

Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

This month we will be highlighting a relatively new program that will help our Critical Infrastructure Unit capture critical information on the key resources that are located in the State of Connecticut. This program is an automated software information system, that requires a significant partnership with the local and state authorities at the initial stages, in an effort to capture important information that will be available for any type of emergency or disaster.

The Critical Infrastructure Unit, now under the command of Sgt. Bill Kelly, will be unveiling this program in the fall to the municipalities and the private sector entities, in order to form a partnership on these key resources and to assure that the information will be accurate in case of an emergency.

Also included is an article that was prepared by representatives of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition and Gradient Planning LLC, dealing with droughts. Obviously this summer, we have had an excess amount of rainfall and drought will not be a problem this year. However there have been many years where Connecticut, along with other New England states, have faced serious drought problems. This article shows the benefit of having plans and exercises in place in order to deal with this type of natural disaster.

Also highlighted is the DEMHS Retirement Dinner, where we recognized the retirees of both the CT State Police who were assigned to DEMHS, and the DEMHS staff who recently retired. All of these individuals had many years of experience in the public safety arena and they will be missed. We wish them and their families the very best.

As this will be the last Commissioner's Notes column from me, I wish to thank all of our partners, the local, state, federal, private and non-profit organizations, for your tremendous support and cooperation with our agency. We welcome our new Commissioner, Mr. Peter J. Boynton, and we wish him and the staff at DEMHS continued success.

**Vol. 5
Issue 8**

Inside This Issue

August 2009

C/ACAMS

Drought Exercise

*DEMHS Retirement
Dinner*

WHAT'S NEW:

**UPCOMING TRAINING
and EXERCISES**

**Transit Terrorist Tools &
Tactics**

**Bioterrorism: Mass
Prophylaxis and Planning**

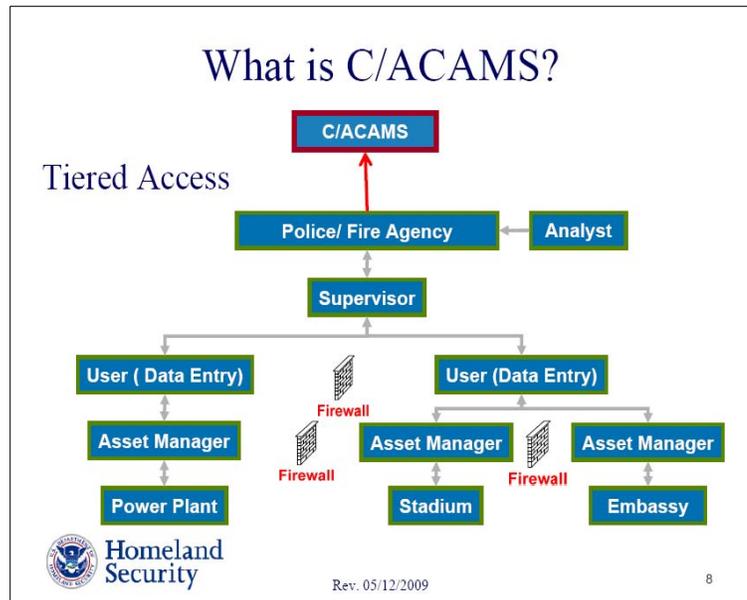
CERT Weekend



**August is
National Water
Quality Month**

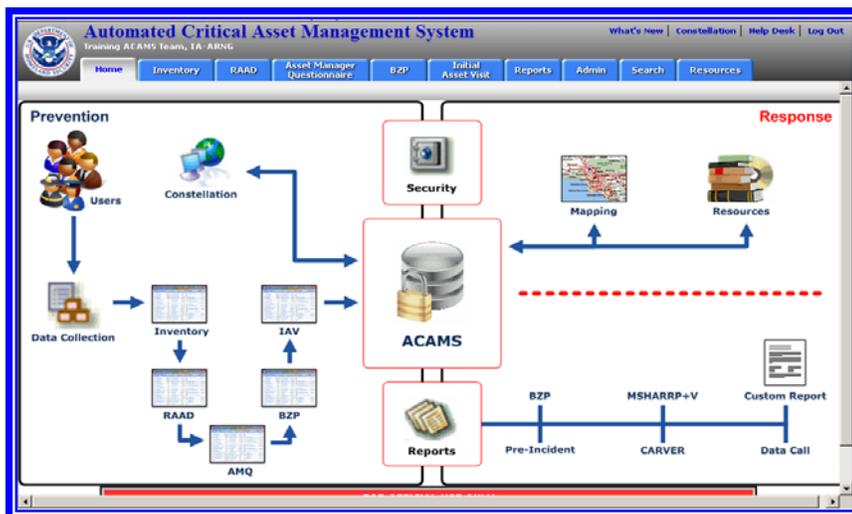
C/ACAMS—Constellation/Automated Critical Asset Management System

What is C/ACAMS? (Constellation/Automated Critical Asset Management System)
 C/ACAMS is a secure, Web-based information services portal used to support infrastructure protection efforts at the state and local level. It provides access to a comprehensive set of tools and resources to develop and implement CIP (Critical Infrastructure Protection) programs. While it focuses on pre-incident prevention and protection it also assists in post-incident response. C/ACAMS leverages the close relationship between local law enforcement, first responders and asset owner/operators. CIKR owners/operators are a key partner in planning and use of C/ACAMS and its success depends on Public/Private Partnerships. State and local personnel interact daily with CIKR (Critical Infrastructure Key Resources) owners and operators to maintain detailed, accurate infrastructure data.

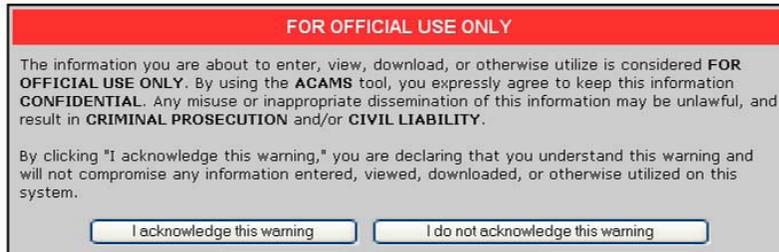


Originally developed by LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) under the title of Arch-Angel, the program recognizes the need to make an investment in critical infrastructure prevention and protection to support response and recovery. The program's success in LA led to the adoption of Arch-Angel by the federal government and its transformation into the C/ACAMS model.

Essentially, the program allows for the warehousing of critical assets on a protected web based format, easily accessed by those tasked with asset management and protection. All information logged into the ACAMS system is immediately PCII (Protected Critical Infrastructure Information) and safe from public disclosure or FOI (Freedom Of Information) requests.

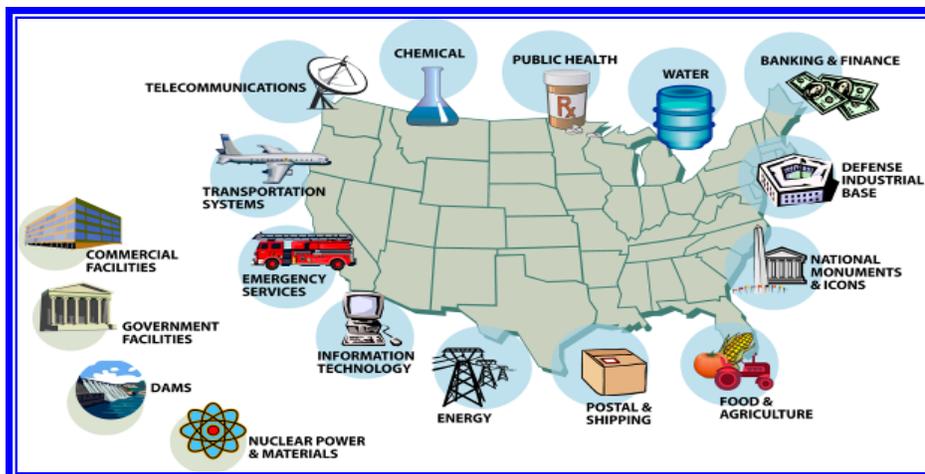


Security Warning Screen



C/ACAMS enables the effective inventory and management of thousands of assets within state and local jurisdictional areas. It was developed as a scalable tool to fit the specific needs of each jurisdiction at the state and local level and will fit the specific needs of the user community and recognizing resource limitations. US/DHS provides C/ACAMS at *no cost to the state and local community* to support infrastructure protection efforts and was developed in alignment with national-level guidance to ensure state and local compliance with this guidance.

Training will be available to first responders (fire/police), emergency managers and those with a stake in asset management. The classes will run three days and will be taught by ACAMS certified instructors from the Office of Counter Terrorism-Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit. Each trained person receives a log-in password and access to only their respective assets. Once on the system, ACAMS users will have access to other uses including Buffer Zone Management, RAAD (Rapid Assessment Tool) and in the near future, mapping capabilities to name a few.



Executive level solicitation to the Chiefs of Police for their participation in C/ACAMS is critical to the ongoing counter-terrorism efforts of the Office of Counter Terrorism-Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit. Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Regional Coordinators, Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) Regional Intelligence Officers (RILO), Connecticut State Police Resident Troopers, school resource officers, municipal emergency managers, fire/EMS and private industry corporate security personnel, will also be prospective students for C/ACAMS training. Personnel from the Office of Counter Terrorism-Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit are conducting efforts to foster the public/private sector "buy in" in C/ACAMS.

With thousands of identified CIKR assets in Connecticut, this training program will help streamline the management of critical infrastructure. The trained user of the system will be able to identify and inventory those assets related to their respective expertise. The administration and supervision of the C/ACAMS system is the responsibility of the Office of Counter Terrorism-Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit.

It's not a matter of if...it's a matter of *when*...

It's the responsibility of everyone to protect the Nations CIKR



Upcoming Training & Exercise

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Aug 1-2 & 8-9 | HazMat WMD Awareness Ops Level Responder Cert Program, Fairfield—CFCA |
| Aug 18-20 | Transit Terrorist Tools & Tactics—Bridgeport—DEMHS |
| Sept 10-11 | Bioterrorism: Mass Prophylaxis & Planning— New Haven—DEMHS |
| Sept 15 | Initial Law Enforcement Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks—New Haven—DEMHS |
| Sept 16 | Falsified Documents & Identity Theft - Driver's Licenses, Passports, Alien & Work Cards—POSTC |
| Sept 22 | Hidden Compartments within a Vehicle Training - POSTC |
| Sept 26-27 | CERT Weekend—Windsor Locks—DEMHS |

For training & exercise questions contact the Training Unit at **860-256-0840**.
Fax: 860-706-5539 or email: Training.demhs@ct.gov

You may register for these courses as listed at: www.ct.gov/demhs; or through POSTC at www.ct.gov/post; or through the CT Fire Academy (CFA) at www.ct.gov/cfa.

AUGUST IS NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONTH

Water quality is a term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose. Although scientific measurements are used to define a water's quality, it's not a simple thing to say that "this water is good," or "this water is bad." After all, water that is perfectly good to wash a car with may not be good enough to serve as drinking water at a dinner party for the President! When the average person asks about water quality, they probably want to know if the water is good enough to use at home, to play in, to serve in a restaurant, etc., or if the quality of our natural waters are suitable for aquatic plants and animals.

Assessment of the occurrence of chemicals that can harm water quality, such as nutrients and pesticides in water resources, requires recognition of complicated interconnections among surface water and ground water, atmospheric contributions, natural landscape features, human activities, and aquatic health. The vulnerability of surface water and ground water to degradation depends on a combination of natural landscape features, such as geology, topography, and soils; climate and atmospheric contributions; and human activities related to different land uses and land-management practices.

More and more nowadays we are hearing about situations where the quality of our water is not good enough for normal uses. Bacteria and [microorganisms](#) have gotten into drinking-water supplies, sometimes causing severe illness in a town; chemical pollutants have been detected in streams, endangering plant and animal life; [sewage spills](#) have occurred, forcing people to boil their drinking water; [pesticides](#) and other chemicals have seeped into the ground and have harmed the water in aquifers; and, [runoff](#) containing pollutants from roads and parking lots have affected the water quality of urban streams.

Water quality has become a very big issue today, partly because of the tremendous growth of the Nation's [population](#) and urban expansion and development. Rural areas can also contribute to water-quality problems. Medium- to large-scale agricultural operations can generate in animal feed, purchased fertilizer, and manure, more [nitrogen](#) and [phosphorus](#) than can be used by crops or animals. These excess nutrients have the potential to degrade water quality if incorporated into [runoff](#) from farms into streams and lakes. All this growth puts great stress on the natural water resources, and, if we are not diligent, the quality of our waters will suffer.

Information from the U.S. Geological Survey: <http://www.usgs.gov>

Severe Drought Exercise Reveals Path Forward

By Ed Edelson, Executive Director, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
and Kate Novick, President, Gradient Planning, LLC

In December 2008, about 40 people gathered in Southbury, CT for the State's first extreme drought tabletop exercise. This exercise was part of a study on basin-based water allocation planning. It was funded by Institute of Water Resources located at the University of Connecticut. The exercise scenario focused on the Pomperaug River Watershed in Southwestern Connecticut, which was selected based on its extensive data supported by a hydrogeologic model and diverse and engaged group of stakeholders. Spearheading the exercise was the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition (www.pomperaug.org), a non-profit science-driven organization that has stakeholders from the many towns in the Pomperaug watershed including Southbury, Woodbury and Bethlehem. Gradient Planning of Middletown (www.gradientplanning.com) led the exercise's design and facilitation.

The objectives of the exercise were to test local, regional, and state coordination; identify gaps in local drought mitigation and pre-planning; and compare the existing drought response organization model to the typical response model used in the area. An analysis of the exercise outcomes revealed two important facts- (1) water is a finite asset and must be protected by and for our communities; and (2) drought mitigation and response should be included in all-hazards response planning.

While severe drought is much more common in South and Southwestern States than in the State of Connecticut, the Pomperaug River Watershed did experience a severe drought in the 1960s. The historical data from this drought served as the basis for this exercise. According to *Climate Change and Water* published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in June 2008, risks of both flooding and drought are expected to increase in many areas throughout the world including areas like Connecticut; therefore the importance of water allocation and severe drought response planning are increasing.

After the exercise, corrective actions were identified to improve drought mitigation and preparedness and to support water allocation planning in the local area. Exercise participants reported that they would recommend other watershed areas in Connecticut to conduct a severe drought exercise and the Pomperaug River Watershed area to conduct functional and full-scale tests to continue the momentum generated in this successful and productive exercise.

Think Global, Drink Local

"Water has a voice. It carries a message that tells those downstream who you are and how you care for the land."

- Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Association

DEMHS RETIREMENT DINNER



On July 28th, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security held a Retirement Dinner for personnel who have taken the Early Retirement Incentive Program.

Those persons retiring from DEMHS are: Commissioner James "Skip" Thomas, Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford, Region 1 Coordinator Richard Fournier, Region 5 Secretary Barbara Juliano, Region 3 Secretary Mary Reeves-Brooks, and Emergency Preparedness Planning Supervisor Paul Gibb.



In addition to the DEMHS personnel retiring, four of the CT State Troopers who work in various DEMHS locations have also retired. They are: Lt. Steven Alvey, Domestic Terrorism Commanding Officer; Lt. Christopher Nolan, CT Intelligence Center Supervisor; Sgt. Vito Savino, Urban Search and Rescue Supervisor; and TFC Tige Wade, Joint Terrorism Task Force.

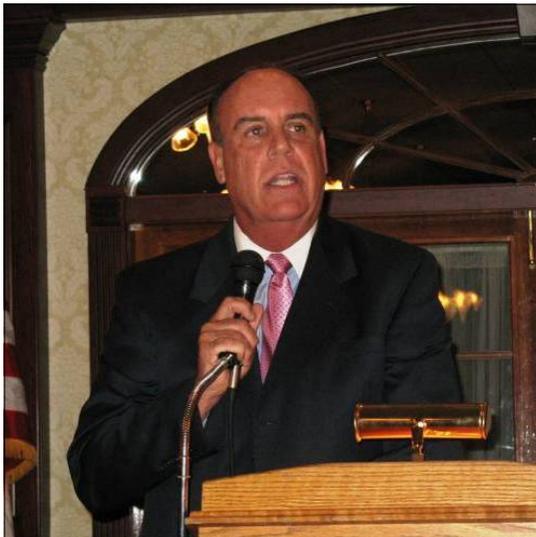
We wish them all the best of luck, good health and happiness as they go on to other endeavors and adventures. They represent countless years of service to the citizens of the State of Connecticut. It has been our honor and privilege to have had the opportunity to work alongside these talented professionals.







DEMHS RETIREMENT DINNER
JULY 28, 2009



**U.S. Department of Energy
Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training**



Radiological Training for Emergency Responders

The City of Groton Fire Department, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Department of Energy (DOE) through its Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) will over three days present the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) Program and conduct a full scale exercise on September 16th through 18th, 2009.

The MERRTT Program is designed to take the complex topic of a radiological response and break it down into easily understood modules. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of radiological basics, radiological survey instruments, decontamination techniques, process for handling radiologically contaminated victims, and resources available to you during your response. The course includes several hours of hands-on activities including the use of radiation detection equipment, identifying the various types of radioactive material packaging, and the use of "live" radiation sources to reinforce learning. Upon successful completion of MERRTT, each student will receive a certificate from the Department of Energy's Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program, including 11.5 hours of continuing education hours (CEH).

The MERRTT Program will be conducted at the Eastern Point Fire Station located at 416 Benham Road. The 2-day, 16-hour course will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day. As a follow up to the September 16th and 17th training, a series of mini-drills and a full scale exercise will be conducted on September 18th from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Only students who have participated in the MERRTT training will be allowed to participate in the mini-drills and exercise.

Additional information about the Department of Energy Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program can be obtained at <http://www.em.doe.gov/otem>. The deadline for registering for this training is September 8, 2009. If you have any questions about the offered training or the drill/exercise please contact Chief Nick Delia at 860-445-2456 or delian@yurservice.com.

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

There is no fee to attend the training or exercise. Register for this training by using the form above. Fax or email the completed form to:
Fax number: 860-446-4176 or email delian@yurservice.com