

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.

The *January 2017*

Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



Military Department Employee and Supervisor of the Year Awards go to NEMA Staff Members

Above: Karen Heath, second from left, and Donny Christensen, third from left, were honored as employee and supervisor of the year, respectively, for the Nebraska Military Department. Heath is a staff assistant with NEMA and Christensen is manager of the recovery section. Also pictured are: from left, Phyllis McCown, accountant and Heath's supervisor, Bryan Tuma, assistant director, and Brig. Gen. Richard Dahlman of the Nebraska Military Department.

In addition, Chad Boshart, pictured at left with Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, was runner-up for the employee of the year award. Boshart is a GIS analyst and information technology infrastructure specialist for NEMA.



A Message from
NEMA Assistant Director
Bryan Tuma

We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska made possible through effective collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency.

Nebraska Emergency Management recently received a \$300,000 grant for countering violent extremism through training and engagement, awarded by the Department of Homeland Security. A total of 31 proposals, from various organizations in multiple communities, will receive some part of the \$10 million appropriated by Congress last year.

In Nebraska, we will use the grant to identify barriers that keep peers or family members from reporting potential signs of radicalization using a public-health approach. The countering violent extremism project will be used in rural or small to mid-sized city public health departments. In addition to identifying barriers to reporting, the program will develop strategies to address them. Other goals include increasing awareness of observable behaviors associated with the process of radicalization and enhancing the connection between state level threat assessment resources and local trusted resources receiving reports.

We feel very fortunate to receive this grant as there is currently not a public health led violent extremism prevention effort in place. Increased engagement in the community will promote increased knowledge of how to counter violent extremism and hopefully result in increased reporting. Knowing what to look for and who to report it to are good first steps toward countering violent extremism.

The funding will go for activities that include intervention, developing resilience, challenging the narrative and building capacity. NEMA was the only emergency management agency to receive a grant.

NEMA and University of Nebraska Public Policy Center will lead and manage the project. Other state participants include Nebraska State Patrol's Fusion Center, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Nebraska Department of Education. Local public health efforts are led by Two Rivers Public Health Department, which serves seven counties in rural Nebraska.

Nationwide, organizations approved for grants include local governments, universities and non-profit organizations, in locations across the country, such as Boston, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Detroit, Nebraska, Houston, Illinois, New Jersey, Texas and New York City. Among the other awardees are organizations devoted specifically to countering ISIL's recruitment efforts, and Life After Hate, an organization devoted to the rehabilitation of former neo-Nazis and other domestic extremists in this country.

In this age of self-radicalization and terrorist-inspired acts of violence, domestic-based efforts to counter violent extremism have become a homeland security imperative. The best efforts to counter violent extremism are local, tailored to a particular community.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Tuma".

Bryan Tuma
Assistant Director

Staff Notes



James Rashilla returned to NEMA as a planning specialist. Previously, he worked as an intern in the operations section. Rashilla graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a bachelor's of science in emergency management with minors in aviation and fire administration. Rashilla was recently married to Dana Slaymaker of Atkinson. He serves with the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Years of Service -- Nebraska Emergency Management staff were honored for their years of service with the state of Nebraska with ceremonies at the Capitol and at the Joint Forces Headquarters. They are:

Roger Conrad, exercise training officer, 20 years

Deb Kai, business manager, 15 years

Julie Mayers, grants unit supervisor, 15 years

Mary Baker, state hazard mitigation officer 10 years



Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, director of NEMA, presents Beth Freeman, outgoing regional administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Homeland Defense Service Ribbon from the Nebraska National Guard. She was honored for exceptionally meritorious service in her work as regional administrator for FEMA Region VII. She assisted Nebraska with coordination of federal assistance during emergencies and natural disasters.



Above: Deb Robinson of NEMA, left, and Paul Johnson of Douglas County Emergency Management participate in a discussion at the annual Threat/Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Workshop. Right: Julie Mayers, grants unit supervisor at NEMA, gives an overview of the federal grants program.



NEMA Hosts Annual Workshops

Annual workshops on Threat/Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, the State Preparedness Report and Training and Exercise Planning were held in Lincoln in October and included federal, state and local participants.

The workshops are required for the state to be eligible for homeland security grant funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and are part of an effort to determine the state's emergency management capabilities and level of preparedness.

The training workshop helped develop a multi-year training and exercise plan for the state.

Basic Academy Provides An Overview of Emergency Management in Nebraska

The essentials of emergency management were the focus of NEMA's Basic Academy held in December. The week-long class is offered twice a year.

Sessions on the history of emergency management, local and state emergency operations plans, the National Incident Management System, weather spotting, individual and public assistance, hazard mitigation, grant management, public information and social media.

The next opportunity to take the course is in North Platte in June. Watch the NEMA training calendar for details.





NEMA training and exercise unit supervisor Dave Reisen teaches ICS 300 intermediate incident command system for expanding incidents, on Jan. 23. It was followed by ICS 400 advanced ICS for command and general staff. Check out NEMA's [training calendar](#) for upcoming classes.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 27-31

It's never too soon to prepare for severe weather and Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 27-31, is a perfect time to get ready before spring storms strike.

The National Weather Service, in cooperation with the broadcast media and the local spotter system, will provide warnings.

Don't wait until an emergency siren sounds to start looking for flashlights. Make a [family preparedness kit](#) so you are prepared.

Storm spotter training hosted by the National Weather Service has been scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, March 8

7 p.m. Antelope County

Tuesday, March 21

7 p.m. Washington County

7 p.m. Madison/Pierce counties

Tuesday, March 28

7 p.m. Burt County

7 p.m. Douglas County

Thursday, March 30

7 p.m. Sarpy County

Saturday, April 1

2 p.m. Lancaster County

Tuesday, April 4

7 p.m. Dodge County

SAVE THE DATE: April 5-7

Nebraska Association of Emergency Management

Conference

Ramada Inn – Columbus

Attendee and Vendor Registration is open at:

www.naem.us



(402) 471-7421

Toll Free: (877) 297-2368

Fax: (402) 471-7433

Governor Pete Ricketts

State Homeland Security Director

Lt. Governor Mike Foley

NEMA Director

Major General Daryl Bohac

Assistant Director

Bryan Tuma

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 includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, 2433 N.W. 24th St., Lincoln NE 68524; 402-471-7428, jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.

www.nema.nebraska.gov

