

GUAM

Highlights of State Council Activities

In Guam, the local Citizen Corps Council is currently the Guam Civil Defense Advisory Council (GCDAC). However, a Guam Citizen Corps Advisory Committee, one of the committees under the GCDAC, is projected to be established to assume the roles and responsibilities of the local Citizen Corps Council. These Citizen Corps Councils will organize public education on disaster mitigation and preparedness, citizen training, and volunteer programs to give people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to support their community's emergency services and to safeguard themselves and their property.

Highlights of State Activities

Public Education and Outreach

The GCDAC website provides Disaster Preparedness Tips, ranging from developing a communications plan to preparing for an earthquake or chemical emergency evacuation.

Training and Exercises

The territory and counties are working on developing and integrating systems for providing citizen training and inclusion as a capability in emergency preparedness and response exercises.

The GCDAC began preparing for Top Officials Exercise 4 (TOPOFF 4), which will take place in 2007. Efforts in 2005 concentrated on planning and developing the citizen participation components of this national exercise.

Guam's CERT program began in earnest in 2003, after approximately 40 people completed a train-the-trainer class. Special training for Guam CERT Program Managers and Coordinators followed. GCDAC continued to provide training and exercises to its citizens at no cost. Guam conducted outreach to the private sector to provide CERT training as well as to the neighboring territory of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. It also conducted several exercises, including a joint CERT-Red Cross exercise in September, and Terrorism Early Warning workshops for its citizens.

Volunteer Programs and Support

Guam not only has a strong CERT program, but it also has a well developed VIPS program. In 2005, volunteers of all ages assisted their local law enforcement agencies in a wide range of roles and functions to help fill critical gaps in program support and to provide need technical expertise.

In 2005, Guam also worked to develop the Medical Reserve Corps and Fire Corps programs as additional avenues for the citizens of Guam to participate in homeland security efforts.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

All of Guam came together to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Governor and First Lady Camancho led efforts in schools, businesses, and government to raise funds and awareness. Police department precincts and fire stations served as 24-hour drive through locations for any individuals who were compelled to make donations. High school students from the Guam Chapter of the National Honor Society collected donations during lunch and after school activities.

National Preparedness Month

In recognition of National Preparedness Month, the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense, coordinated the "Get Ready Guam!" essay and poster contest with the our island schools. Students from Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School won the K-6 category and the open category for poster contest.

The Mayors' Council of Guam, in coordination with the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) and the American Red Cross sponsored four Town Meetings to discuss "Community Safety Awareness."

The Guam Medical Reserve Corps worked with the Department of Health and Social Services to conduct free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings for community members at GHS/OCD's Public Awareness Expo, held at a local mall.