

# Accomplishments & Innovations

Region III Fiscal Year 2003 Report



# Accomplishments & Innovations

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



**FEMA**

Region III Fiscal Year 2003 Report

# Table of Contents

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE .....1**

**LOOKING AT THE DETAILS .....2**

*Divisional Accomplishments*

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS .....2

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY .....6

FEDERAL INSURANCE AND MITIGATION .....9

ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCE PLANNING .....12

**Contact Information .....13**

# Director's Message

*By Acting Regional Director Patricia Arcuri*



Along with twenty-one other agencies, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) transitioned into the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003. So what has this change meant for FEMA?

Following the direction of the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, we continue to “just do our jobs.” During a visit to the regional office, Under Secretary Michael D. Brown explained that while we will continue to experience changes in the new Department, our fundamental mission would remain the same: We will continue to respond to disasters resulting from all types of hazards. And for the past year, Region III staff has worked very hard to proudly fulfill that mission.

Over the last twelve months, Region III responded to eleven major disasters and four snow emergency declarations, administering more than \$560 million in assistance to help residents and communities recover. On September 18, Hurricane Isabel struck the mid-Atlantic region. In an unprecedented outcome, Isabel’s fury resulted in simultaneous major disaster declarations in all five of our states and the District of Columbia.

Hurricane Isabel provided a daunting test of Region III’s readiness capabilities. The enormity of response and recovery operations required the support of staff from Regions VI, VII, VIII, IX and X. Staff was deployed for

months before returning to Philadelphia to manage the overwhelming workload caused by the multi-state disasters. In just three months, we identified our successes, best practices, and areas needing improvement through the Remedial Action Management Program. Region III is well on its way to enhancing its readiness capability.

In addition to disaster activities, we continue to support the preparedness of state and local governments. Since the beginning of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, our region has awarded more than \$75 million in grants to enhance the capability of first responders. As the fire grant program is slated to transfer to the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) in fiscal year 2004, we take heart in knowing we were instrumental in getting first responders the funds they need to save lives and protect property.

With the formation of the new Department, one of the most important changes is the expected transition of the administration of several grant programs to ODP. This move supports Secretary Ridge’s goal to establish a “one-stop-shop” that integrates numerous federal preparedness initiatives into a single, streamlined, comprehensive program. While we assist in the transition, we will continue to ensure effective coordination and implementation of these preparedness programs.

We are proud to retain the FEMA name. Over the years the acronym has been widely recognized by the public, signifying the commitment of the federal government to assist them when facing potentially threatening events. As I look to the coming months of 2004, I envision continued support to our state and local partners, as well as to the new Department as it implements policies to secure our homeland. We may not know what the future holds, but we can take pride in our day-to-day work with a strong sense of accomplishment.

My first year as Acting Regional Director was marked with plenty of challenges and many rewarding accomplishments. Thank you for your support, hard work and responsiveness to our emergency management partners and customers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia J. Arcuri".



# Looking At The Details

## Divisional Developments

### National Preparedness



The Virginia Department of Health Office of Water and Radiological Health Program participate in a FEMA-evaluated response exercise at Surry Nuclear Power Plant.

### Technological Services, Assessment and Exercises Branch

#### Radiological Emergency Preparedness:

During fiscal year 2003, all FEMA regions were asked to reduce the use of contractors for Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises because of budget shortfalls. Region III had projected \$1,309,669 in contractor expenses for exercises scheduled between October 2002 and August 2003. REP staff re-evaluated these projected expenses and eliminated any activities that could be performed by FEMA staff. After the implementation of the proposed changes, contractor expenses dropped to \$950,493, a 27 percent savings.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission provided Potassium Iodide (KI) stocks to requesting Region III states during fiscal year 2002. The states were required to provide updated KI distribution plans to FEMA within one year. During fiscal year 2003, Region III reviewed and approved the plans submitted by Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. The Pennsylvania KI distribution plan, received

in October 2003, is under review.

National Preparedness (NP)/Technological Services, Assessment and Exercises Branch (TSAE) initiated the use of all regional staff members as evaluators during REP exercises. A one-day REP Evaluator Refresher course (L-305) was held in the regional office on April 30. The week-long Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise Evaluation Course for new evaluators was postponed because of Hurricane Isabel. This course will be rescheduled during fiscal year 2004.

Due to the impact of Hurricane Isabel, the Surry Power Station nuclear facility in Virginia was shutdown on September 18. As a result, a joint FEMA/Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Disaster Initiated Review team evaluated the off-site preparedness capabilities prior to restart. Beginning September 19, a special evaluation team of staff from Region III, NRC Region II and Virginia Radiological Emergency Preparedness reassessed the condition of the off-site emergency preparedness infrastructure around the Surry facility. Based on the team's review, the preparedness capabilities were adequate to protect the health and safety of the public within the ten-mile emergency planning zone surrounding Surry. The NRC authorized the plant restart on September 21.

#### Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program:



Control room operators study the monitors that enable them to view all neutralization operations at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The neutralization of the chemical weapons stockpile at the Aberdeen Proving Ground began in April 2003. The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) staff worked closely with federal, state and local partners to plan and implement program closeout activities. CSEPP staff coordinated a detailed identification of post-neutralization activities to bring the program to a close and worked with FEMA HQ to ensure that funding for these activities would be available.

The staff modified the design and schedule of the annual CSEPP exercise to limit the impact of exercise field activities on demilitarized operations at the stockpile location. NP also proposed and monitored a contractor study to examine options for preserving the existing local emergency communications network once CSEPP funding ends. In addition, Region III developed and managed a series of presentations on program closeout for the 2003 National Conference. Based on feedback and a request from FEMA HQ, NP will lead the new Program Closeout Workgroup. This workgroup develops strategies and guidance for CSEPP Communities who face program closeout challenges.

#### HAZMAT - Watchstander training:

FEMA Region III coordinated and co-presented "Watchstander" training in the regional office on June 25. The session presented information on the activation of Emergency Support Function (ESF)-10 to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) staff. Presenters included Region III, EPA and USCG staff. Topics included the declaration process, the ESF activation process, mission assignments, funding mechanisms, and the roles and responsibilities of each agency. NP identified two target audiences: Those



Technological Hazards Program Specialist Catherine Pomerantz (left) conducts a tour of the Regional Operations Center for ESF-10 during Watchstander training on June 25.

who allocate mission assignments from the Regional Operations Center and those who carry out mission assignments (e.g. EPA On-Scene Coordinators and USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinators). Because of the interdependent roles, the staff held a joint training session underscoring each party's responsibilities and how they interconnect. Participant feedback was very positive and similar training has been requested for 2004.

#### Program Coordination Branch



Region III National Preparedness Director Robert Welch presents a \$103,680 Assistance to Firefighters grant to Pioneer Fire Company in Jenkintown, Pa., on June 12.

#### Assistance to Firefighters:

During fiscal year 2003, the Region III Fire Program Specialist was extremely busy with the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. In addition to personal contact with fire service organizations, the Fire Program Specialist trained several other Program Coordination Branch staff members in the program guidance. With this additional staff, 35 workshops were presented to nearly a thousand participants, resulting in a record number of

	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Number of Awards</i>	<i>Grant Totals</i>
<b>PA</b>	1,685*	286	\$22,148,688
<b>VA</b>	340	79	\$8,008,573
<b>WV</b>	278	35	\$2,122,474
<b>MD</b>	172	18	\$1,232,882
<b>DE</b>	33	3	\$266,097

\*largest amount nationally

grant applications and awards for the region's states. Program Coordination staff members participated in the peer reviews of this year's AFG applications, and received praise for fair and efficient processing. Award winners continue to be monitored to ensure proper and effective use of grant money





Fire Program Specialist Lori Bainbridge presents a grant of more than \$173,000 to Wilmington Fire Department.

The addition of the Fire Program to the Program Coordination Branch provided the region with significant outreach and education opportunities beyond the AFG program. The Program Coordination staff gave fire organizations information on additional programs and grants available to assist their preparedness efforts. NP representatives joined state and local officials in activities such as the NBC 10 Health Expo, promoting both Assistance to Firefighters and Citizen Corps programs. Staff members also educated regional fire departments in both Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) initiatives.

### Continuity of Operations (COOP):

The regional Continuity of Operations Program (COOP) grew tremendously during the past fiscal year. COOP staff made strides in revising the region's COOP plan and Emergency Relocation Group (ERG) roster. The staff also distributed vital information to ERG members and relocated several emergency sites.

Region III made an aggressive outreach effort to all federal departments and agencies by marketing COOP programs as "a good business practice." The staff began developing an outreach strategy to assist Region III states with their COOP/COG planning, and aided ten federal offices in the development of their COOP plans.

The staff continues to concentrate on the relationship with the regional Federal Executive Boards. NP staff created and distributed a COOP Planning Program. The results helped NP staff identify the level of capability and the need for planning assistance. Introductory COOP briefings were provided to members of the FEB in Baltimore and Pittsburgh. In fiscal year 2003, a regional staff

member chaired the Philadelphia FEB Multi-Agency COOP Steering Committee, which assists many agencies in creating, coordinating and evaluating their plans. As a result, a COOP exercise and two workshops were conducted with the Philadelphia FEB.

The Program Coordination Branch held the Office of National Security Coordination Regional COOP Conference in May 2003. The three-day conference provided a forum for FEMA COOP coordinators, regional managers and national security representatives for briefings on a variety of COOP issues. Topics included FEMA's role as executive agent for COOP, outreach efforts and the revitalization of the FEMA COOP website.



Emergency Management Program Specialist Laurel Ryan leads a discussion group during the 2003 COOP conference.

### Remedial Action Management Program (RAMP):

In fiscal year 2003, the Remedial Action Management Program (RAMP) was initiated.

Region III completed program implementation and trained two RAMP facilitators at EMI. The RAMP evaluates the team's ability to accomplish the current mission and identifies negative impactson future operations. The RAMP uses a "hot-wash" process and a facilitator to achieve consensus in naming improvement opportunities and smart practices.

During fiscal year 2003, Region III completed nine RAMP "Hot Washes":

- West Virginia DFO (DR-1474)
- Virginia DFO (DR-1491) (two completed for the Virginia DFO)
- Maryland DFO (DR-1492) (two completed for the Maryland DFO)
- District of Columbia DFO (DR-1493)

- Delaware (DR-1494)
- Pennsylvania (DRs-1485 and 1497 combined)
- Regional Operations Center for Hurricane Isabel

**Supplemental Grants:**

In December 2002, Region III reviewed and approved applications for the Emergency Operations Planning, Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

In fiscal year 2003, each state was given a \$50,000 Phase 1 grant to evaluate their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). The Department of Homeland Security then provided a total of \$432,000 to states for EOC upgrades. This funding alleviated the cost of construction to house secure voice and teleconferencing equipment, also provided by the Department of Homeland Security.

In June, Virginia received a \$5,137,000 competitive Phase 2 grant to construct and equip a new Emergency Operations Center.



VDEM personnel work at the EOC, which will be replaced soon thanks to a grant from FEMA.

Program Coordination Branch staff has monitored the progress of these grants very closely. Following each application period, Region III rollouts have been among the timeliest in the nation. NP staff has worked hard to meet the needs of each state and to develop the most effective grant application possible. The NP division also worked with the Administration and Resource Planning division, as well as Headquarters, to clarify directives and help the states maximize their opportunities. As a result, the staff provided a Region III FAQ sheet to supplement those provided by Headquarters. In addition, staff members worked with the Regional Environmental Officer to ensure all applications met environmental and historical requirements.

**Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG):**

A significant increase in the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) fund allocation, made almost halfway through the grant period, presented a challenge for states and staff. To ensure the effective use of grant funds, NP staff helped each Region III state revise their grant applications and met their individual needs during the process.

**Citizen Corps/Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT):**

The Citizen Corps Councils and CERT training programs continue to expand throughout the region. By the end of fiscal year 2003, CERT funding was approved and distributed. In addition to regular grants, Region III secured \$50,000 from surplus 2002 funds, and divided it among the states to help fund their CERT programs. As a result, sixty-five Citizens Corps Councils were registered and thousands of citizens received CERT training.

By delivering outstanding customer service, the division monitored each state’s progress and facilitated coordination among Region III states. NP provided funding for the CERT Train-the-Trainer courses offered by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. As a result, one hundred new certified trainers were added to the states’ cadres. Open to all the states, the class provided students the opportunity to exchange ideas. At the request of the states, the division continues to promote this type of regional sharing. The staff continues to work with ARP to find innovative ways to help.

**Senior Leaders Homeland Security Summit:**

The FEMA Region III Senior Leaders Homeland Security Summit was held in November 2002. Region III, the United States Fire Administration, and the Office of National Preparedness coordinated the summit. Participants met with their counterparts and shared information on domestic preparedness. Seventeen topics were presented during the three-day event, including grants management, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, Critical Event Preparedness and Response, and the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile. In smaller breakout sessions, participants discussed their success stories and experiences.



# Response and Recovery

The Response and Recovery (RR) Division was extremely active during fiscal year 2003, responding to eleven major disasters and four snow emergency declarations — the most demanding RR year since 1996. In February, a severe blizzard crippled the Northeast, resulting in two major disasters and four emergency declarations in the region. Tropical Storm Henri and Hurricane Isabel caused seven major declarations, requiring intense coordination across the entire region and support from Regions VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X. During fiscal year 2003, the division approved more than \$560 million to help residents and their communities recover from the effects of disasters.



President Bush visits FEMA employees in Richmond, Va. after touring the damage caused by Hurricane Isabel.

The Regional Operations Center (ROC) was fully activated for the first time since the terrorist attacks in 2001. The ROC activated on September 15 and maintained twenty-four hour operations through September 25.

During the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) high threat level Orange, the Response Operations Branch led two 24-hour Communications Watch Level activations. During these activations, RR enhanced working relationships with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), sharing critical information pertinent to potential response actions and increasing FEMA's ability to handle classified materials.

During fiscal year 2003, the Response and Recovery Division implemented several plans to improve the day-to-day relationship and information sharing between the regional and state Operations' staff, resulting in increased cooperation. This improved relationship proved beneficial during the response to Hurricane Isabel.

In fiscal year 2003, the Recovery Branch won a Fed-



Jack Schuback accepts the FEB Award on behalf of the Recovery Branch.

eral Executive Board silver medal for “Most Improved Federal Image.” This category recognized achievements and actions that resulted in a better public perception and understanding of the agency. The Recovery Branch was commended for its teamwork in providing disaster relief and emergency preparedness services to impacted families and public safety organizations, including first responders. While working around the clock in 2002 to handle massive floods in Virginia and a F-4 tornado in Maryland, the team also volunteered to help in the administration of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Other significant accomplishments include improving



At a Mobile Operations Base, a worker takes water to be distributed to Virginia residents affected by Hurricane Isabel.

the effectiveness of the Regional Alert and Notification System and the development of debris management plans. The staff helped develop a national NEMIS-based Federal Coordinating Officer report that is used not only as a status report, but as a production tool for the Public Assistance program. The report also assists in the compilation of critical infrastructure data used by the Geographic Information System team.

### **The Blizzard of 2003**



**West Virginia residents dig out after the blizzard of 2003.**

As a result of the February 14-17 severe winter storm, snow and flooding affected all of the region's states and the District of Columbia. Emergency Operations Centers were activated in all six Region III jurisdictions.

Although the storm personally affected the staff, but the Region met the extraordinary demand for personnel. Public Assistance staff used the Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyze the total snowfall amounts against the existing record snowfall amounts to determine the need for federal assistance. This action demonstrated GIS capabilities in support of response and recovery efforts. As a result, President Bush declared two major disasters, 1455-WV and 1458-VA; and four snow emergencies, 3178-DC, 3179-MD, 3180-PA and 3183-DE. Public Assistance set up a central location to process the project worksheets for the entire region.

By the end of fiscal year 2003, the Public Assistance program had approved approximately \$69,759,000 for 5,545 projects to 2,308 political jurisdictions to aid in the recovery of the blizzard. Human Services processed 5,015 teleregistration applications and provided \$7,345,614 in assistance to 2,834 families for housing assistance and 829 families for other needs assistance.

### **West Virginia 1474, Heavy Rains, High Winds, Flash Flooding and Landslides**



**Louis H. Botta, Federal Coordinating Officer for DR-1474, and W.Va. Governor Bob Wise meet after the signing of the federal-state agreement.**

Severe rain, dumping nearly two and a half inches in one hour, caused creeks in southwestern West Virginia to overflow on June 11. Between June 11 and June 17, more flooding was caused by an additional six inches of rain. More than a thousand residences and numerous businesses suffered damage. A considerable number of effected residences had serious health and safety hazards, making them uninhabitable.

By the end of fiscal year 2003, the Public Assistance Program approved \$4,755,694 for 405 projects to 54 applicants. After processing 5,146 teleregistrations, Human Services Programs approved \$10,305,308 in housing assistance to 3,327 families and 831 families qualifying for other needs assistance.

### **Pennsylvania 1485, Severe Winds, Tornadoes, Heavy Rain, and Flooding**



**FEMA personnel examine the Kinzua Bridge in Lackawanna County, Pa., after a tornado destroyed it on July 21.**



An intense low-pressure system starting on Monday, July 21, and lasting through Tuesday, July 22, spawned tornado activity that damaged homes and other property and caused widespread debris in four counties.

Damages included the collapse of the historic Kinzua Bridge in McKean County.

By the end of the fiscal year, the Public Assistance Program approved \$1,023,105 for 570 projects to 268 applicants. Human Services approved a total of \$2,932,810 for 1,147 applicants.

## Hurricane Isabel



Hurricane Isabel makes landfall on the mid-Atlantic states.

On September 15, the Regional Office began preparations for the response to Hurricane Isabel. The Acting Regional Director called for the activation of the Regional Operations Center (ROC) at Level 1, signifying a massive event. Response Operations reviewed the emergency team rosters and deployed all necessary personnel to the ROC. State Liaisons traveled to the state Emergency Operations Centers. Representatives from ten Emergency Support Functions reported to the ROC. Response staff participated in regular videoconferences with all potentially affected areas. The Governors of all Region III states declared a State of Emergency.

On September 18, Isabel made landfall along the outer banks of North Carolina as a Category 2 hurricane with surface winds as high as 85 knots. The storm moved through the northeastern portion of North Carolina and into Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Delaware. Strong residual winds extended into West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Severe flooding and high winds occurred throughout the region, prompting the largest response effort in Region III since Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The Regional Operations Center activated for eleven days, operating twenty-four hours a day.

Similar to the Blizzard of 2003, this event presented



FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer David Fukutomi and Virginia Director of Emergency Management Michael Cline track Hurricane Isabel at the State Emergency Operation Center in Richmond.

the unusual challenge of responding to a region-wide disaster, requiring intense coordination among all impacted states and other FEMA regions. The National Emergency Response Team (ERT-N) Blue arrived in Virginia before landfall to coordinate a quick and efficient response. In addition, ERT-A teams responded to all Region III states. Regions VI, VII, VIII, IX and X also provided staff to assist with the response effort. Region-wide, the Response Operations branch issued over 170 missions totaling in excess of \$80,000,000.

To date, the Public Assistance Program has approved \$278 million for 3600 projects to 235 applicants. Human Services has approved 43,702 applications and dispersed \$110,588,046.



A Virginia resident cleans up the mess Hurricane Isabel left behind.

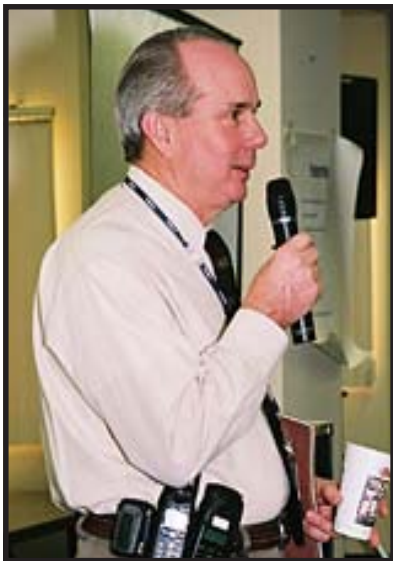


## Delaware 1495, Tropical Storm Henri

The remnants of Tropical Storm Henri delivered extraordinary amounts of rainfall in New Castle County, Delaware on September 15. The storm dumped 8 to 10 inches of rain in just a few hours. Much of the region had already received above-normal rainfall in recent weeks. According to a preliminary U.S. Geological survey, the flooding ranked among the worst on record for the northern Delaware waterways.

## National Capital Region

The Response and Recovery Division took on the major task of coordinating the development of the National Emergency Response Team (ERT-N) for the National Capital Region (NCR).



Federal Coordinating Officer Tom Davies briefs the NCR advance team during the ERT-N NCR exercise in January 2003.

Response and Recovery also continues to work on NCR planning initiatives. In particular, the region has worked extensively with Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, the Council of Governments, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess and develop an inventory of existing debris plans and prime power requirements. These efforts are part of a larger objective to develop a national strategy for response to potential natural disasters and terrorist events.

Planning efforts over the last year included development of operational guides, NCR-specific Geographic Information System (GIS) products, and the opening of the only permanent Initial Operating Facility (IOF) in the county. In January, the Response and Recovery Division held a fully staffed exercise out of the IOF, simulating a terrorist attack in the Washington Metro Area.



Region III ERT-N Operations Chief John Connolly discusses a Human Services issue with Program Specialist Pam James-Willis.

## Flood Insurance and Mitigation

The Mitigation Division experienced many changes throughout the 2003 fiscal year. The Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 (DMA2K) and the new Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program created exciting challenges. The division formed a new Outreach Unit and welcomed a new Mitigation Division Director. The following is a summary of some of the most notable Mitigation Division accomplishments of fiscal year 2003.

### Section 322 Planning Efforts

In response to the Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 (DMA2K), the division continues to consolidate mitigation planning requirements. By fostering close relationships with partner states, the staff helped their governments develop mitigation plans in compliance with DMA2K. By using funds from FEMA mitigation programs such as the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, which awarded \$248,375 to five Region III states, local communities were able to meet these new planning requirements. As a result, six local DMA2K Section 322 Plans have been approved.

The FMA program also awarded a total of \$1,005,200 to Region III states to help fund cost-effective measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage. The FMA program offers the states three types of grants: Plan Development, Technical Assistance, and Project



Community Rating System (CRS) Task Force members (from left) Chairman Richard Decker, Lisa Holland Jones, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, FIM Program Specialist Bret Gates and Pete Rabbom, California Division of Water Resources, meet in Philadelphia.

Completion. The states use the grants to acquire, demolish or elevate flood-prone structures and implement structural flood control measures, thereby reducing claims to the National Flood Insurance Fund.

### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) has achieved considerable success in the “close out” of 14 disasters during fiscal year 2003. Region III funded 16 projects, totaling \$6,357,000. The projects included acquisition and demolition projects, hazard mitigation plan-



This home, raised above the base flood elevation, received no damage during the June flooding in West Virginia. The flooding devastated many of the other homes in the neighborhood.

ning projects, and retrofitting for storm water management systems.

The closing out of disasters declared prior to fiscal year 2000 continues to be a priority in the Mitigation Division. By monitoring grants management with the states, the division has been able to maintain a low percentage of unliquidated obligations for HMGP.

### Community Assistance Program State Support Service Element (CAP-SSSE):



The Stradley elevated residence is out of harms way during flooding caused by Hurricane Isabel.

The Community Assistance Program State Support Service Element (CAP-SSSE) helped the Mid-Atlantic states improve their compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As a result, FEMA Headquarters has enhanced the NFIP program activities immensely by providing the region with an additional \$300,000 for distribution to the states.

### Flood Map Modernization

In this exciting time for the NFIP, the Flood Hazard Mapping Program has launched an ambitious Map Modernization program to expedite flood map updates. More than \$5 million has been expended for new projects within Region III. The division has collaborated with local communities and other agencies, and drawn from their flood map data and expertise. Mitigation continues to explore new technologies to more accurately map floodprone areas at reduced costs.



## New Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP)

In fiscal year 2003, the mitigation division issued ten Cooperating Technical Partners Program grants totaling \$2,093,750. The CTP brings together capable regional state and local agencies as active partners in the FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping Program. With the support of the CTP grants, these partners help revise and improve flood insurance studies and rate maps.

First time Region III grant recipients: Canaan Valley Institute, Thomas, West Virginia; Fairfax County, Virginia; Henrico County, Virginia; Temple University, Ambler, Pennsylvania; and West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Continuing Region III grant recipients: Prince Georges County, Maryland; Baltimore County, Maryland; Roanoke County, Virginia; Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; and Maryland Department of Environment.

## Other Contracted Flood Map Projects:

Mitigation relies on federal partners and consulting engineers to carry out flood insurance studies and map modernization projects. These federal partners include the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The mitigation division currently has multi-year contracts with AMEC Earth & Environmental of Chantilly, Virginia and GG3 Joint Venture (Greenhorne & O'Mara, Gannett Fleming and 3Di) of Greenbelt, Md. In fiscal year 2003, nine federal agency project tasks were issued, totaling \$1,700,500. Ten project tasks totaling \$1,263,500 were issued to private consultants. The Mitigation division currently has projects in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

## Strategic Plan for HAZUS-MH

Region III has developed a strategic plan for the Hazards U.S. Multi-Hazard (HAZUS-MH) software program that addresses the development of the Mid-Atlantic HAZUS User's Group, the evaluation of regional HAZUS use, and the promotion of hazard identification and risk assessment through HAZUS analyses.

## HAZUS Expansion Pilot

Region III staff coordinated the pilot HAZUS-MH software program for estimating damage from wind (hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical cyclones, and hail) and floods (ravine and coastal). During the pilot program, a Flood Information Tool was developed. This software tool uses floodplain boundary information as well



University of Delaware Geological Survey personnel analyze soil data for use in HAZUS earthquake-modeling software.

as ground and flood elevation to calculate flood depth.

These HAZUS tools assess risk, estimate loss, and produce studies that will help the private sector as well as state and local governments implement programs in emergency response, recovery and mitigation.

## The Wilmington HAZUS Project

Region III continued coordination with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and the Delaware Geological Survey (DGS) to assess earthquake risk in Wilmington, Delaware. This work has been supported by FEMA through an Emergency Management Planning and Assistance (EMPA) grant. The HAZUS earthquake model was refined to incorporate detailed soil information amassed by DGS. As a result, Delaware's earthquake risk was raised from low to moderate. With additional EMPA funds, this project will expand during fiscal year 2004 to include other hazards analyses.

## Hazard Mitigation Outreach

The mitigation outreach effort continued to focus on mitigation education. In cooperation with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Conservation, and Virginia local school districts in Wise, Scott and Lee Counties, the mitigation division created a compact disk for use in disaster-resistance education. The CD, entitled "Virginia Disaster Resistance Library: A Toolbox for Teachers," will be delivered in fiscal year 2004 to every school district in Virginia.



In collaboration with the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services, the division developed a similar outreach initiative that identifies the need for hazard mitigation education and plans the effective delivery of the material.

## Administration and Resource Planning



Administration and Resource Planning meet during the ERT NCR exercise.

During fiscal year 2003, Region III's Administration and Resource Planning (ARP) division welcomed a new regional Training Manager and the development of a new, comprehensive training program. The retooled *Regional Training Strategy* placed emphasis on short-session workshops focusing on strengthening "soft skills." The region contracted Dale Carnegie for twelve such sessions including "Communications", "Improving People Skills", "Creating Positive Change", "Overcoming Stress" and "Time Management." ARP also sponsored larger group classes including effective writing, customer service and effective management communications. The staff accomplished these new initiatives while continuing to support staff participation in FEMA's Leadership Excellence Program, Professional Excellence Program, the Career Enhancement Program and the USDA Graduate School.

Fiscal year 2003 was a record-setting year for Region III in non-disaster grant support to its state and local partners. ARP processed the largest number of grant applications and awarded the greatest amount of funds since the creation of FEMA in 1979. Region III awarded 85 grants totaling over \$43 million for preparedness and mitigation. The staff also met the challenge of administering many new programs such as the First Responder Supplemental Grant program, part of the President's initiative to fight Terrorism in America.

ARP continues to lead the way by making continuous improvements to internal and external systems in support of preparedness and response efforts. The Information Technology Branch purchased and installed a new phone system and computer hardware. ARP has also enabled continuous connectivity through the acquisition of pagers for all staff members and Blackberry devices for the management team. In addition, the staff completed the installation of a high frequency radio system in the office, facilitating communication with Region III's state Emergency Operations Centers and other users of the FEMA National Radio System. ARP staff upgraded internal security system by installing digital closed-circuit television security cameras.

FEMA HQ selected Region III as one of the corner posts for the FEMA Wide Area Network. This system automatically reroutes any link that fails anywhere in the country. Finally, in cooperation with the National Preparedness Division, ARP also completed the selection and design for an alternate operating facility under the Continuity of Operations Program. The physical installation of the facility will occur in fiscal year 2004.

Closing disaster grants remained a regional priority during fiscal year 2003. ARP facilitated the process, closing 55 disaster programs, 45 mission assignments, and 14 FEMA/State Agreements. Grant closure completes the disaster recovery process for states and their communities, and returns excess money to the Disaster Relief Fund. In fiscal year 2003, closed Mission Assignments alone returned nearly \$11 million.



Information Technology Specialist LerMande Hendricks helps solve a software problem.

# Contact Information

Office of the Regional Director .....	215-931-5608
Administration and Resource Planning .....	215-931-5678
Federal Insurance and Mitigation .....	215-931-5512
Response and Recovery .....	215-931-5626
National Preparedness .....	215-931-5544