

THE BEACON

April 2010

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Nebraska Emergency Management Agency





Dignitaries listen to speakers at the ground breaking ceremonies for the Joint Forces Headquarters on March 31 as the flags fly.



Senator Ben Nelson, left, and Gov. Dave Heineman speak at the ground breaking ceremony for the Joint Force headquarters.

Nebraska officials break ground on Joint Force Headquarters

Officials broke ground on a new \$26.9 million Joint Force Headquarters during a ceremony March 31 at the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln.

When completed, the building will include approximately 140,000 square feet and will house the leadership and administrative functions of the Nebraska Army

and Air National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. It will also house the state's Emergency Operations Center, the Nebraska National Guard's Joint Operations Center and a Nebraska State Patrol dispatch center.

Gov. Dave Heineman, Sen. Ben Nelson and Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons were among the officials who spoke

at the ceremony.

"We will improve our response capabilities tremendously because we will be working together in one building," Lyons said.

The headquarters is expected to be completed sometime in spring 2012.

Approximately 360 employees will work in the facility.

On the Cover:

Dignitaries break ground on the new Joint Force Headquarters, Brig. General Judd Lyons spoke and a drawing of the new building was displayed.



Nebraska emergency managers took a break from the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers (NAEM) conference, April 16 to line Second Avenue in Kearney to welcome 140 soldiers from the Nebraska National Guard's 1195th Transportation Company who were returning to Kearney after 11 months in Baghdad, Iraq. NAEM members were among the thousands of people who lined the streets to welcome the motorcade which included 180 of the Nebraska Patriot Guard Riders. Yellow ribbons and signs lined the route to Kearney High School where Governor Dave Heineman addressed a standing-room-only crowd in the school gymnasium.

Emergency Managers meet at NAEM Conference in Kearney

Emergency Management...It's Not Like Life in the Movies was the theme of the 2010 Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM) annual conference April 16-18 at the Kearney Ramada.

The conference featured speakers, displays, exhibits, awards, a banquet and entertainment. It provided an opportunity for 86 emergency managers to network with their peers from across the state of Nebraska.

Pre-conference training was offered April 16 by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

on Investment justification, the Emergency Management Assessment Program, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) cities and a National Incident Management System (NIMS) update.

Mayor **Stanley Clouse** welcomed the emergency managers to Kearney during opening ceremonies.

Election of officers and an annual meeting kicked off the event. Taking office at the 2010 meeting were **Deanna Beckman** of South Sioux City/Dakota County, president; **Lynn Marshal** of Sarpy County, president elect; **Tim Hof-**

bauer, Columbus/Platte County, vice president; **Doug Fox** of Region 24, treasurer, **Jan Zurcher** of Prairie Valley Red Cross, secretary.

Newly elected or re-elected area representatives are: **Roseann Dobesh-DeGraff** of Sarpy County, Southeast; **Brian Woldt** of Dawson County, Central; **Alma Beland** of Region 26, West Central. **Laura Hintz** of Knox County, Northeast, and **Jerry Bretthauer**, Panhandle representative. **Al Berndt**, assistant director of NEMA is the agency liaison.

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NEMA training

NEMA staff Nikki Weber (far left), Tonya Ngotel (above), and Dan Hiller (left) presented pre-conference training on the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) cities and Investment Justification, respectively



File photo



File photo

Officers and regional representatives of NAEM for 2010-11 are: front row, from left, Roseann Dobesh-DeGraff of Sarpy County, Southeast; Jan Zurcher of Prairie Valley Red Cross, secretary; Deanna Beckman of South Sioux City/Dakota County, president; Laura Hintz of Knox County, Northeast region and Alma Beland of Region 26, West Central. Back row, from left, Tim Hofbauer, Columbus/Platte County, vice president; Jerry Bretthauer, Panhandle representative; Brian Woldt of Dawson County, Central; and Doug Fox of Region 24, treasurer. Pictured top right is Lynn Marshal of Sarpy County, president-elect; and bottom, right, Al Berndt, assistant director of NEMA as the agency's liaison to NAEM.



Beth Ferrell



Lela McNinch

NAEM Conference Continued

First day speakers included: **Beth Ferrell** of the Nebraska Association of County Officials; **Brian Smith** and **Deb Blondin** of the National Weather Service; and **Lela McNinch** of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Deanna Beckman, NAEM president, and **Steve Kisner** of the National Weather Service, give an update on the Nebraska Weather Awareness Committee (NWAC). Upcoming events and promotions including a video contest for middle

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Deanna Beckman and Steve Kisner



Brian Smith



Deb Blondin



Diana Bryan



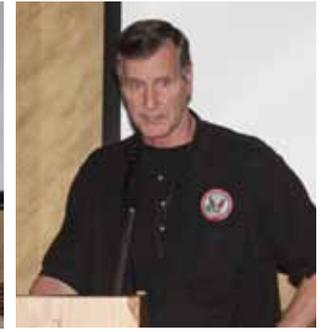
Jeffery Hartle



Travis Shipley



Jim Boller



Paul Johnson

NAEM Conference Continued

and high school-age students on severe weather preparedness and a new web page with preparedness resources.

NAEM representatives took a break from their conference to greet members of the 1195th Transportation Company of the Nebraska National Guard who were returning to Kearney after 11 months in Baghdad, Iraq. Area residents placed yellow ribbons and signs along Kearney's Second Avenue to welcome the returning soldiers. Emergency managers parked their vehicles with lights blazing while they lined the street outside their

conference and honored the returning soldiers.

"It was such a great opportunity to be a part of the return home of these soldiers," said **Jodie Fawl** of NEMA. "Watching the state's emergency managers honor the 1195th was a great experience."

On day two **Diana Bryan**, director of the Institute for Rural Emergency Management at Central Missouri University spoke, as did **Jeffery Hartle**, a professor of Public Affairs at Park University in Missouri; **Travis Shipley**, a Wal-mart regional asset protection manager for Kansas and Nebraska also addressed the group; **Jim**

Boller of Code 3 Associates in Colorado discussed the Human-Animal Connection in Disaster and **Paul Johnson** of Douglas County discussed Scenario-Based Planning considerations.

John Bruno of the Department of Homeland Security gave a presentation on the Pre-positioned Equipment Program and emergency managers were able to examine much of the equipment and materials that are ready in case of an emergency.

Annual awards were presented at the Saturday night banquet.

Larry Nedrow, who retired this

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John Bruno (top left) of the Department of Homeland Security talks about the Pre-positioned Equipment Program. Emergency managers were able to examine the equipment and materials during the session.



Deanna Beckman (left) recognizes Michell Woitalewicz and Whitney Shipley as new emergency managers of the year. Beckman also honored Pat Gerdes for his year as president of the association. Gerdes recognizes Rhonda Woolridge and Roseann Dobesh-DeGraff for planning the 2010 conference.



File photo
Larry Nedrow

File photo
Gary Peterson

NAEM Conference Continued

year from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, was honored as a **Life Member** of NAEM and as **Outstanding Emergency Management Support Professional**. NAEM members voted to change the name of the award to the **Larry Nedrow Emergency Management Support Professional Award**.

The Outstanding New Emergency Management Professionals were given to **Michelle Woitalewicz** of Howard County and to **Whitney Shipley** of Douglas County.

The Outstanding Emergency Manager of the year award went to **Gary Peterson** of York/Seward Counties.

The president's award went to **David and Annette Wood** of Seward, who have worked for many years to help make the NAEM booth at the Nebraska State Fair a success.

On Sunday presentations were given by: **Russ Wren** of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services on the Strategic National Stockpile and CHEMPACK program; **Annette Kelley** of the Virginia Department of Social Service on Planning for Special Needs/Care Facilities; and **Al Berndt** who gave a NEMA update.

Kyle Clapp, deputy emergency manager Region 15, was master of ceremonies. A NAEM board meeting concluded the conference.



Comedian T. Marni Vos entertains at the banquet.

“It was great to see a group of dedicated individuals from many entities gather for a weekend of learning and networking,” said Deanna Beckman, president of the association. “It was certainly worth its while. The conference committee did a great job.”



Al Berndt



Russ Wren



Annette Kelley



Kyle Clapp



Emergency management planning conference held in Lincoln

Identifying themes, challenges and opportunities in emergency management was the focus of the 2010 Academy for Planning Initiatives in Emergency Management, held at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, April 7.

“One of the focuses was on how we can get a better working relationship with our elected and appointed officials,” said **Deanna Beckman** of South Sioux City/

Dakota County Emergency Management. “It will help us develop a better understanding of emergency management with those officials.”

“It was a very successful academy,” said **Dan Hiller**, planning supervisor for NEMA. “The agenda was set by the locals at 30 town hall meetings held across the state.”

NEMA contacted the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Public Policy

Center to help identify the topics to consider.

The topics that kept coming up in the meetings included: engaging public officials; understanding the planning process and fully understanding the disaster declaration process. The forum focused on the biggest concerns on everyone’s radar, Hiller said.

“We developed a road map for progress,” Hiller said.



NEMA’s Bob Wilhelm (right) shows that planning can be fun during a session at the 2010 Academy for Planning Initiatives in Emergency Management. Also pictured are (from left) Nikki Weber, Mardell Hergenrader and Dan Hiller.



Emergency management officials discuss planning strategies. Pictured from left are: Paul Douglas and Eric Plautz of Douglas County, Bill Meyer of NEMA, Lynn Marshall of Sarpy County, and Bill Pook and Dan Douglas of Region 5/6.

Workshop held to review investment justifications for grant funding

Representatives from emergency management offices across the state met April 6 for the 2010 Investment Justification Workshop at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln.

The group heard from **Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy** and met in small groups to review how the state will spend money from the Homeland Security Grant Program.

“We bring in all the stakeholders to determine how we will spend the money,” said NEMA’s Mardell Hergenrader. “The workshop helps assure that funding is directed where it is most needed.”

The event is held each year so local and regional representatives from across the state can provide input on prioritization and help assure that Nebraska receives full funding from the grant program.



A small group discusses the investment justification for communications.

“I felt, for me, that this was the most beneficial investment justification workshop I have attended,” said **Doug Fox** of Region 24. “I thought it went well and ran very smoothly. It was structured well and was well worth my time to be there.”

In past years the target capabili-

ties for the investment justifications were written at the workshop.

This year the investment justifications were drafted at regional Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) workshops held prior to the Investment justification Workshop.



NEMA staff members Morgan Kramer, Bob Eastwood and Jodie Fawl work the NEMA booth at the Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Family Weather Fest April 4 in Lincoln. Claire Coleman of Lincoln won an Emergency Preparedness Kit from the agency.

Communications Update

Updates to the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP) and the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) were discussed at two meetings in Lincoln March 22-23 (bottom right.)

Nebraska has nine TICPs, one each for the seven Planning, Exercise and Training (PET) regions, one for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and one for the state plan.

Representatives from the PET regions, UASI, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Department of Roads, State Patrol, National Guard, Game and Parks and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center met to discuss the plans.

“The new TICP format concentrates on technical regional information more than the previous one did,” said Bob Eastwood of NEMA. “It’s a technical manual and it allows an incident commander to put the plan on the hood of the car and know what communications assets are available to that region.

In addition, (top right) the 72nd Civil Support Team from the national Guard displayed it mobile communication center.

A Communications Leader (COML) training was also presented.

“After the training class, each participant was equipped to go back to their jurisdiction to put together a plan based on the three elements of training,” said Rod Hutt of NEMA.





The City of Scottsbluff Public Safety Building houses Region 22 Emergency Management and its new Emergency Operations Center.

New Emergency Operations Centers open in Kearney, Scottsbluff

Two new local Emergency Operations Centers have recently opened in Nebraska.

The City of Kearney and Buffalo County worked together to build a new EOC that was dedicated in February and Region 22 opened its EOC in Scottsbluff in March.

Both of the new EOCs were cooperative ventures.

“It just made a lot of sense to partner together to build one EOC for the city and the county, said Darrin Lewis, Buffalo County emergency manager. “We asked officials about what types of equipment and what features they thought were needed. We did a lot of research and talked to a lot of people.”

Lewis toured EOCs in Iowa, Mis-

souri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Buffalo County EOC includes six video monitors suspended from the ceiling and wall that doubles as a screen for projected images. A command table and six workstations with multiple computers are included in the room.

Lewis said the 1,600 square-foot room could seat 65, if needed.

The majority of the cost to outfit the new EOC with furniture, technology and communications was paid from the \$200,000 in Emergency Management Performance Grand funds the county and city received from NEMA as part of the Federal Homeland Security Re-allocation Funds.

“This is one of those facilities you

hope you never have to use but in the event we do have an emergency or disaster, it’s here for us and we’re prepared.” Lewis said.

The new EOC in Scottsbluff was included in the City of Scottsbluff’s Public Safety Building, which includes both the police and fire departments and Region 22 Emergency Management Agency.

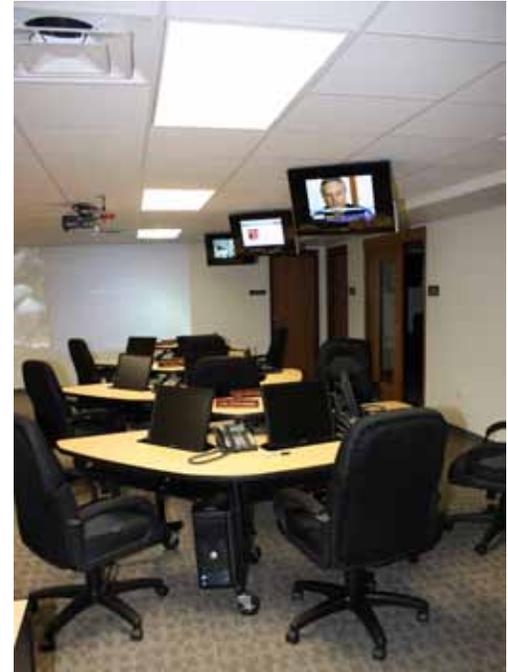
The EOC was constructed in the center of the police department and is protected with reinforced concrete.

Jerry Bretthauer, emergency manager said the arrangement will enhance communication.

“I don’t have to get information second hand,” he said. “We work together on a daily basis.”



Darrin Lewis, right, gives a tour of the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Kearney.



New work stations and monitors in the new Kearney/Buffalo County EOC.



FEMA

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR MARCH FLOODING IN 35 NEBRASKA COUNTIES

Thirty-five Nebraska counties have been declared eligible for federal disaster aid for damages from the areas struck by severe storms, ice jams, and flooding from March 6 to April 3.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis to assist in the following counties:

Antelope, Arthur, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Gage, Greeley, Hayes, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Loup, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Seward, Stanton, Thurston, Valley, Wheeler, and York.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

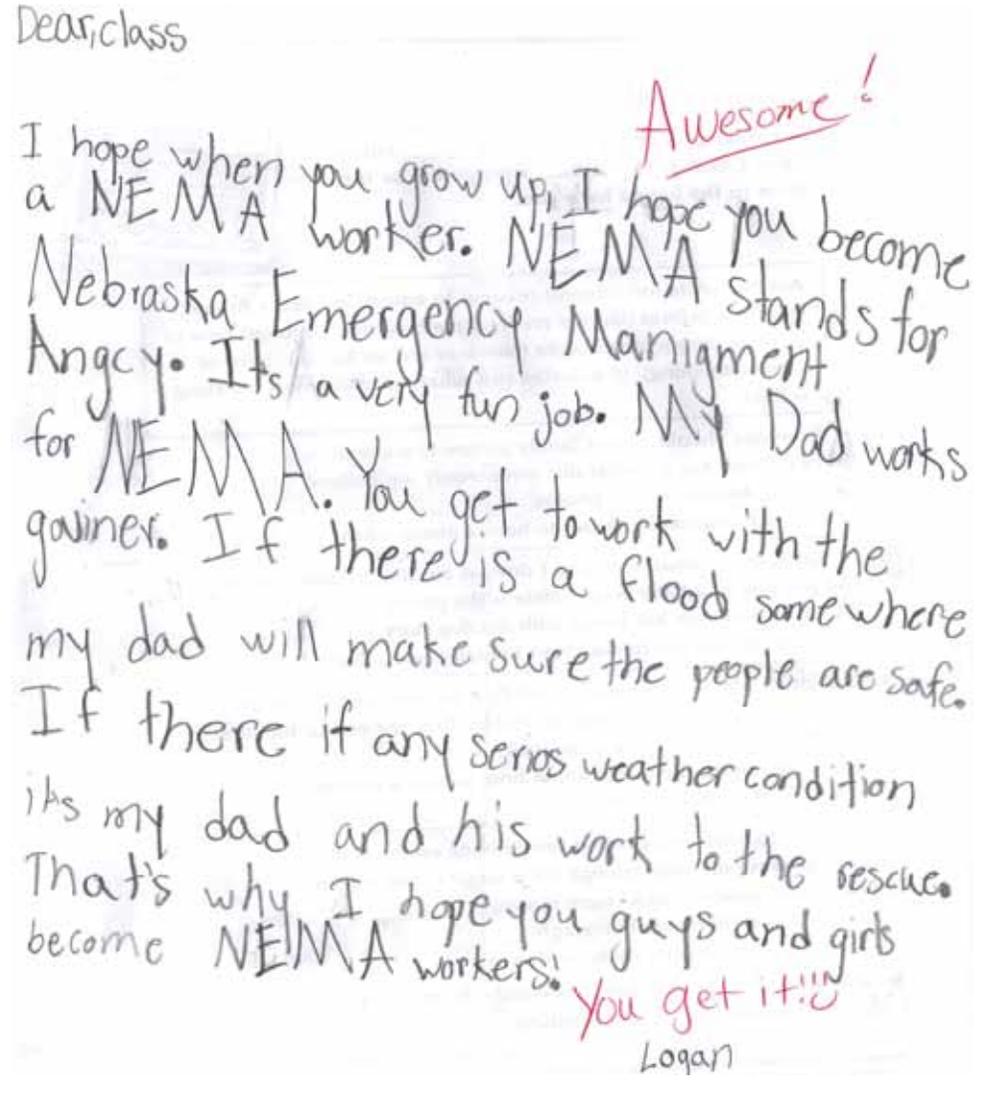
Stephen R. Thompson has been named as the federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

“Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments,” Thompson said.

NEMA Training

Course	Date	Location	Contact
TERREX 2010			
Pipeline 101	May 5	Lincoln	alisia.lamay@nebraska.gov
NIMS Compliant			
ICS 300	May 17-19	Lincoln	aaron.alward@nebraska.gov
NIMS Compliant			
ICS 400	May 17-19	Lincoln	aaron.alward@nebraska.gov
40-Hour Hazmat Technician Refresher	Aug. 16-20	Beatrice	angela.hammond@nebraska.gov

Logan Alward, 8, a third grader at Meadow Lane Elementary School in Lincoln described her dad Aaron Alward’s job at NEMA for a class assignment.



The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is charged by Nebraska statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska in terms of injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies. NEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response in any major emergency or disaster including the support of local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners.

The Beacon is published monthly by NEMA to share news about the agency and emergency management activities throughout the state. Story ideas can be forwarded to: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, NEMA, 1300 Military Road, Lincoln, NE 68508; (402) 471-7428; or jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.