



# The Communiqué

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## DPS Host Summerfair Open House

Summerfair 2012 saw a new location but proved to be the same great experience for all who attended. This year's Summerfair Open House was held on June 29th at the Cumberland County Public Safety Building located at 1 Public Safety Drive, Carlisle, PA. The morning started with the setup of displays and information tables from various County Special Teams and Public Safety resources. Tours of the new Public Safety Building throughout the day provided insight into the daily operations of 9-1-1 Communications and Emergency Management activities throughout the County.



Life Lion Aero-medical Helicopter landed to the rear of the facility and let those in attendance get a close-up and personal look at this advanced lifesaving resource. Visitors also got to see demonstrations by the K-9 units from the Carlisle Police Department and Summit Search and Rescue. These demonstrations allowed visitors to learn more about the important job these dogs perform including drug searches, criminal apprehension, and locating missing individuals. Also throughout the day visitors were able to receive Child ID services from the

Sheriff's Office, tour the 9-1-1 Mobile Communications Unit, learn about Railroad safety, and receive safety information from the Cumberland County Coroner's Office. Children also received free bicycle helmet fitting instructions from the American Trauma Society. Carlisle School District provided a school bus for attendees to get a first-hand interactive lesson on bus safety and the Citizens Fire Company, Citizen's Fire once again provided their smoke house for kids to practice fire drills in the home. Additional equipment displays included the Cumberland County Special Hazards Operations Team (SHOT), Carlisle Fire Rescue Services (Foam Team), Mass Casualty Incident Response Team, Animal Response Team (CART) and Alpaca display



compliments of Bent Pine Alpacas, and the County Special Response Team (tactical police). The Department of Public Safety staff would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to all who participated and attended! Without you this event would not be possible. Hope to see you again next year!!!



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## 9-1-1 Meets PEMA PSAP Requirements

We are proud to announce that our 9-1-1 center has yet again met the requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to operate as a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Every 3 years PSAPs in PA are audited by PEMA.

During the audit, representatives from PEMA review training records, continuing

education efforts, PEMA Telecommunicator certifications, Emergency Medical Dispatch certifications, National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance and ensure that at least 2% of phone calls and dispatches are being reviewed by DPS staff for quality assurance purposes. Kudos to our 9-1-1 staff for their hard work!

## DPS participates in Carlisle Barracks Exercise

By Tyler Davis— Intern— Carlisle Barracks Public Affairs Office

On a seemingly average Thursday, 11 men and women were arriving to Carlisle Barracks amid the normal traffic of students and post employees. Instead of heading to an office, they donned body armor and tactical gear, loaded weapons, and boarded a heavily armored assault vehicle. The Cumberland County Special Response Team had arrived on scene.

The simulated emergency scenario involving a Carlisle school district bus was an exercise concept developed by Post emergency planners with their counterparts in local, regional and federal law enforcement. The exercise tested the relationships and emergency plans of Carlisle Barracks and local county law enforcement entities. The end result is a keener sense of how to quickly create a tight, well communicated, working relationship in an emergency. "We are looking for upfront guidance so we can respond the correct way to real emergency situations," said Barry Farquhar Director

of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security at Carlisle Barracks.

The exercise helps to identify issues that we need to improve on and the things we are doing right." The exercise planners created a simulated situation for which all of the installation law enforcement and first responder partners would take part - from the early identification of the problem through negotiations with the 'bad guy.' In addition the simulation exercised coordination with the school district, the local hospital, and planning for how to meet the information needs of Post families. "These are the things we need to think about now," said Michele Parsons, Emergency Management Training Coordinator for Cumberland County. "We need to start communicating now so we are ready when emergency situations happen for real." Emergency planners and exercise coordinators also worked closely with Carlisle Area School District in developing and planning a response for the unlikely event of an emergency involv-

ing a district school bus. Organizations from both the Carlisle Barracks and Cumberland County supported the exercise contributing to intelligence, communications, medical assistance, relief efforts and support for the officers on the ground. "The participation of the wide span of partners was outstanding," said Elaine Leist, Deputy Garrison Commander. "That participation was the 'T' in 'Team' today."

Cumberland County Department of Public Safety staff participated along with, Special Response Team and Cumberland Goodwill EMS and Carlisle Fire and Rescue Services. Carlisle Barracks Police, Guards, Fire, CID, Crisis Management Team and Dunham Army Health Clinic participated alongside Cumberland County, the Department of Justice and the FBI. In addition to their own internal observers, a team of emergency managers from West Point, New York and Ft. Dietrick, Md., also participated in the event as evaluators. "It's very important to

stress training and the relationships with your surrounding community," said Joe Colombo, Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Safety at West Point. "This stuff isn't easy but you work very well with your partners in the area." The force protection exercise is an annual training event held on Carlisle Barracks to maintain strong communication and working relationships with the surrounding community.

Carlisle Barracks has agreements with local and county law enforcement and emergency organizations to share resources and assist each other in the event of disaster or emergency. "The most important thing is to fortify the relationship with the Barracks and the Barracks community," said Megan Silverstrim, Cumberland County Public Information Officer. "It provides open discourse in the event of emergencies where both county and Barracks resources are involved."

## Shippensburg University Exercise

Shippensburg University's (SU) normally quiet and pristine campus was anything but that on July 30th as police officers and fire apparatus swarmed into the Old Main area as employees rapidly evacuated the building. An explosion had caused major damage to a large portion of the building, and a suspect was still at large on campus. This was the exercise scenario that Shippensburg University Administration and first responders from the Shippensburg area encountered at 10am as an emergency drill unfolded.

This exercise, which took two months to plan, was a joint effort by SU Administration, the SU

Police Department and DPS staff. Shippensburg University Police (SUPD), worked with officials from Shippensburg Area EMS and the Shippensburg Fire (SFD) Department to evacuate and secure the building. SUPD worked to find and detain the suspect, while SFD evacuated patients from the building to a triage location established by Shippensburg Area EMS. During the exercise SU administrative officials were able to test various parts of their emergency plan and allow staff to become more familiar with the plan. SU also utilized this drill to further exercise the use of their SUALERT system,

which uses emails, texts, and social media notifications to connect with staff and students during urgent situations.

This drill was an excellent display of SU's commitment towards the safety of their staff and students and allowed SU officials to become more comfortable with and effectively evaluate their current emergency plan. It also provided a great opportunity to further cultivate the relationship between SU, Shippensburg emergency services personnel and DPS. Thanks to all of the participants and SU for inviting us to participate.



**C.O.W.**

Cumberland County is currently considering the addition of an additional 800 MHz radio site to help provide better coverage to areas of Middlesex Township. Since the transition of municipal police agencies to the 800 MHz OpenSky radio system in December 2005, the Middlesex Township Police Department has encountered radio difficulties in two residential areas – Country Manor and Regency Woods North. The difficulties almost exclusively are with portable radio transmissions. Police documented 676 responses alone to the two mobile home parks in 2011, making this a busy area requiring reliable radio coverage.



Starting in 2008 DPS staff began looking for ways to improve coverage to this area. Existing sites were reviewed as a means to improve coverage, without luck. Existing and proposed wireless carrier sites were looked at, as well as other structures that a site could be developed upon and not one offered improved coverage to both locations. Looking at terrain maps – a potential site location was found along Deer Lane that could provide coverage to both mobile home parks and the

surrounding area.

To ready the Deer Lane area for a potential site, Middlesex Township approved an easement for the County to place a pole in the township right of way and waived zoning requirements. With the County lacking an available 800 MHz frequency, the township also transferred an unused 800 MHz frequency to the county for use at the site should it be developed. As the potential Deer Lane site progressed, Cumberland County began the FCC mandated rebanding project. Before further pursuing Deer Lane, DPS planned to complete rebanding to determine if it would result in improvements to Middlesex Township coverage. With the completion of his project in 2011, it was determined that rebanding did not positively impact coverage and the consideration of a Deer Lane site became priority again.

With a fresh proposal from Harris Corporation to develop the site on Deer Lane, the County Commissioners requested some assurance the proposed site location would improve coverage in the troubled areas. Our office turned to the PA Office of



Public Safety Radio Services (OPRS) and Harris Corporation for assistance. OPRS agreed to provide a COW (Cell site On Wheels or portable radio tower) to use at the site and Harris Corporation offered test equipment to document radio coverage from the COW. Since the proposed site is currently on a hill along the road and it is wooded, the COW could not be located physically at the site. The property owner allowed the County to situate the COW approximately 200 yards to the north in a large parking area to the rear of their home. The COW was delivered on Wednesday July 18 and placed in service for testing on Thursday July 19. The drive test of the area by Harris Corporation took about four hours and DPS staff accompanied Middlesex Township police to a number of locations in the troubled areas for actual portable testing. The results were promising, though several other factors must be addressed before the project can proceed. The County would like to thank the Middlesex Township resident, Middlesex Township Police, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Harris Corporation for making it all happen.



**Have you registered for South Central PA's Emergency Notification System, SOUTH CENTRAL ALERT? Visit [www.sctfpa.org](http://www.sctfpa.org) and register today!**

**September– Cumberland County Preparedness Month**

For the 6th year in a row, Cumberland County Board of Commissioners have proclaimed September as Preparedness Month in Cumberland County! This proclamation is in conjunction with National Preparedness Month, an initiative that works to promote personal, home and business preparedness.

DPS staff will be providing preparedness programs to various community groups throughout the month, as well as utilize social media to spread the preparedness message. **This year DPS will also be hosting its first Disaster Chef Cook-Off. Who says you can't eat well during a disaster? Our Disaster Chef's will work to prepare a culi-**

**nary delight using only preselected non-perishable items. Chef's will also only be allowed to use a gas grill for cooking purposes, as there are no ovens, stovetops and microwaves during disasters! Their dishes will then be put to the test by our panel of judges who will crown a Cumberland County Disaster Chef 2012! Community members and first responders are invited to attend and watch the cook-off.** DPS is also asking those in attendance to bring a non-perishable canned good to be donated to a local food pantry! This exciting event will kick-off at 11am on September 14th at the Public Safety building at 1 Public Safety Drive, Carlisle.



[Disaster Chef Cook-Off 2012](#)

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## Trainer Receives National Recognition

Michele Parsons, Department of Public Safety Emergency Services Training Coordinator was recently recognized as a Bronze Level Trainer by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). To be eligible as a Bronze Level Trainer

first responders are required to become Indirect Authorized Trainers (IAT) for the CDP and complete an intense Train-the-Trainer program.

Upon completion of this program, responders return to their local jurisdictions in an effort to deliver a high standard of training to other first re-

sponders in their area. The Bronze Level IAT is awarded to trainers who deliver 10-14 courses that meet IAT Training criteria within the federal fiscal year. This is the third time Parsons has received this federal recognition! Congratulations Michele from the DPS staff!

## Don't forget to check us out online!



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[www.cumberlandcountydps.blogspot.com](http://www.cumberlandcountydps.blogspot.com)

## PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL FEATURE Summit Search and Rescue

Thirteen years ago, Terri Heck got a Valentine's Day gift from her husband Jim that would change their lives and save many!

This gift, a bloodhound named Boone, would be the beginning of Summit Search and Rescue (SSAR), and Jim and Terri's mantrailing search and rescue services. Three years later as the need for their services and the support by many police departments grew, they added a second bloodhound to their team.

Since then they have participated actively in both missing person cases and criminal investigations. The bloodhounds have successfully located several missing and endangered persons, including a three year old child missing on farm land overnight, adults threatening suicide and the elderly missing



from their place of residence. The bloodhounds have successfully trailed suspects, located evidence and determined vehicle pickup points and probable direction of travel. SSAR averages approximately 70 call-outs a year. To date they have worked with municipal and State Police along with the FBI and the US Marshalls.

Jim and Terri are presently working their third and fourth bloodhounds and hope to add a puppy in 2013. They train on a regular basis and attend seminars with their bloodhounds for increased efficiency and also provide seminars across the country to promote the mantrailing bloodhound in search & rescue and law enforcement. They are also very involved in the community and regularly presents programs to the public, including but not limited to schools, churches, scout troops and other community organizations. Lessons of safety are stressed to all age groups. An-

other important aspect of their community outreach is their involvement with the Summer Therapeutic Activities Program for at



risk kids. In total their calendar is filled with a minimum of 80 presentations a year. Jim and Terri are also actively involved in the American Bloodhound Club

where they are both certified judges and appointed to the ABC Trailing Committee and are members of the Virginia Bloodhound Search and Rescue. It is important to note that SSAR is a non-profit organization that provides their services free of charge and we are very fortunate to have them as a resource in Cumberland County! When they are not mantrailing, Jim is employed by Cumberland County and Terri is a certified veterinary technician.