readiness and Homeland Security Committee for the Nashville Post. CPT Bryon Olsen (USAR) joined J. Michael Barry, the Readiness Committee Chair, and Jerry Breznican (USACE) on the Readiness Committee. Wilson Stevenson and Connie Hardeman (USACE) also volunteered to be a part of the Committee. The initial meeting for the 2009 year was held, during which time a list of action items were developed in order to progress the committee and its efforts. It was determined that the first thing that needed to be done was ensuring all members complete the required and recommended ICS Training. At the same time, efforts were made to begin scheduling coordination meetings with local Response Agencies in order to determine the exact needs and possible gaps in response plans. It was also decided that an announcement would be made at the next Post Meeting and the committee would begin to collect information on those Sustaining and Individual Post Members interested in assisting under the committee’s response program.

The initial goal of the Readiness Committee is to establish a functional committee capable of providing resources and assets in time of need and to help fill gaps in response plans of state and local response agencies. Upon the successful development of the committee and a response plan, it is our intent to reach out to surrounding Posts in an attempt to help them develop a Readiness Committee under their Post. The ultimate goal is to work in conjunction with other SAME Posts statewide and outside engineering societies to develop a comprehensive statewide response plan.

The SAME FT Campbell Post will be joining our committee in a joint effort to progress the committee. There is a representative from the FT Campbell Post that has been identified and will be joining our committee for the 2010 year.

The first coordination meeting established was with the Nashville District USACE. During this meeting it was identified that Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) was the overall lead Emergency Response agency and has Direct Tasking Authority over all other agencies in time of emergency. It was also mentioned that TEMA has extensive planning and preparation in place for emergency situations and that TEMA has the ability to manage and handle a wide range of disaster scenarios without requiring additional Federal Support. It was determined that our initial focus would be on TEMA and, through coordination with them, identify their greatest concerns and areas that the Nashville Post could assist with emergency response. The committee would also continue to schedule coordination meetings with various other local response agencies.

TEMA was found to be extremely welcoming to the SAME Readiness Committee and we had several meetings with key personnel from both TEMA and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), who work closely together in the development of response planning. We worked with TEMA to identify the gaps in their response plans and determine what resources SAME Sustaining and Individual Members could offer in time of need. TEMA's primary concern is the New Madras Fault Line located in West Tennessee. The primary concerns for TEMA relating to the worst case scenario are:

1. All National Guard engineering assets are located in West Tennessee. They would likely be non-mission capable in the event of a worst case scenario.
2. Route leading into west Tennessee would be impassable and assets would be required to clear the route and build fording sites from Middle Tennessee to West Tennessee. Only other option would be an extended route through Mississippi.
3. Lack of structural engineers to conduct preliminary structural assessments on buildings and bridges.

The Post will be prepared to assist TEMA in support of ESFs 1, 3, 9, and 10.

To carry out the Plan, the Post would:

Maintain an inventory of Sustaining and Individual members' specialties for assignment to this plan.

Maintain an up to date roster of Board members and members' telephone numbers. Test the notification of Board members annually.

Participate in the readiness exercise of TEMA

Brief members on the plan and their responsibilities at one meeting a year

And TEMA would:

Keep the Nashville Post informed of changes to the FRP and ESFs

Invite the Nashville Post to participate in their readiness exercise.

Inform other agencies involved in emergency response of this plan and its execution.

The Post Plan was setup so all requests for assistance would come through the Readiness Committee Chair and/or Vice Chair. The Post President, VP or Secretary would be notified by the Readiness Committee Chair or Vice Chair upon a request for assistance by TEMA. Based on the mission, the Readiness Committee Chair would notify the committee member with the expertise needed. That committee member would keep a list of committed members and firms available and would notify the number needed for the mission.

COLLABORATION: During one of our initial meetings with TEMA, we identified the fact that most decisions with respect to Emergency Response would ultimately go through TEMA as they have direct tasking authority over all other agencies during time of emergency. We therefore decided it was in the best interest of our efforts to establish coordination meetings with not only Federal/State response agencies, but also other agencies and societies that would be able to help ensure successful progress of the committee. The Committee met with:

- ~ The Nashville District of the Corps of Engineers and found their only possible need would be immediate security assets for perimeter security.
- ~ SAME National Readiness Committee. We had a meeting with Robert Adamski, PE, F.SAME regarding the establishment of our Readiness Committee. We discussed the mission, intent and purpose of the committee and asked questions regarding our intended plan

of action. We found this to be an extremely helpful meeting in the initial establishment of our committee.

- ~ The Tennessee National Guard Domestic Response. Found their need was for immediate construction/engineering assets as most of their engineer assets are located in West Tennessee and could take up to 48 hours to mobilize.
- ~ The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. We held several meetings with TEMA and we found that their biggest needs were immediately available route and debris clearance packages and structural engineers to conduct preliminary bridge and building assessments.
- ~ The Tennessee Department of Transportation. We found that their biggest concern and need would be for structural engineers to conduct preliminary bridge and building assessments.
- ~ Tennessee General Services. No needs for General Services. Intent of this coordination meeting was to establish method by which TEMA would be able to utilize the SAME resources through contracting. TEMA must go through General Services in order to utilize private sector resources.
- ~ Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. No immediate needs identified. Could possibly use assistance with environmental assessments and remediation in times of disaster.
- ~ SAME, FT Campbell Post. We conducted a meeting with the SAME FT Campbell Post with the intention of bringing them on to our Readiness Committee. FT Campbell Post does not have the access or resources to response agencies that the Nashville Post does. However, due to the size of FT Campbell's federal presence and possible assets, we feel it is in the best interest to combine our Posts for the purpose of the Readiness Committee.
- ~ We additionally met with the local Chapter of ASCE. It is our intent to work with ASCE to develop a more comprehensive list of available structural engineers in support of our Readiness Plan. We have had initial coordination meetings with ASCE and they have expressed their interest in working with us for this purpose.
- ~ Additionally, our committee had a representative present at all of the National Readiness Committee conference calls and discussion forums to ensure continued knowledge of changes and requirements with respect to the committee and its efforts.

GAP ANALYSIS: Based on the collaboration, the Committee determined that the Post could help provide TEMA with immediate debris and road clearing equipment and operators, to include miscellaneous site and lighting equipment, structural engineers for preliminary assessment of bridges and buildings, Environmental Engineering assets for environmental assessments and remediation and would develop the ability to provide a Strike Team for Search and Rescue Operations if needed.

PLAN: The Post's plan for emergency preparedness and response is to drop those ESFs unrelated to the Posts capabilities and to focus Post response personnel to ESF 1, 3, 9 and 10. As per our understanding with both TEMA and Tennessee General Services, the Post Committee will develop a matrix of assets and resources available from committed SAME member firms. Assets and resources will be organized by supported ESF and a Point of Contact will be identified for each ESF. Both TEMA and Tennessee General Services will maintain a copy of this matrix, and during response procedures, TEMA will utilize this matrix to determine the exact resources and assets needed. Once we have established ourselves and our plan, we intend on reaching out to the surrounding SAME Posts in an attempt to develop a collected state wide SAME readiness and response plan. The ESFs supported by the Nashville Post are to be:

ESF 1 (Transportation) – Assist in restoration/repair of transportation infrastructure, negotiating/mitigation of movement restrictions and damage and impact assessment.

ESF 3- (Public Works & Engineering) - Conducting pre and post-incident assessments of public works and infrastructure; executing emergency contract support for life-saving and life-sustaining services; providing technical assistance to include engineering expertise, construction management, and contracting and providing emergency repair of damaged infrastructure and critical facilities.

ESF 9 (Search & Rescue) – Provides Life-saving assistance; Search and rescue operations.

ESF 10 (Oils & Hazardous Materials Response) – Provide resources and assets required for environmental assessment and remediation when required.

The following Post Committee members were identified and will be lead for the identified ESFs under our consolidated Response Plan:

ESF 1 – Bryon Olsen, Hardaway Construction

ESF 3 – J. Michael Barry, Civil Bullet

ESF 9 – Steve Field, STANTEC

ESF 10- Chris Green (FT Campbell Post), AquAeTer