

ARLINGTON COUNTY ENHANCES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POST-9/11

- The County Board approved a 17 percent increase in the Fire Department's for the 2003 Fiscal Year budget (\$3.5 million) for the following:
 - Additional emergency management staff for public preparedness
 - Conversion of two peak-time Emergency Medical Service units to full time
 - Four-person staffing for all of the engine companies (7 of 10 companies already had four-person staffing)
 - Enhanced training and equipment replacement

- Utilizing \$16 million appropriated by Congress, the following equipment is being acquired:
 - A new and upgraded mobile and portable radios for the Fire Department, Police Department, and Sheriff's Office
 - An explosive containment vessel which will handle chemical, biological, and nuclear devices
 - A Computerized paging system that will more efficiently notify personnel of critical messages
 - A Mobile command vehicle for the Fire Department and upgraded mobile command vehicle for Police Department
 - Additional emergency response equipment is in the process of being ordered

- In October 2001, the Emergency Communications Center added eight trunk lines to increase call receipt capacity.

- Arlington elected officials and senior administrative staff have participated in regional planning, including the development of the Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System (RICCS) through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

- In May 2002, the County Manager appointed a citizen task force on public preparedness to develop a comprehensive plan for the education of the public on emergency preparedness and development of mechanisms for actively communicating with and engaging the public in an emergency.

- Staff have been reassigned in the Police Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation to support emergency planning and communications.

- The County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was revised on April 1, 2002, with a second revision in progress. The revisions include the creation of a field operations center to link with the Emergency Operations Center and a threat level system.

- Since 9/11/01, the County has conducted a tabletop exercise on bio-terrorism, conducted an unannounced exercise that involved the full activation of the Emergency Operations Center, and has conducted three tabletop and two full-scale field exercises with the Pentagon; A Fire Department/EMS Captain has been assigned as a full-time liaison to the Pentagon for response planning and coordination.
- The Police Department has completed a memorandum of understanding with the Pentagon Force Protection Agency giving Arlington officers authority while on the Pentagon grounds.

ADDITIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIONS

- Additional personnel were added to the Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team (four people on each shift) and the Hazardous Materials Team (four people on each shift) in the FY 2003 budget.
- The Fire Department has updated its standard operating procedures covering the response to a chemical attack and decontamination operations.
- The Fire Department worked with the Northern Virginia Emergency Response Coalition to implement the medical command (MEDCOMM) hospital system.
- The Fire Department purchased equipment and supplies for reserve apparatus and acquired a satellite telephone.

ADDITIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIONS

- The Police Department and Sheriff's Office have issued additional items of personal protective equipment to their personnel.
- The Police Department has recently trained a police canine so that it has an explosives detection capability.
- Police Department personnel have met with various high-risk agencies and businesses throughout the County to develop evacuation plans and to evaluate their threat levels.
- Police district personnel conducted an evaluation of potential targets in their assigned area. A list of potential targets was distributed to district officers for extra patrols.
- In October 2001, a detective was assigned full-time to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. This assignment is continuing.

ADDITIONAL INTER-JURISDICTIONAL ACTIONS

- Arlington has formally signed the Virginia Statewide Mutual Aid Program.
- Arlington senior managers have participated with national professional organizations to comment on the national Homeland Security efforts.
- Arlington senior managers continue to debrief local governments and emergency personnel throughout the country on lessons learned from the Pentagon experiences.
- 25 traffic cameras have been approved for major transportation corridors to facilitate traffic management in emergency situations and evacuations.