

# The Region III Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III Information Source

Philadelphia, PA, December 12, 2002

## Three Senior R-3 Staff to Retire

Three senior members of the Region III team have announced their retirements. Peter G. Cote served as Deputy Regional Director for the past five years and currently is Acting Regional Director. He retires on Jan. 3. Bob Gunter, currently Special Assistant to the Regional Director for External Affairs, leaves on Dec. 28. Dave Hall, Response Operations Branch Chief, retires on Dec. 31.

### Peter G. Cote

Pete has been Deputy Regional Director of Region III since 1997. He will be retiring after more than 36 years of federal service.

Following a tour as a Peace Corps Volunteer, Pete worked for the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Social Security Administration prior to joining the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration in 1974. Since 1979, when FEMA was formed, he has served the agency in several capacities and on many disasters.

In addition to some traveling, Pete and his wife, Jan plan to devote some time to a variety of volunteer efforts. Pete also plans to become a Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE).



Bob Gunter shows a plaque commemorating his 17 years of service to FEMA. Bob is shown with Alice Woodford, Regional Director's Assistant, during a retirement party in his honor Wednesday.

### Robert J. Gunter

Bob was appointed to the newly created position of Special Assistant to the Regional Director for External Affairs in August 2002. At that time Region III launched an ambitious new program to expand and better integrate the External Affairs operations.

Bob began his 27 years of federal service with the Environmental Protection Agency. Since moving to Region III in 1984, he has served as Chief of Emergency Management National Preparedness, Director of Response and Recovery, where he lead development and implementation of the Federal Response Plan, and Director of the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division.

Bob assumed the directorship of the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division in 2001. He officially was detailed to

the new external affairs position on Aug. 26.

During his tenure, Bob served as Federal Coordinating Officer for 22 presidential disaster declarations.

### David Hall

Dave joined FEMA in April, 1988 following a year as a Department of the Army civilian employee. In the position he was senior civilian and facility manager of one of the largest joint service reserve centers.

Dave's 15 years of civilian federal service is overlapped by a 30-year military career.

His first assignment with FEMA was in National Preparedness where he was selected to serve on the National Emergency Management Team. When FEMA's emphasis switched to disaster response, Dave led the way in many initiatives that set national operational standards. Of particular importance was his work in the Federal Response Plan, Information and Planning function as well as development of the ROC and Rapid Needs Response teams.

A parallel career in the U.S. Army included twice serving as Joint Task Group Commander, Special Operations under U.S. Forces Caribbean, and active duty during Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada where he was assigned to Ambassador Gillespie's Country Team.

Seasons Greetings

- **West Virginia Unveils Emergency Medical Trailers:** West Virginia Office of Emergency Services has unveiled its Mass Triage Trailer. The trailers can be used to treat victims of weapons of mass destruction or other large-scale emergencies. Four units have been received so far with two more expected. One will be assigned to each of the state's six Regional Response Teams. "This unit will be a key piece of equipment during a WMD incident," WVOES Director Steven S. Kappa said. "Each trailer is capable of treating up to 5,000 victims." Funding was provided by a \$5.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. *For more information, call Mark Rigby at 304-558-5380.*
- **Supplemental Appropriations Announced:** The second supplemental appropriation grants for state and local emergency preparedness have been announced. The amounts for Region III are: Delaware, state and local all-hazards planning, \$275,464; Citizen Corps, \$36,611; CERT, \$155,597. District of Columbia, state and local planning, \$197,844; Citizen Corps, \$34,748; CERT, \$147,680. Maryland, state and local planning, \$1,859,744; Citizen Corps, \$74,634; CERT, \$317,194. Pennsylvania, state and local planning, \$4,251,217; Citizen Corps, \$132,029; CERT, \$561,124. Virginia, state and local planning, \$2,486,876; Citizen Corps, \$89,685; CERT, \$381,161. West Virginia, state and local planning, \$623,443; Citizen Corps, \$44,963; CERT \$191,091. The states are required to pass along 75 percent of the funds for local efforts. Each state and the District of Columbia also will receive \$50,000 for Phase I of their Emergency Operations Center assessments. *For more information, contact Karin Fairbanks at 215-931-5550.*
- **Online Help for First Responders:** Disasterhelp.gov is undergoing online testing. First responders will be able to use the site to share disaster-response-and-recovery information with each other as well as public and private organizations. Disasterhelp.gov is part of the Disaster Management Initiative, one of President Bush's top three electronic-government undertakings. FEMA looks for comments from emergency managers and first responders as well as congressional offices. Comments should be addressed to [ciad@fema.gov](mailto:ciad@fema.gov). *For further information, call FEMA Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202-646-4500.*
- **Flood Insurance Issue:** Authority to write new Flood Insurance policies will expire on Dec. 31, but that should be only a short-term situation. Applications will continue to be accepted, and there are plans to make those policies retroactive. Congress is expected to pass legislation reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program when it returns to session on Jan. 6, 2003. *For more information, call FEMA Headquarters Public Affairs at 202-646-4600.*
- **Pennsylvania Enacts Preparedness Law:** The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed its Counter-Terrorism Preparedness and Planning Act on Nov. 27. This legislation provides statewide counter-terrorism organization and preparedness, state-supported urban search and rescue, statewide mutual aid and Department of Health quarantine procedures. PEMA Director David Smith said the legislation creates the framework for the state's counter-terrorism consequence planning and preparedness program. *For more information, call John Comey at 717-651-2149*
- **Continuing Resolution Provides Funding:** Region III emergency management agencies will be receiving FEMA Emergency Management Planning funds to maintain services as a result of the Continuing Resolution enacted by Congress. These funds will enable the five states and the District of Columbia to meet operating costs essential to their missions until the federal budget for fiscal year 2003 is adopted. Under the Continuing Resolution, expenditures are limited to existing staff salaries, fringe benefits, telephones, travel, supplies and pre-approved training. Expenditures for new projects and initiatives are prohibited until final approval of the federal budget for FY 2003. Allocations are: Delaware, \$291,333; District of Columbia, \$217,168; Maryland, \$315,297; Pennsylvania, \$590,855; Virginia, \$415,389; and West Virginia, \$186,131. *For more information, call Dan Joyce at 215-931-5516.*
- **Terrorism Risk Insurance:** Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 on Nov. 19 and the President signed it into law on Nov. 26. The act provides a federal backstop for certain acts of terrorism through a temporary federal program that involves sharing the risk of loss from foreign terrorist attacks with the insurance industry. This program is designed to protect the economy from terrorist acts. Details of the program are being worked out. *For more information, call Joe Zagone at 215-931-5542.*

**More circulation:** *The Region III Report* is a vehicle for FEMA to share information with our federal, state and local partners and our full-time staff and reservists. Thank you for your comments and suggestions in our previous issues. Please send any additional email addresses or changes to [phil.clark@fema.gov](mailto:phil.clark@fema.gov). Send suggestions and story ideas to Phil Clark at [r3report@fema.gov](mailto:r3report@fema.gov).