

DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

44 Years of Service

March 2006



DERA's new Mobile Communications Center Rolls Out



See project schedule and operational details inside on page 5.

ACT NOW !
Place Your Logo
on the side of this vehicle
Deploys June 1
Contact us Today !

As a NIMS type III response vehicle outfitted with state of the art radio interoperability, public address and satellite internet capabilities, this Emergency Command and Communications vehicle is scheduled to roll out of production just in time for this year's Hurricane Season.

DERA plans to have several NIMS Type IV Mobile Communications Centers available by the peak of the 2006 Hurricane Season, as well as two air-transportable communications kits that can go anywhere in the world.

Members:
Sign Up Today
Assist your State,
Local Area or Group
In utilizing this vehicle's
capabilities
Register as a DERA
Deployment Liaison

See inside for details

Provide deployment sponsorship and get your company's logo on the side of the vehicle. Obtain Five Years worth of good will, favorable public exposure during disasters, and visibility at high profile events throughout the year. Gain exposure in the most newsworthy events of the next five years plus knowing your investment has provided substantial help to people and communities in desperate need. Request the full brochure from dera@disasters.org

Why are communications vehicles needed?

- In every recent disaster, a shortage of emergency communications has been one of the **most critical** problems facing officials and the public.
- During the hurricanes of 2005, large numbers of people died due to lack of communications.
- In 2005, many communities were without links to the outside world for days...and in some cases, weeks.
- Public safety agencies, businesses and private individuals need lifeline communications immediately following major disasters, where normal systems have been damaged, seriously disrupted, or simply overwhelmed.
- Since 1962, our organization has sent volunteer communications teams into disaster areas. In the past three years, the need has far exceeded our ability to provide the volume of service needed.
- Establishing good communications following a disaster literally magnifies the effectiveness of emergency response teams, allowing resources to be concentrated exactly where they are needed.
- Providing a lifeline of communications for the public and business community allows individuals to take care of many of their own needs, while giving local business the opportunity of getting back in business so they can quickly become part of the response and recovery solution.

DisasterCom is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

ISSN 1521-1592

Editors: Susan Sawyer and Catherine Lawhun

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

See Back Page for Membership Application

The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, International

P.O. Box 797, Longmont, CO 80502 (USA)

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News Items: editor@disasters.org

<http://www.disasters.org>

DERA International

P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502

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Partnerships & Affiliations Include



Self-Powered Emergency and Field Operations Radios



From FairNote Enterprises

FairNote Enterprises is the marketing arm for Eton and Grundig radios that caters solely to all Federal, State, local and foreign governments as well as all educational institutions, international organizations and relief agencies.

A combination of innovative technology and unique features, these emergency, high performance and field operations radios have, in a very real sense, reinvented radio by incorporating capabilities that address the needs of the modern world.

In addition to their flawless design and state of the art technology, our self-powered, all-in-one emergency and field operations radios are not only compact, sturdy and durable, they also allow people to be more secure by staying connected to the globe when emergencies arise.

These radios provide uninterrupted service no matter what the emergency, whether it be a natural disaster – when access to information, news, weather and public safety bulletins are critical; or a national emergency – when real-time information could mean the difference between life and death; or in third world countries – where establishing and maintaining a free flow of information with the local population can be a strategic necessity.

At FairNote, we pride ourselves in not only providing great products and state of the art technology, but in constantly updating our products and working with our clients to serve their specific needs.

www.FairNotelc.com
703-564-1675

DERA DoorPrize Recipient

DERA Member Dennis O'Quinn receives Crank up radio donated by Fairnote at DERA's 2006 Annual Membership meeting and Strategic Planning Session hosted in Orlando, FL. The meeting was very productive and brought out many good ideas which are now being implemented. Many Thanks to all who participated!

An invitation from

Your Editor

I am very excited about the Current Communications Vehicle project. The DERA team we have working on this vehicle, I dare say, is the best in the country. Being able to deploy a vehicle of this caliber, although costly, is at the pinnacle of necessity of our country.

I encourage you to get behind this project in whatever way you feel led to do. There are many needs and you know that you have something of value to contribute.

I invite you to give me a call to discuss your particular interest and how we might best put your talents and resources to use for this and other upcoming important projects. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Truly,

Catherine Lawhun, DERA
Disaster Operations Director
352-447-5691



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Excerpts from a

Statement for the Record

Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

On the

Appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for FY 2007

by

Michael D. Selves, CEM

First Vice President

International Association of Emergency
Managers

March 16, 2006

Hurricane Katrina has unequivocally demonstrated the need for strong emergency management programs at the federal state and local levels. As emergency management professionals, we know the only way plans, preparations and equipment can be brought to bear in a disaster is through the planning efforts - of people... people whose job it is to bring all elements of a community together to make the plans work and who will be there when the time comes to implement those plans. For this reason, we are limiting our statement to one single critical issue: We respectfully request your assistance in increasing the funding for the Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG).

Emergency Management Performance Grant

- Request the \$13,100,000 funding cut be rejected and the amount increased to \$256 million to begin addressing the shortfall.
- Request that EMPG funding be maintained in a separate account as in the FY 06 Congressional action and not combined with other grant programs.

Increase funding for EMPG.

Appropriations Committee report language referred to the program as "the backbone of the nation's emergency management system." In order to maintain this system and build the capacity required to meet the greatly increasing demands, additional investment is needed.

However, the President's Budget request for FY 2007 proposes to reduce the funding from the \$183,100,000

appropriated in FY 06 to \$170,000,000. According to a biennial study conducted by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) in 2004 there is a shortfall of \$260 million. We respectfully request that EMPG be increased \$86 million over the FY 07 request for a total of \$256,000,000 to begin addressing this shortfall.

EMPG provides people who build partnerships. The single most critically important thing EMPG funding provides is emergency management personnel at the state and local level. People are the most important investment this program makes because without them nothing else works. Emergency Management is a people process. I would like to point to my own jurisdiction - Johnson County, Kansas - as an example.

Even before Katrina, we were engaged in the process of evaluating and revising our local emergency operations plan. I can tell you that this plan truly has broad buy in and acceptance within our jurisdiction. This happened because 16 subcommittees involving more than 120 people for 8 months of effort developed the 16 annexes of our plan. Because of the extensively and intensively people-based approach of this process, all of our officials - from our elected local leadership and senior management to front-line first responders - know and accept their roles and responsibilities. This would not have happened without EMPG funding providing the personnel in my office to facilitate this process. And the end result is very important. **If we shake hands before the disaster, we won't have to point fingers afterwards.**

Emergency Management personnel at the state and local level have long involved private enterprise and faith-based groups in their inclusive, all-hazards planning process. For example, many of the state and local governments that hosted Katrina survivors fully integrated private and faith based organizations in their reception planning. These organizations' contributions ranged from providing critically needed supplies to serving as counselors and community emissaries for potential new residents of our communities.

In conclusion, we believe this program must be maintained and sustained at a level which ensures that we continue to have a strong, truly national, system of emergency management in America. I sincerely thank you for this opportunity to express our deep concerns.

Contact Michael D. Selves, CEM, IAEM
First Vice President, 913-782-3038,
mselves@jocoks.com



New Member Roster

Nicholas Sicora
Pine Bluff, AR

Merlin D. Green
Loveland, CO

Jesse M. Rohde
San Francisco, CA

Commissioner Frank A.
Nocerino
North Massapequa, NY

Melanie Collins
Takoma Park, MD

Dr Omer M. Zain
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

CW5 Larry Carey
Suwanee, GA

Sgt Jackie H. Cottongame, Jr.
Denton, TX

Manuel Diaz
Miami, FL

Thomas O'Regan
Duxbury, MA

Mark Majors
Melville, LA

Nicholas Sicora
Pine Bluff, AR

Welcome to DERA!

*It is our sincere aim to help you
achieve your professional and personal
goals*

14th Annual

Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disasters

VOAD Conference

Raleigh, North Carolina

May 9-12, 2006

www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php

\$1.1 Billion in Hurricane Relief Funds Available for Schools

March 2, 2006 -- U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Donald Powell today announced the availability of more than \$1.1 billion in hurricane relief funds to help states meet the education needs of displaced students and also restart school operations in the Gulf Coast region.

The funding, part of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act, includes \$645 million in emergency aid to help cover the education costs of displaced students in 49 states and the District of Columbia, and more than \$496 million to help the states most severely damaged reopen schools under the Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations Program.

The announcement immediately provides states with \$120 million in emergency impact aid funds to reimburse the education costs of displaced students for the first quarter of the 2005-06 school year. The remainder of the \$645 million will be provided in three payments before July 31, 2006. The funding formula is based on the number of displaced students that states reported for the first quarter. A total of 157,743 students nationwide are eligible for this first quarter funding.

Secretary Spellings and Chairman Powell also announced that more than \$496 million is immediately available to restart school operations in the states whose education communities were most severely damaged. The funds are the remainder of the \$750 million Congress provided for the Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program; to get much-needed funds to the Gulf Coast region as quickly as possible, Secretary Spellings announced \$253 million in immediate funding to these four states within days of the President signing the bill into law in December. Louisiana will receive \$345.6 million, Mississippi will receive \$122.5 million and Texas will receive \$28.2 million to aid their efforts to restart schools.

More information on the Hurricane Education Recovery Act can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/051230.html>.

The Hurricane Help for Schools Fact Sheet can be found at <http://hurricanehelpforschools.gov/030206-factsheet.html>.

Former Surgeon General Says US Woefully Unprepared for Bio Disaster

Tuesday February 28, 4:07 pm ET

WESTON, Mass., Feb. 28 /PRNewswire/ -- C. Everett Koop, MD, and former US Surgeon General, writing in the current issue of Journal of Emergency Management, says this country's disaster response and healthcare systems will be easily overwhelmed by a major bio disaster such as an avian flu pandemic.

Eliot Grigg, Joseph Rosen, MD, and Dr. Koop published an article entitled "The biological disaster challenge: Why we are least prepared for the most devastating threat and what we need to do about it" in the January/February issue of Journal of Emergency Management.

The authors contend that even though this country's recent response to natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, has been less than adequate, a bio disaster along the lines of an avian flu pandemic will be a "much more complex and potentially devastating threat." Says Dr. Koop: "a pandemic is a story that grows more complex with every new infection. It is a dynamic process that begins at one end of the world and flies to the other in a matter of hours. Unlike any other disaster, a pandemic will continue to grow exponentially until it is stopped or it burns itself out like a forest fire, but people are destroyed, not trees."

To combat this growing threat, this country over the years has developed a disaster response system that "is not very well equipped to handle a biological disaster," because, as the authors explain, "it was never designed for one." In addition, say the authors, the history of disaster response in this country "reveals a reactive culture," and it is still not clear "who is in charge of a pandemic response."

Dr. Koop and his co-authors complete their argument by explaining that "one of the reasons biological threats are potentially so devastating" is that "our healthcare system in its current state is itself a strategic liability." Therefore, continues Dr. Koop, "revolutionizing our response capabilities would necessarily involve improving our delivery of healthcare," which would "not only benefit our citizens on a daily basis but also protect America from natural pandemics and even biological terrorism."

The Journal of Emergency Management is the peer-reviewed, professional journal of record for emergency management, disaster preparedness and recovery in the US and Canada. For more information, contact:

Richard A. DeVito, Jr.

Journal of Emergency Management
781-899-2702 Ext. 107
radjr@pnpc.com



June 18-21, 2006, Metro Toronto
Convention Centre
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

www.wcdm.org

A Study in Evacuation Behavior

Transcripts available at www.emforum.org

The EIIP is pleased to host a 'live chat' presentation and interactive Q&A session on March 22, 2006, beginning at 12:00 Noon Eastern time. Our topic will be the Natural Hazards Center Quick Response Report #178, *Evacuation Behavior in Response to the Graniteville, South Carolina, Chlorine Spill*. The lessons learned from the experiences of the affected residents will help improve preparedness efforts in the future. Additionally, this research will assist in *understanding how people respond to extreme events and those factors that influence evacuation decision making*.

Our guest will be Dr. Jerry T. Mitchell who currently serves as the Director of the Center of Excellence for Geographic Education at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Mitchell co-authored this study and has previously authored more than twenty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in the field of hazards. His work has appeared in the journals Natural Hazards Review, Environmental Hazards, Social Science Quarterly, and the Annals of the Association of American Geographers.

DERA Communications Vehicles - Project Schedule and Kudos

DERA life member Dan Ritchie, K9BAL, was instrumental in locating this vehicle and negotiating its purchase. Dan and Mike Curry, KB9KVR, will do the engineering design and initial radio installations for the vehicle in West Bend, Wisconsin. In mid-May, Steve Cochrane, W7JSC, will pick up the vehicle from Dan & Mike and bring it to Denver for final radio, computer and SATCOM installation. Working with Steve in Denver on the project will be members: Dennis Fisher, Dennis Harden (KFØLF), Larry VanDyke (KBØBMP) and Jay Wilson (WØAIR). Board Member Jerry Cassidy (NOMYY) will give program guidance and technical assistance. Stefan Pollack, President of International Market Link, with providing a state-of-the-art Sound Commander intercom and public address system. Initial operational capability will be by June 1, 2006.

Many Thanks to all for your dedication and selfless service not only to DERA but to all those whose communities will be better prepared because of this vehicle's availability.

DERA partner WCARS, (the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society) maintains a similar vehicle stationed in North Carolina known as W4MOE, or the "MOE Van." This current project is an outgrowth of that communications vehicle. It is DERA's aim to assist WCARS in upgrading the MOE Van this year.

DERA plans to have several NIMS Type IV Mobile Communications Centers available by the peak of the 2006 Hurricane Season, as well as two air-transportable communications kits that can go anywhere in the world.

State Liaisons Needed



DERA needs members to volunteer as state and local liaison officers to make officials aware of our capabilities, work us into communications and logistics contingency plans, to facilitate deployments as they are needed.

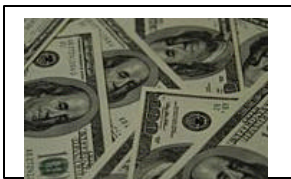
Duties would include: meetings with State officials, limited presentations, coordination with national director, planning, participation in conference calls, etc.

No professional experience required but helpful skill sets include previous disaster response work, emergency medical work, emergency communications, utility engineering, etc. Required skills include good, "professional quality" verbal and social skills, presentation skills, ability to handle written communication using email and word processing software

Position is unsalaried volunteer services with response expenses reimbursed.

All information will be provided, no lead generation required, no marketing materials production required. Sign up today at www.manywaters.org/jobs.html click on "Hot Jobs"

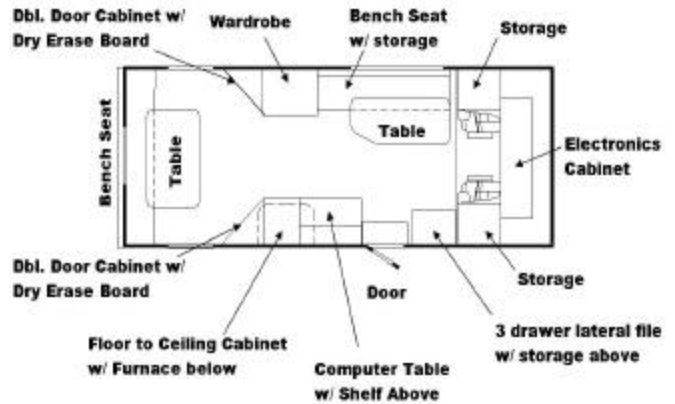
Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunity



DERA has borrowed the funds to purchase this vehicle and modify it with radio, satellite, and computer equipment. We urgently need sponsorship support to repay the loans and cover operational expenses.

Contact your business associations, response equipment providers and recovery materials manufacturers to let them know of this incredible advertising opportunity. WE have prepared a detailed brochure citing ALL the benefits of sponsorship. This really does provide a wonderful return for their advertising dollar.

Send for the full brochure today! Email dera@disasters.org



Equipment list

- This will be a NIMS Type III Mobile Communications Center
- Two MICOM 2ES HF transceivers (one voice, one data)
 - Four ICOM 706 HF-VHF-UHF Transceivers, for voice and PACTOR, PSK, and Packet systems
 - Sound Commander system from IML
 - Two FAX machines
 - One Lucent mobile PBX (telephone private branch exchange) with 4 onboard and 8 remote telephone extensions
 - One CAT Incident Command Interface unit for interoperability
 - One DirecWay mobile satellite system providing data and VoIP
 - One internet gateway server, four networked laptop computers
 - WiFi access point, and amateur HSMM 2.5GHZ access point
 - Programmable 2meter repeater
 - Ten MURS (Multi-User Radio System...business band) handheld radios for simplex radio nets
 - Part 15 AM and FM radio broadcast transmitters for public information
 - 7.5 KW gasoline generator...will later outfit a trailer with 15KW diesel generator and antenna tower



Preliminary Observations on the Evacuation of Hospitals and Nursing Homes

The following are excerpts from the Government Accounting Office (GAO) report GAO-06-443R. The full report will be available at no charge on GAO's Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were incidents of national significance that highlighted the challenges involved in evacuating vulnerable populations, including those in hospitals and nursing homes. Federal officials used the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) to help evacuate patients due to Hurricane Katrina—the first time the system has been used to evacuate such a large number of patients. Formed in 1984, NDMS is a partnership among the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

NDMS consists of three functions: •medical response, which includes health assessments, health care, equipment, supplies, and other services at the site of an incident; •patient evacuation, which includes communication and transportation to evacuate patients from a mobilization center near the incident, such as an airport, to reception facilities; and •“definitive care”, which includes medical treatment beyond emergency care provided upon inpatient admission to an NDMS treatment facility (typically a nonfederal hospital that has signed an agreement with NDMS).•Within NDMS, DHS has lead responsibility for medical response; DOD has lead responsibility for patient evacuation; and DOD and VA have lead responsibility for managing “definitive care.”

Hospitals and nursing homes are required to have emergency plans in place. •The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires hospitals and nursing homes that receive Medicare or Medicaid payments to maintain emergency plans. •The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations requires that hospitals and nursing homes it accredits maintain emergency plans that include processes for evacuations. •For our purposes, evacuation refers to moving all patients out of a hospital or nursing home to another location.

Hospital and nursing home administrators often have the responsibility for deciding whether to evacuate their patients or to shelter in place during a disaster. •State and local governments can order evacuations of the population or segments of the population during emergencies, but health care facilities may be exempt from these orders. Administrators told us that they evacuate only as a last resort and that facilities' emergency plans are designed primarily to shelter in place. •Officials from two Florida counties told us that they can recommend that hospitals and nursing homes evacuate their facilities, but the final decision is made by the hospital or nursing home administrator.

NDMS, a federal system, is designed to evacuate patients who need medical care from an area near the incident site to reception areas where they can receive continuing medical care. •Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were the first times that officials used NDMS to evacuate such a large number of patients—moving them to patient reception areas in the southern United States. •VA and DOD officials estimate that NDMS reception areas received about 2,900 people due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. •Officials told us that the total number of patients evacuated is unknown because patients may be evacuated by means other than NDMS, including private, local, or state resources. •NDMS has agreements with nonfederal hospitals to receive evacuated patients, but does not have agreements with nursing homes. Federal officials told us that NDMS was not set up nor is it currently configured to provide assistance evacuating nursing homes.

Preliminary Observations and Next Steps

• Hospital and nursing home administrators often have the responsibility to decide whether to evacuate their facilities, and must weigh the potential risks. •The federal government can assist hospitals with patient evacuations using NDMS, but the system does not address nursing home needs. •We are completing our work to assess the evacuation of hospital and nursing home patients and to examine the vulnerabilities of nursing homes in future disasters. •We expect to complete our work in the summer of 2006.

Humane Society Rescue and Response Efforts after Hurricane Katrina

By Marc Plante

Following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, hundreds of Federal, State, and Local agencies responded to the disaster along the Gulf Coast. One population that did not receive much attention was Katrina's smallest and most helpless victims, family pets and animals. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), in conjunction with numerous associations, Federal agencies, and the American Red Cross developed and coordinated a three prong response to this situation. This included immediate care, the ongoing response, and long term planning for future disasters.

HSUS members were immediately deployed with the United States Disaster Animal Response Team (DART). They were on the ground within days providing damage assessments, conducting search & rescue operations, and initiating emergency care. Two shelters were setup to handle the influx of displaced and injured animals. The Forrest County Multipurpose Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and the Lamar-Dixon Expo in Gonzales, LA were quickly converted into emergency animal shelters. With the help from nearly 1,500 volunteers, these shelters were able to rescue and reunite over 2,200 animals.

After the initial response it became evident that the response and recovery effort would continue for an extended period of time. HSUS established several funds and programs to support the states and localities with their needs. The Katrina Shelter Reconstruction Fund was created to assist the localities with their primary mission, the reconstruction of their shelters. The Pet Wellness Program and the Pet Reunification Fund were also established to provide reimbursement to local shelters for expenses incurred treating and reuniting affected animals. Other grant programs were established to handle heartworm treatments, and spay and neuter programs to begin dealing with the long term issues in the area.

Two long term issues were identified by HSUS: staffing and planning. A determination was made that the USHS staff needed to be increased. HSUS also created the HSUS Disaster Services section to better plan for and respond to future incidents. HSUS is also working with members of Congress to pass the Pets Evacuation and Transportation

Standards Act (PETS), which would require state and local emergency managers to begin including plans for people with pets and service animals to safely evacuate with their pets.

With a budget totaling over \$20 million, the three pronged response and recovery plan executed by HSUS and other organizations allowed for the rescue of over 15,000 dogs, cats, horses, livestock, and other animals. Hopefully, the lessons learned during this disaster will be incorporated into future plans to allow us to be better prepared when the next disaster strikes.

SALVATION ARMY RESPONDS to MIDWEST TORNADOES

Monday, March 13, 2006



Salvation Army emergency disaster services (EDS) personnel responded after a series of tornadoes ripped through the Midwest this weekend killing at least 10 people in Missouri and leaving destruction across Kansas and Illinois. Storms continue to threaten today and The Salvation Army is prepared to respond as needed.

In Springfield, Ill., The Salvation Army has dispatched a relief team to conduct a needs assessment after storms injured 19 people, forced the closing of most major roads and caused structural damage throughout the city. Four additional Salvation Army EDS units are on stand-by as severe storms continue to plague the area.

Lawrence received the brunt of the storms™ destruction in Kansas, including damaging about 60 percent of the buildings on the University of Kansas campus. The Salvation Army corps and community center (center for worship and service) also was damaged by the storm and was without power for more than 20 hours. Salvation Army personnel continue to provide cold beverages to utility workers who are tirelessly working to restore electrical power to the city.

Missouri was hardest hit by the violent storms. At least 10 people were killed as the storms marched through the area and many homes, including a stretch along a 20-mile path south of St. Louis, were destroyed. The Salvation Army has emergency disaster services vehicles (canteens) stationed in Springfield, Clover and St. Mary, Mo., one of the hardest-hit towns. In addition, Salvation Army canteens and EDS personnel are serving in Pettis and Randolph counties.

We are actively working in affected areas and meeting needs by utilizing our canteens and local volunteers, said Jim Shiels, who is coordinating The Salvation Army's emergency disaster relief effort in Missouri. Our assessment teams are talking to people and figuring out how we can assist in meeting long-term needs.



Members of the VU4 DXpedition team (L-R): Sarath Babu, VU3RSB; Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI; S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH; D. Varun Sastry, VU3DVS, and D.N. Prasad, VU2DBF.

On behalf of NIAR and its members, VU4 Dxpediton team would like to thank DERA for proposing the name of NIAR for the ARRL Humanitarian Award.

DERA has always been supporting our activities and we hope we could do more successful activities in the future.

***Regards,
Mohan***

ARRL International Humanitarian Award

The Board named members of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands VU4RBI/VU4NRO DXpedition team to receive the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award: Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI; D.N. Prasad, VU2DBP; S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH; R. Sarath Babu, VU3RSB, and D. Varun Sastry, VU3DVS.

The International Humanitarian Award recognizes "truly outstanding Amateur

Radio operators in areas of international humanitarianism and the furtherance of peace."

Following years of planning and patience, the DXpedition team, sponsored by the National Institute of Amateur Radio, secured permission to operate from the remote Andamans. The Indian government had not permitted any amateur operation from VU4 since 1987, and final approval came just two weeks before the scheduled December 2004 operation.

As the Amateur Radio community now knows, the earthquake and resulting tsunami that devastated South Asia coastal areas swiftly shifted the role of the DX operation, headquartered in Port Blair, into an emergency communication link with the Indian mainland.

"The group's immediate actions and their use of Amateur Radio to render assistance to victims of the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami while on location in the Andaman Islands are in the highest tradition of Amateur Radio," the ARRL Board's resolution said.

During the emergency operation in the tsunami's wake, local authorities on the Andamans sought the team's help in handling a wide range of communications under very trying conditions, earning the praise and appreciation of the Indian government.

The winners of the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award will receive an engraved plaque.

National Institute of Amateur Radio

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India

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email: niarhamfest@gmail.com

HAMFEST (VU4) INDIA - 2006

Port Blair,
Andaman and Nicobar Islands
April 18-20, 2006

Venue

**Science Centre,
Goodwill Estate,
Corbyn's Cove Road, Port
Blair.**

Phone : +91 3192 229034

Professional Affiliation
Membership Application



Name: _____ Title: _____
Organization: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____
Country, if not USA or Canada: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ Radio Callsign: _____

Please Select Membership Classification
Enclose Check, Purchase Order, or Charge Card Authorization for Dues

Professional / Technical / Academic
\$50.00 per year
\$25.00 for Volunteer, Student, Retired

Nonprofit Organizations
\$75.00 per year

Executive / Management
\$75.00 per year

Governmental Agency
\$95.00 per year

Lifetime Individual
\$450.00

Business Membership
\$125.00 per year

Amounts are in U.S. Dollars. Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank. Add \$5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or \$20 for Global Priority Mail. Rates good for 2005-2006.

CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

I authorize DERA to charge the following account for membership dues as marked above:

Please Check: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover Purchase Order Attached

Card Number: Expires: _____ / _____
Month Year

Authorized Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

03-06

Did a member refer you for membership?

Name of Member: _____

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

DERA - Membership
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502-0797