

REGION 2 BI-WEEKLY

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Editor's Note: If anyone doubts emergency management is a growth industry, the past few weeks in Region II will disabuse them. Region II personnel have been sent to the Gulf Coast, Ethiopia, and are held-up in 26 Federal Plaza, fielding calls from across the country. This issue will look at Region II's wide impact.

REGION II AND THE WORLD

Join the Navy and see the world.

For years, that was the recruitment slogan of the US Navy. Terra Flynn remembers. He spent 22 years in the US Navy, as a member of their elite Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) unit. During that period, he was deployed in 52 foreign countries, and now that he is Region II's Preparedness Analyst and Planning Officer for the National Preparedness Division, he is will up that total to 53.

Next week, Terra will be deployed for three weeks in Ethiopia, part of a federal team funded by US AID and lead by the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS), to help the Government of Ethiopia strengthen its public sector capacity for disaster management.

Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to disasters; major hazards include drought, flood, forest fire, human and livestock diseases and crop pests. Hunger and famine due to drought and civil conflict have had catastrophic consequences in the country, not only in terms of human suffering but also for political stability.

In an effort to change this scenario, the Government of Ethiopia has embarked on a "redirected" approach to disaster management, embracing a holistic, multi-hazard, decentralized strategy and tactics. Instead of reacting after the fact with disaster relief, an invigorated public sector may be able to manage and thereby mitigate future disasters.

Terra is FEMA's man on ground, selected for both his preparedness and SEAL-related skills. "The eastern part of the country borders Somalia, so that's where the SEAL background comes in, but what I'm really looking forward to is helping set up an emergency management infrastructure there. That, and seeing some wildlife."



As far as Fed Travel is concerned, Bernie Preisser is The Man.

Since the new, automatic travel system began Beta Testing in Regions II and Region X last March, Region II's Financial Management Specialist has become the 'go-to guy' for questions. Region X was the first to call in at the end of Week 1. Something about a group travel...The Hewlett Packard people are still working on that.



In fact, Bernie is on the phone with Hewlett Packard a couple of times a week, reporting glitches and working with their technical staff to come up with ways to refine and improve the system.

Although early users may have their own opinion, Fed Travel is actually an enormous data base that has to be input into servers at HQ. Everyone – except DAEs – gets a unique ID number and approval chain, as well as a job description. "Technically that's a big job in itself, so you have to expect some glitches," Bernie says. (The target date for adding DAEs is October 2010, Bernie advises.)

And there have been glitches. Bernie estimates he spends a couple of hours each day answering questions, both from Region II staff and whoever else is having problems, since all 10 FEMA regions are now using Fed Travel. "As Region II was among the first users, my role just evolved. And I actually enjoy finding ways to make it work better," Bernie says.

Nine weeks into FedTraveler, Bernie has developed a strategy for sidestepping problems. "You always need to create a Travel Authorization (TA) in FedTraveler before you travel, but you can save time by making car rental and hotel reservations by telephone **first**, and then enter that data in the online form." However, flights are best booked through FedTraveler while setting up the TA, Bernie advises.

The Man has outsmarted the computer.

E-MAIL FROM THE GULF FACES OF THE REGION



Editor's Note: Region II's John Kapsimalis sent the email below, providing a behind-the-scenes glimpse into this environmental disaster.

Hi, I'm right in the middle of this response here in Venice, LA. I'm one of the Deputy Branch Directors in Operations. I'm meeting a lot of high profile people in meetings and giving them tours. Last week it was ADM Thad Allen and Com-

mandant ADM Papp. CNN, CNBC, REUTERS... you name it and they're here. Yesterday, I took a representative from the "NRC Handelsblad" out on the water, showed him some booming and skimming OPS and gave him an interview. It's the largest newspaper in Holland. I think I'm meeting the head of the EPA today. I'm just brushing up on our Disposal and Decontamination plans. I met Anderson Copper last week. He was pretty cool.

The down side of all of this is that we're getting hammered with all the press and we still haven't gotten a PA person here. (That's being address) It's starting to impact on, certainly my, ability to do my work. At this point, we, in the office are just yelling out, "who's going to do this (interview)?" Anyway, I have to run...

John

I.T. MAKES IT — Seymour Smith, Marci Edwards, an unidentified companion and Blaine Frank (left to right) were among the Region II staff who walked across the Brooklyn Bridge during National Women's Health Week last month. The annual event encourages women to take simple steps for a longer, healthier, happier life.



Tim Crowley is the Region II's new Director of the Mitigation. He will oversee all disaster mitigation efforts, from the development and publication of new flood maps to grants designed to help communities curtail the effects of future disasters. He is an engineer and a lawyer.

Prior to joining Region II, Crowley served as a Deputy Attorney General and Counsel to the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness, the state's Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. He was also a Senior Policy Advisor to the Attorney General and Director of the Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness on homeland security issues, with an emphasis on port security. Crowley served over 15 years in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

Crowley has served over 29 years in the US Coast Guard, holding the rank of Captain and is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Reserve Officer for the Ninth Coast Guard District, which is responsible for the entire Great Lakes Region. He was on active duty from 1980-1990.

After the events of Sept, 11, 2001, Crowley was activated and served in several homeland security positions as a senior liaison, including the Coast Guard Liaison to the Mayor of New York City and NYC Office of Emergency Management; the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon; and most recently as a Core Member of the US Department of Homeland's Presidential Transition Team.

Crowley began his civil service as a federal prosecutor with the US Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, followed by a stint in private practice with a law firm in Philadelphia that specialized in admiralty law. Crowley is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. He received his law degree from the Rutgers University School of Law. He is also a graduate of the DHS/Naval Post Graduate School's Homeland Security Executive Leaders Program.

AROUND THE REGION:



Hurricane Season began June 1st, and that day Regional Administrator Lynne Cantor (right) met with the Army's top disaster-response official, Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, (left) commanding general, U.S. Army North, to discuss how cooperation and relationships are critical in supporting the Region during natural disasters. Swan also met with the Adjutants General from New Jersey and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

A Winning Team — Region II's EA Team on DR-1897 in NJ pose with FCO Bill Vogel after receiving commendations for the "FEAM For Kids" video produced last year in Buffalo during DR-1857. From left: Alberto Pillot, Cynthia Cooper, FCO Vogel, Linda Colon,



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PDAs in Puerto Rico

Following torrential rains over the Memorial Day weekend, which caused floods and landslides and resulted in two deaths, the Governor of Puerto Rico declared a state of emergency. PDA tours began Thursday and will continue through the weekend. Eleven municipalities are being looked at for PA; four for IA.