

REGION 2 BI-WEEKLY

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STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

When RA Lynn Cantor put out the call last week for blood donations for External Affairs Specialist Mark Feely, Region II staff heeded the call.

By Friday, 29 Region II volunteers made the trip uptown in the Region II IMAT van to fill out the paperwork to donate either blood (26 pints) or blood platelets (3 donations).

"A lot of people are showing up to help Mr. Feely," Ana Fusco reported overhearing a Sloan Kettering nurse say. This comment prompted another woman waiting in the donation center to also donate blood in Mark's name.

"Who is Mark Feely?" Another Sloan Kettering nurse asked. External Affairs Specialist Bill Douglass spoke for all of Region II when he replied, "He's one of our own."

Mark's surgery will take place July 6th, and the entire Region will be sending out good vibes.



PR GETS PA DEC; R-2 IMAT DEPLOYED



DR-1919 FCO Tito Hernandez, center, and Deputy FCO Ana Morales, right, discuss advance planning with R-2 IMAT Team Leader Tom Fargione.

Late last week, Puerto Rico got a federal disaster declaration for Public Assistance for the 10 municipalities on the island that suffered flooding and landslides as a result of a May 31 storm.

Federal Coordinating Officer Justo "Tito" Hernandez quickly assembled a staff, and identified the major goals for DR-1919. In addition to the expeditious processing of PA applications, he identified the recruitment of local hires, and their training, with the long-range goal of converting them to DAEs. He also mandated the development and implementation of an All Hazards Preparedness campaign for the island.

One week after the declaration, the applicant briefing was completed; the kick-off meetings all scheduled, as were the FCO's meetings with the mayors; 99 people were assigned to the disaster, seven were pending check-in, and six local hires identified.

As part of their training, the R-2 IMAT team was deployed as if DR-1919 was a "no-notice" event, and the entire team was on the ground within 24 hours of notification. FCO Hernandez assigned them advanced planning, identifying gaps in resources and capabilities should Puerto Rico be hit with a major, catastrophic event before it's known gaps could be filled. "If something bad happens, we want to know where the band aids are, just in case we don't have time to get the sutures," said IMAT team leader Tom Fargione.

IMAT also supported the identification and set up of DR-1919's Joint Field Office, a process slightly delayed by the absence of requisite signatures. "But we will be up and running and ready for business the day after the July 4th holiday," promised John Alonso, IMAT's Logistics Chief, who cited his Unified Logistics Coordination Team — Logistics, MERS, Mt. Weather and local IT — for its stellar teamwork.

FCO Hernandez also approved External Affairs' All Hazards Preparedness campaign, which is based on Puerto Rican folklore linking local flora and fauna with disaster predictions. It's digital animation will be executed by a local DAE, beginning next week. "Let's get it on," FCO Hernandez mandated.

MITIGATION CASTS 'BREAD' UPON THE WATERS FACES OF THE REGION

By Wendy Shapiro



FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has made a big difference in The Town of Cornwall in Orange County, NY, where flooding has routinely beset three residential neighborhoods.

Nine years ago, work began on Long Hill Road, where pipes were put under an existing roadway to help convey excess storm water flows from heavy rains. In 2004, under another FEMA mitigation grant, Rosehill Park (project in process above) and Poplar and Elm Streets had pipes laid under the pavement, also undertaken to carry excess water from storms. In 2006, similar work was done in the Mine Hill Road area

The type of piping used in all three projects are shown below.

"The upgrades in drainage facilities have been a huge improvement in all three locations," said Robert J. Conley, Cornwall's Superintendent of Highways. Under the old system, Long Hill Road washed out during storms causing a hazard to residents living on the road.

Ellen Kelly, who has lived in her home on Rose Hill Park for 19 years, said the mitigation work had made a "dramatic difference." She noted that she and her family "could now live after a storm without swimming through a pond in our backyard. The mitigation money has been well spent."



Kevin Vienneau is Region II's newest Hazard Mitigation Assistance Specialist. He coordinates with states and local communities to reduce the risks of natural hazards. He recently was deployed to New Jersey, DR-1897, where he worked with NJOEM and local representatives to analyze the benefits vs. costs of applying Mitigation grant funding toward the acquisition or elevation of buildings with histories of repetitive flood-damage.

Kevin earned a Master of Landscape Architecture from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1988. He has a BS in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of Connecticut. Before coming to FEMA, he served as a Senior Planner for local governments in Coastal Georgia, where he managed plan development, including comprehensive community development, estuarine water quality management, regional rail-to-trail conversion, and municipal solid waste management.

Before moving to Georgia, Kevin held a Project Manager position with Loiederman Soltesz Associates, Inc., of Rockville, Md. His projects included wetland restoration/creation feasibility studies and the design of state-regulated wetland mitigation. In Maryland, Kevin served for eight years as a Senior Planner with Charles County until mid-2005. His achievements include amendments to land use policies, and regulations managing development and natural resources, including the county's Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Ordinance.

Kevin was a Coastal Resources Specialist for New York's Coastal Management Program between 1992 and 1997. There he analyzed development and resource management plans, including coastal hazard mitigation (offshore breakwaters, groins, structural/beach/vegetative shore stabilization), and recommended plan adjustments to advance consistency with New York's Coastal Management Policies.

When Kevin is not engaged in hazard mitigation, he enjoys being on the water with his friends and family, who also enjoy the water. He and his wife cheer on their two young sons at swim meets, and Kevin fishes, sails, kayaks and canoes with them. Even the family dog loves the water, an Australian Shepherd that thinks he's a Lab..

Around the Region

DISASTERS RECOGNIZE

NO BORDERS: A six-person delegation from Pakistan traveled to the US under the auspices of U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). They met with RA Lynn Cantor, Response Director Dug Salley, Mitigation Director Tim Crowley (back row, third from left, to right) and Deputy Recovery Director Theo Josephs, seated right, to learn about the US model for disaster response and emergency communications. The group also met with their American counterparts and private sector representatives to discuss the next generation of telecommunications policy and regulation.



SUMMONING THE

FAITHFUL: David Myers, near left, is DHS's Director for the Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives. CAD Director Alex DeLaCampa and VAL Josue Diaz, left to right, arranged meetings for Director Myers in Puerto Rico last week, where he appealed to local religious organizations and community activists, to mobilize their members to prepared for disasters, and to actively support the work of first responders.

Prior to Mr. Myers' tour, CAD-staff won accolades for their work packing cartons with hurricane and disaster supplies, pictured below.

CAD volunteers assembled more than 406 emergency supply boxes, which will be pre-positioned for distribution in the event of a direct hit on the island.

The initiative was a collaborative effort with Abbott Pharmaceuticals and *Feeding America*, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity.



Around the Region

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

Preparedness' Kevin Malone, rear right, with teachers at the Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School in Port Jervis, NY. Kevin is the coordinator for Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP), a pilot preparedness program designed for 4th and 5th grade students that is being implemented throughout Region II.

To date **the program has been implemented in 15 schools reaching a total of 800 4th and 5th graders.**



TWO GREAT ADVENTURES:

Editor's note:

1. Region II Response Specialist John Kapsimalis' work as a US Coast Guard Reservist activated to respond to the massive oil spill in the Gulf was recently featured in a front page article in The New York Times. Follow the link below. A video story also featuring John is accessible by clicking the video box on the left side of the article.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/23/us/23boom.html>

2. Preparedness' Terra Flynn is winding down his three week stint in Ethiopia, helping that government develop a national emergency management organization. Working under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture's Forestry Service, the USAID-financed initiative had a little down time, which Terra used wisely. His account is below:



The highlight of the trip would have to be getting up close and personal w the hyena's in the ancient city of Harar. It's 1200 years old and they built 12' walls around the entire city (3.5 kilometers long and 1.5 km wide). Anyway after we left the Harar brewery ☺, we went off to see the Hyena Man. A kid jumped in our vehicle who took us at night to this place where the Hyena Man feeds the animals. I was in the back seat and when we stopped I got out of the truck and when my eyes focused, there were hyenas everywhere!! John Wendt the Forest Service guy who is on his 5th trip here actually fed the wild beasts! I took some good pics that I'll share w you when I get back. Dean, please share this story w the hyena sisters Pat & Laura.