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The REACTer

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dick Cooper



Even though it's belated, I want to welcome everyone to 2007. I wonder

how many of you kept with tradition and made some New Year's Resolutions. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines the word 'resolution' as mending or changing your ways. Normally people will think of something about themselves that they want to change and resolve to change it. These resolutions or changes may concern smoking, eating, driving too fast, changing jobs or professions, saving more money or many other things. I would challenge *REACT* Teams to make some resolutions concerning their Team. Every Team can make some resolutions that will improve the Team in some way. These resolutions or changes may be about working with local emergency management and other agencies or they may be about getting more involved with the police department or elsewhere in the local community and get more members. Whatever the resolutions are, set a timeline and determine member(s) who will be responsible to see that the changes are done. Making resolutions on the Team level allows members to look at various things that they would like to change for the benefit of their Team and *REACT* International.

The beginning of 2007 isn't just about making personal or Team resolutions for the new year. We must all remember that 2007 is also the 45th anniversary of *REACT* (article on page 5 of the November-December *REACTer*). This is a perfect opportunity for Teams to do some membership recruitment any time that they are in contact with the public. Have *REACT* literature that has contact information for your Team and tells a little about what your Teams does. As Norman has pointed out in a separate article, *REACTers* are getting older and there don't seem to be enough young *REACTers* coming in. Let's all work to change that trend so that *REACT* will continue well into the future.

Speaking of the future, did you ever think of the fact that the future and success *REACT* and any similar organization rests mostly on its members? This is true whether you are talking about the local, state or national level. There are many dedicated *REACT* members that are devoting their time and money toward the betterment of *REACT* on all three levels of *REACT* mentioned above. Most members chose to remain active in their local Teams and promote *REACT's* purposes and goals on a local level through various events, training sessions, etc. Others chose to become active in the state and national level. The trouble is that there aren't enough members who want to participate and be active in the national level – that is on the RI Board of Directors or on one of the various and extremely im-

portant committees for *REACT* International.

The board is faced with some difficult decisions regarding the future of this organization. At the time of this writing I can only speculate that the Annual Meeting of the RI Board of Directors on March 9-10 will yield some interesting discussion on some very important topics, especially the future of *REACT*.

In the past several issues of the *REACTer* you have read articles from Norman Kaplan and Ed Greany on various topics. I would encourage everyone to help Norman and Ed with their suggestions in their various articles. Norman asks that Teams submit monitoring information, not on a monthly basis but on an annual basis. Ed asks that Team members look around them and look for someone who can work on a committee for RI. The RI board knows that there are many people that have the qualifications to work on a committee but they have to let Ed know that they are interested and be willing to help RI. Imagine what the US government would be without "committees" like Homeland Security, Agriculture, Ways and Means, Judiciary, Small Business and many others. Currently RI is operating without any members for most of our committees. Although we have struggled without functional committees for quite a while, we could be a much better organization if these committees were alive and well with working members.

Happy 45th. Thank you

From Headquarters

By Norman Kaplan



January 31: Headquarters has received 105 Team renewals out of 242 Teams at the end of 2006. Three Teams have sent paperwork saying that they have folded and one Team has merged with another. This puts us 15 Team renewals behind last year, and the office has processed all the renewals received. Several Team renewal cards will be in today's mail. The following Teams have 100% renewal: Alabama: 6030, Arizona: C-320, California: 6125, C-059, 4054, C-069, C-412, Georgia: 4623, Idaho: 4956, Illinois: 4815, 2125, 4987, C-345, 3310, Indiana: C-296, 3330, C-292, Maryland: 4650, 4816, Michigan: 3880, Minnesota: 3791, 2538, Mississippi: 6114, North Carolina: 2651, New Hampshire: 4105, New Jersey: 4738, C-242, New York: 4552, 6024, C-576, Ohio: 2418, 4995, Oklahoma: 3232, Oregon: 4397, Pennsylvania: C-445, 3522, 3521, Philippines: 6061, 6118, Puerto Rico: 4566, South Carolina: C-614, South Dakota: 4736, Texas: C-446, Virginia: 2148, Washington: 4784, Wisconsin: 4364, 6116, 4755, and Canada: 2627, 6124,

4270, 2114. Headquarters congratulates all these Teams.

For next year, please write legibly. It is very difficult to read some of the handwriting and if we have to guess, we may guess wrong. When the cards go out, an Annual Monitoring Report form is sent. The office uses this form to report *REACT*'s work over the past year. Obviously, the number of calls taken and hours monitored are key. Community events worked and disasters worked, are used to determine which grants *REACT* can apply for. Groups that Teams work with show the community involvement of the Teams. Training is key to availability of Team members for use at large scale disasters. Department of Homeland Security training requirements go from IS-100 and IS-700 at December 31, 2006, to IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 at the end of December 2007. When you get the certificate, please make a copy and send the copy to Headquarters, 5210 Auth Rd., Ste 403, Suitland, Md., 20746.

Please send any address, telephone and e-mail changes to Headquarters at the above address. Each returned *REACT*er costs \$0.75. The cost is small for an individual *REACT*er returned, but it all adds up as people move and don't send their address changes to Headquarters. Occasionally, we need to get information out to the members in an expedited manner. E-mail is sent to each Team and member for which we have an e-mail address. The last time we needed to get information out,

about a third of the e-mails were returned for invalid addresses. Regular mail is sent out to the Teams with the information. We depend on the Teams to get the information to their members. On occasion, we need to contact individuals, in this case having the members work and home telephone numbers makes this easy. Please note, no address, telephone number or e-mail address is ever given out to non-officers. If someone needs to contact you through Headquarters, their information is collected and you are contacted with the request. It is your responsibility to get in contact with that person. The only contact information given is at the Team level and only with the Team's permission.

Each Team needs at least one telephone number for contact by Headquarters. The Team may request that the telephone number not be given out.

CALENDAR

Spring – 2007

- All Year: *REACT*'s 45th Anniversary
- March 9-10 RI Board meeting
- April 5: Deadline for May-June, 2007, *REACT*er.
- May: *REACT* Month

Let us know about any 45th anniversary plans your Team is working on or has completed.

Here We Are: Great Lakes *REACT*

Rufus Kilpatrick
Great Lakes *REACT*



Brandon Delly Unit 27, is ready to lead motorcycles onto the road from a fuel stop

You asked to hear from us, so here we are! (*See letter of thanks, p. 15-16 January-February REACTer*) We were very interested to see a letter of appreciation in the last issue of the *REACTer*. As a matter of routine, everyone we assist receives a business card with our Team name, address and a phone number that is live 24/7. If Mr. Slater did not receive a business card, it was only because the opportunity to give him one was superseded by concern for Team members and motorist safety. Our priority is and will always be safety.

Great Lakes *REACT*, Inc. Team 6068 in Cleveland, Ohio, has been chartered since 2002. Our Team members gather almost every Saturday night to patrol the interstates in the Greater Cleveland area for crashes, disabled vehicles, emergency scenes, and those members of our community or police, fire and EMS personnel that might need our assistance. On average, we assist at about 5 or so emergency and other incidents per patrol night, which translates to over 200 assists per year. Our vehicles are required by our Team policy to be presentable and clearly marked, and required to have sufficient lighting to warn other traffic of an incident (although sometimes all the lighting in the catalog is not enough).

Our members also work together to make the events we support more fun for the participants. Some of them include the Buzzard Pancake Breakfast in March (We support our neighbors, Medina County *REACT* C-187 for this one), Rally for the Troops at the end of April, Firefight-

ers Memorial Ride at the end of May. We again support Medina County *REACT* at the end of August for the Valley City Street Fair. We get invited annually to assist the Village of Linndale, Ohio with their annual Clam Bake and Party.

In September each year we are honored to be asked to support the 911 Run, and in October comes the Jim Mantel Ride for St. Jude. New this year will be a bike run to Tennessee to deliver the donations raised for St. Jude directly to the Hospital.

Through the efforts of the Ohio *REACT* Council, Office of Mutual Aid and Logistics, directed by Jason Boone, we draw on assistance from other Teams in our area; Medina County *REACT*, Multi-County *REACT* Response C-260, Chagrin Valley *REACT* 4995 & Flag City *REACT* 6101 to make our events possible.



Escort Team - 2006 911 Run - At the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel in Shanksville, PA Front Row Left to Right: Rachael Sebastian, Kellee Sweeney (Rider), Brandon Delly, Brian Kruszewski, Kim Jenkins (Rider). Back Row Left to Right: Bill Sebastian, Rufus Kilpatrick, Joe Sapara, Matt Boudreaux, Multi County *REACT*

Our responsibilities vary, and often include parking control,

event security, monitoring communications, traffic control and sometimes everything at once.

Large events such as the 911 run are done in support of the New Century Harley Owners Group Chapter 1892 from Medina, Ohio. This large group, lead by their President, Angelo Carile, is active in charity fund

raising throughout the year, and we are proud that they call on us to provide full traffic control and escort for their motorcycle runs. We have been to the United Flight 93 Crash Site and Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon.

This year plans are being put together for a trip to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for our annual

911 Run. These large interstate motorcycle escorts could not have been put together without the generous support of other Teams, especially Dave Perry from Baltimore Metro *REACT* and United Valley *REACT* 2141. For more information about Great Lakes *REACT*, see: www.greatlakesreact.com

In Recognition of Long Term Members

By Norman Kaplan

This is the second article listing long term members. In recognition for their long service, I will be listing their names and Teams in a series of articles tending toward the current year. The information is from the current *REACT* database and may not be complete since it was developed in the 1990 from then current Team information. A member may not be listed after leaving *REACT* and then returning to the same Team after two years, forming a new Team or joining a different Team after one year. The member's starting date can be reset for any of these reasons and any other reason. In this case, please let *REACT* International, Inc., know so we can reset the database with your correct starting date. Of course, the fact that members have been around for more than 20 years indicates that their Teams have been around for many years. Each of these Teams should be congratulated for longevity. As always, I would like to see articles on how they have managed to last. The second set of members following their starting year:

1972:

Lester Purviance, Spencer County *REACT*
Glenn Davies, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area
Edward C. Pace, Prince George's County
REACT
M. Janice Bollschweiler, Poway Valley *REACT*
Gary E. Bollschweiler, Poway Valley *REACT*
R. C. Tyler, Rose City Windsor *REACT*
Erma Purviance, Spencer County *REACT*
Kevin Parrish, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area
Jimmy Chong, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area
William G. Stewart, Superstition *REACT*

Albert J. Moccia Jr., Lower Pinellas *REACT* or
Dixie *REACT*
Morris Dassa, Reli *REACT*
Selma Dassa, Reli *REACT*

1973:

Robert E Huneycutt, Northern Virginia *REACT*
Don Hays, Peoria-Pekin Metro *REACT*

Roger McCollough, Southwestern *REACT* of
San Diego
Sandra T. Moccia, Lower Pinellas *REACT* or
Dixie *REACT*
Elmer G Compton, Clinch Valley *REACT*
William E. Ellis Jr., Dallas County *REACT*
James R. Endicott, Marin Co *REACT* Rescue
Squad
David A. Carpenter, *REACT* of Greater Long
Beach
Jerry Freeman, Pulaski County *REACT*
Gerald W. Jones, Dallas County *REACT*

1974:

Sue Currie, Louisville METRO-*REACT*
Don Owens, Westchester County *REACT*
June McCollough, Southwestern *REACT* of San
Diego
Jane Gasaway, Spencer County *REACT*
Paul W. Jones, Unattached Life Member
Robert K. Schuler, Garden State *REACT*
Ruth Purviance, Spencer County *REACT*

Russell Willis, Madison County *REACT*
 Jerry Parker, Madison County *REACT*
 Andrew J. Plym, St. Joseph Valley *REACT*
 James Henderson, Federal City *REACT*
 Elaine Larson, So Mn Albert Lea *REACT*
 Larry W. Childers, McDowell County *REACT*
 Team
 Carolyn I. Childers, McDowell County *REACT*
 Team
 Lee W. Besing, Hill Country *REACT*

1975:

Tom Currie, Louisville METRO-*REACT*
 Dolores H. Wilson, Charleston *REACT*
 Emergency Team
 Robert L. Wilson, Charleston *REACT*
 Emergency Team
 Terry W. Allen, Dallas County *REACT*
 Steven Dassa, Reli *REACT*
 Bernard J. Parker, Dallas County *REACT*
 William R. Simmons, Unattached Life Member
 James H. LeVesconte, City *REACT*-Calgary
 2627
 Kirk Walker, Waterloo Regional *REACT*
 Audrey Simmons, Unattached Life Member
 Lester Chew, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area
 Robert A. Andreae, Northern Virginia *REACT*
 James Morrella, Westchester County *REACT*
 Joseph Lampariello, Reli *REACT*
 Charles G. Dillon, Spencer County *REACT*
 Chuck Morin, Southwestern *REACT* of San
 Diego
 Fred J. Lanshe, Lema *REACT* Team
 J. S. Granducci II, Unattached Life Member
 Loretta Garner, Porterville *REACT* Team
 Elnora Patterson, Porterville *REACT* Team
 Marge Freeman, Pulaski County *REACT*
 Harold Don Perry, Salem Area *REACT*
 David P. Boone, Medina County *REACT*
 Richard A. Munton, Unattached Life Member
 Ronald Chuven, Unattached Life Member
 Barbara Chuven Maryn, Unattached
 Life Member

1976:

Connie Vanaman, Pulaski County *REACT*
 Larry L. Jacob, Dodge County *REACT*
 William Ellis, Johnston County *REACT*
 Marvin L. Cappen, Dodge County *REACT*

William L. Shafer, Ossipee Valley *REACT* Team
 Dottie Thomas, Circle City *REACT*
 Bette Dolson, Hamilton-Mercer *REACT*
 Robert Hulse, Tri County *REACT*
 Dan Vanaman, Pulaski County *REACT*
 Robert Morgan, Circle City *REACT*
 Joe Spinosa, Nassau County *REACT*
 Paul W. Oby, Ramsey County *REACT*
 Janet Hartwick, Pulaski County *REACT*
 Pete Allen, Oklahoma County *REACT*
 Dave Thomas, Circle City *REACT*
 Russ Grudier, Coshocton County *REACT*
 Thelma Shortt, Clinch Valley *REACT*
 Mable Purcell, Valley Forge Area *REACT*
 Elsie Afflerbach, Lema *REACT*
 Jack Afflerbach, Lema *REACT*
 Scott Apgar, Lema *REACT*
 Robert Lang, Nashua *REACT*
 James McCurdy, Coshocton County *REACT*
 Dave Raegler, United Valley *REACT*
 Ernie Sotirake, United Valley *REACT*
 James B. King, Mark Twain *REACT*
 Dixie L. Banks, Mark Twain *REACT*
 Charles A. Thompson, Dallas County *REACT*
 George R. Prairie, Nashua *REACT*
 John Kessler, Great River *REACT*
 Don Piechura, Unattached Life Member
 Joyce M. Whitt, Medina County *REACT*
 Jim Shewbridge, St. Mary's County *REACT*
 Charles F. Jackson Jr., Charleston *REACT*
 Emergency Team
 Emily Bragg, Christmas City *REACT*
 Robert Bragg, Christmas City *REACT*
 John F. Armstrong, Coshocton County *REACT*
 Thomas E. Purcell Jr., Valley Forge Area
REACT

To all of our long term members a hardy and heartfelt thank you. To those listed above a special vote of appreciation for your support.

Norman Kaplan

In last month's article, we left off the name of Bob Leef who writes that he joined REACT in 1966. In his 40+ years of service he has been a member of six Teams – which is probably why the computer didn't recognize him. But the rest of us do, Bob. And thanks. Ed

REACT News: Teams and Team Members

Heartland REACT, Inc.

By Jerilyn M. Buresh,
Heartland REACT Public Information Officer

In the pre-dawn hours of a cold October 28, 2006, over 400 people from the Omaha, Nebraska area gathered at Rosenblatt Baseball Stadium for Nebraska's largest disaster drill ever. This year's drill was coordinated by the Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative, which is made up of Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington counties. Among those gathered, were over 20 member of Heartland REACT, Inc. The Omaha based chapter of REACT serves Sarpy, Douglas and Saunders Counties in Nebraska.

This year's drill, called Operation Triple Play, focused on a three-pronged attack in the Omaha area. The main attack involved suicide bombers during a baseball game occurring at Rosenblatt Stadium (home of the College World Series). REACT's primary involvement focused on providing communication between the city buses, which were being used to transport the sick and injured to area hospitals, and emergency management coordinators.

Kevin Grimes, served as Team Operations Director for the drill. Kevin has been with REACT since February 2005 and was directing many members who were in their first year on the Team. When asked about the success of REACT's involvement, Kevin said, "We, have the advantage of having an excellent recruit training program. The individuals administering this program are dedicated and hard-working people. The curriculum is progressive and well-paced. Recruits are instilled with the 'team' attitude from day one and I feel this single thing contributes more to the organization than anything else."

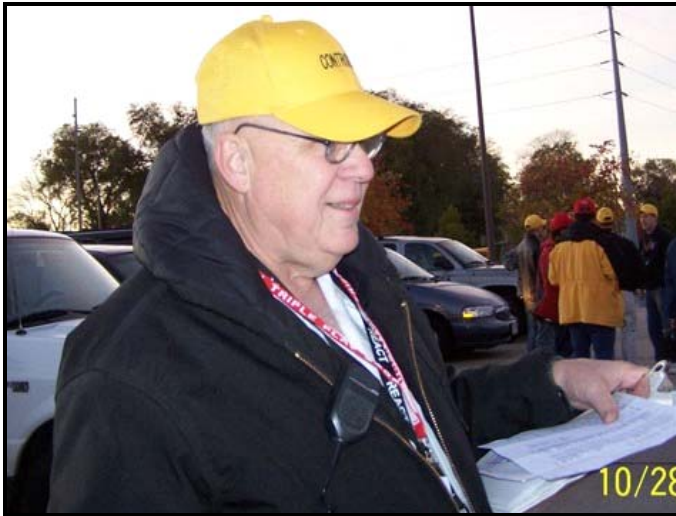
Larry Christian is in his first year with the Team. He said, "It was good to see how [all the different organizations involved] work together, in spite of some confusion. I felt we were depended upon for

information. We're 'just volunteers' but they relied heavily on us."

As with any drill, short-comings were also brought to our attention. The biggest failure was the inability for some REACT radios to hit the repeater through the metal buses. Kevin observed, "We were operating on UHF, 462.700+. OMMRS (Omaha Medical Response System) control was using the 800Mhz system." It appeared that those on the 800Mhz system had fewer problems communicating. It has been discussed that all Metro Buses be equipped with 800Mhz radios and have training programs for the bus drivers. To assist with the UHF frequency, Kevin pointed out that obtaining another repeater and a communications trailer would aid REACT greatly in our ability to provide our service to the community.

There has been great debate over last year's allocation of Homeland Security funds. Many have argued that cities like Omaha aren't large enough targets to 'earn' the funding they were granted this year. Anyone involved in this drill would tell you that, although Omaha is prepared, there is always room for improvement. It has also been shown that cities, like Omaha, who provided a more detailed financial plan for their funding were granted a larger sum.

One of the projects receiving federal funding is OMMRS. OMMRS was developed to respond to large-scale disasters in the Omaha Metro Area. REACT participates with OMMRS as part of the Communications Systems. Jack Griffey, President of Heartland REACT, Inc., offered some insight. "The Communications Committee recommended to the OMMRS Steering Committee that a complete (HAM) radio station be installed in each of the Metro Area hospitals. The stations consisted of 2 meter, 6 meter, HF equipment and a PACKET system. We ended up with 11 fully equipped hospitals." This includes some hospitals outside of, but still close to the Omaha Metro. If it were not for the federal grants provided, this important communication system would have never been developed.



Jack Griffey, Heartland REACT, Inc. President.
Photo by Judy Rowley

San Angelo at Christmas

David Behrend

Members of San Angelo (Tex.) REACT, Inc. (SARI) – Team 3387 – worked the 13th annual Concho Christmas Celebration in San Angelo. The celebration takes place along the Concho River, historic Concho Street in downtown and ends at the El Paseo de Santa Angela. It normally runs from the first Friday of December thru New Year's Day and included all 31 days this year.

The celebration is funded by a *suggested* \$4.00 donation per vehicle, individual donations and corporate sponsorships. Sponsorships or donations over a certain amount will get the donor a large "Christmas card" that is placed along the route. This year the celebration finally obtained the final display to complete the "12 Days of Christmas."

Each year the celebration is put together with a variety of people. A board of volunteers and civic leaders work on ideas to make it better each year. Trustees from a nearby minimum security prison camp each year work on fixing the lights during the off-season, putting them up and then take them down each year. There are several paid staff members who have regular duties not related to the celebration during the year, but also coordinate the celebration.

SARI members started around 4:30 p.m. each afternoon turning on nearly 4 million lights, setting

up barricades along the river portion, setting up the welcome booth, setting up and instructing the volunteer greeters, collecting and counting the donations, making the deposit at the end of the evening and finally turning off all the lights and taking down the barricades at the end of each day – 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and Midnight on Friday and Saturday. On New Year's Eve, the lights are left on all night and turned off on New Year's morning.



SARI maintains a mobile command and communications vehicle (above) and used it to coordinate the daily activities at the celebration. From the van, meals were served each evening for the SARI members and police officers working the event as well as a place to get out of the elements when it is cold or wet. While all of this was going on, the City of San Angelo experienced a break in a 27 inch water main that served the highest population area and a large number of businesses. Due to other problems in the city, a majority of residents and numerous businesses had little or no water for several days right before Christmas. The city had requested at least our van be on standby to serve as a command post at the site of the break. A local recreational vehicle dealer was contacted and offered his help with a small RV to serve in place of the van. He has also offered his help as we are looking for a vehicle to replace our aging van.

Eight members put in over 1500 man-hours this year. For our help, a generous donation was made to our Team.

REACT Negor 6118 Forms Part of Task Force Cebu in Twelfth Asian Summit

Audie Michael Litrada



A pause in front of city Hall

Two operatives of REACT Negor and four other volunteers headed by Eng. Bon Mark Uy, Team president, crossed from island of Negros to Cebu worked on the Twelfth Asian Summit held in Cebu City, Philippines January 10 – 15, 2007.



Security policeman received food rations

The group served as communication auxiliary and at the same time, helped distribute foods rations to security policeman and traffic officers on post all over the route of dignitaries from hotels to Cebu International Convention Center CICC, Malacanyang and Command Communication Center. The group stayed there for the whole summit then back to our station in Negros Island.



Outside Command Communication Center

The event was considered a great success.



One of the routes for dignitaries

REACT Kaamulan Christmas Operation

Eric Conrad Epie

December 27, 2006, our Team celebrated Christmas with the poor and indigent families from 13 barangays in the city. About 250 families received gifts and we were able to document the event. This is a yearly activity we hold instead of having a Christmas party. We used our extra resources to pack rice, sardines, noodles, used clothing, shoes and other basic needs.

It was such a successful event that by next we hope to expand our coverage by including highway barangays or perhaps target 500 families.

One of our plans is to give gifts to indigent patients at the Bukidnon provincial hospital. This would, of course, be a good advocacy program that could be referred to as, "**REACT Cares...**"

REACT Saving Lives Antelope Valley (Calif.) REACT Bill Rini and Mary Cooper

Antelope Valley member Chris Roberts assisted in successful life-saving efforts at a recent Team event. But read on...

Antelope Valley *REACT*, Team C-40, has, as always, been active recently. In June of 2006, we assisted in a major charity benefit car show here in the Antelope Valley called Thunder On The Lot. The event founder, Ron Emard puts this together to aid children here. Our *REACT* Team stayed overnight and helped with security and helped set

up for this event. June 9– June 11 we assisted in parking show cars, crowd control, safety, checking wrist bands to prevent theft of motorcycles, helped in registration, handed out flyers for up coming events, assisted in giving water to the volunteers, and maintained gate security watch. This show made over \$230,000 for all the charities here.

Our second major event was Big Rigs 4 Kids on August 25, 26, 27, 2006. Bill Rini and Mary Cooper, a husband and wife team, are members of this non-profit organization. Three Team members stayed overnight with their motor homes, helped watch over Los Angeles County Raceway, and parked the big rigs that came in for the Saturday morning show. A lot of our member's husbands and wives helped out as volunteers. Also helping out were many other non-profit organizations and clubs and other volunteers.

We offer a special thanks to Chris Roberts, our Sergeant at Arms, who helped save the life of a girl who fractured her skull in falling off a golf cart. She is doing fine now! Chris also assisted at a bad accident involving a big rig truck in one of the races. Chris was driving a ambulance and he stayed with them the whole time and used his medical techniques until paramedics got there.

Last but not least is the Palmdale Christmas Parade December 9, 2006. Bill Rini, President of Antelope Valley *REACT* entered his 1925 Moreland Truck for Antelope Valley *REACT* and took first place. The Theme was Winter Wonderland this year. We are now in the process of trying to get in the Hollywood Christmas Parade for 2007.

We Still Monitor CB York County (Pennsylvania) *REACT* Stan Walters

***REACT* Teams still monitor CB 9** although there is little traffic since cell phones became popular. Everyone knows that CB 19 is where people who travel the Interstate highways spend their time. York County *REACT* (YCR) President Stan Walters (Unit 56) monitors both CB 9 and 19 when driving. The following incident took place on Wednesday February 7, 2007.

At 10:30 a.m. Stan was mobile and enroute to a work location. He overheard a conversation on CB 19. Help was needed to locate an address somewhere in or near Shrewsbury Pennsylvania. The parties speaking indicated they had instructions to follow but had not been able to successfully find their destination. Many people were giving them directions but none were getting them to the correct location. It turned out to be an escort vehicle and a truck to pull a mobile home trailer. They needed assistance finding the mobile home site.

Stan called the escort on CB 19 and asked for details of where they were trying to go. Stan was familiar with the location and offered to take them to their destination. He met the vehicles along North Main Street in Shrewsbury, and the convoy proceeded to the address the men were trying to find. CB 19 was used for communications during the entire event. The convoy arrived at the mobile home site about 10 minutes after initial contact. The truck driver recognized streets and landmarks from his instructions as they drove toward the final destination.

The combination of truck and trailer was going to be 90 feet when all hooked up. The truck driver said he knew he could not go back to the I-83 the way he drove to the site. Stan then called a local volunteer fireman and amateur radio operator on the Shrewsbury 2 meter repeater. Together they mapped out a new way for the truck and trailer to get back to I-83. Stan then drove the route and drew a map. He returned to the mobile home site and reviewed the map with both the truck driver and escort driver. Stan then left to continue to his work location while the two men hooked up the mobile home and got it ready for transport.

At 12:45 p.m. Stan went back into service and was able to provide a rear escort for the mobile home trailer as it proceeded back to the interstate. The escort, truck and mobile home reached exit 4 of I-83 a little after 1:00 p.m. The escort driver and truck driver were both very appreciative and Stan offered to assist with this type of incident again in the future.

SIMULTANEOUS EARTHQUAKE DRILL IN THE PHILIPPINES

Imagine the scene:

Around 9 in the morning of February 8, 2007, a strong ground shaking is felt in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Malaybalay City, and in the provinces of Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon. It is caused by a magnitude 7.3 earthquake generated by the Silae fault line crossing Northern Mindanao Island. Weak to strong aftershocks are expected. As it is happening, Sumpung Elementary School and Mindanao Arts and Technology Institute both activate their School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC). The shaking triggers the automatic alarm system of both schools prompting the students and teachers to perform “duck, cover and hold,” a method used to protect everyone from potential danger and falling debris during earthquakes.



After the shaking all classrooms immediately followed the school's evacuation plan. Students lined up by row, heading towards the nearest exits, and walked briskly down to an open evacuation site. Teachers then lined the students up according to grade level and conducted a head count to account any missing students.

Minutes later, responders from the city disaster coordinating council arrived to rescue possible casualties. While waiting, school first aid teams from the girl and boy scouts were instructed to sweep the rooms to look for injured students. They

found several victims with multiple injuries and immediately transported them to the triage area.

Sound pretty realistic? It was meant to be. This was an exercise as part of a nationwide simultaneous earthquake drill conducted quarterly by the National Disaster Coordinating Council through its local disaster councils of which *REACT* Kaamulan is an active member.

The drill went on until all victims were cleared from the disaster area, the facility declared safe to re-occupy, and the drill terminated by the Incident Commander.

At this juncture, direct participants (teachers, incident commander to responders) were evaluated as to how well they organized their respective teams' roles and responsibilities.

During the exercise, an important gap during emergency situations was observed. That gap is the lack of communication facilities or personnel handling the communications. This element has increasingly been neglected by most involved in disaster response and management.

Prior to the drill, *REACT* Kaamulan was assigned by the City Disaster Coordinating Council to conduct the lecture armed with a multimedia projector and a laptop computer. Topics included disaster preparedness, conducting an earthquake drill, introduction to earthquakes, domestic volcano status, organizing the SDMC, Incident Command System, communications, first aid, evacuation, how to report an incident and other important subject matters. Both schools immediately convened individually to discuss their plan and come up with their own separate preparations.

Another assignment given to *REACT* Kaamulan during the drill was to evaluate it along with the members of the council. The Team has been in the forefront during drills in the city of Malaybalay and the province of Bukidnon since 1992, gaining respect and reputation as an active partner of the government in disaster management.

Although *REACT* Kaamulan conducted the lecture series it is still the school's task to organize their committee in order to prepare their schools in such eventualities and determine its effectiveness.



There will be more drills to be conducted to better educate Filipinos especially the young ones who are most vulnerable in disasters like earthquakes. Of course *REACT* will always be there to help.

More pictures of the drill are posted at www.reactkaamulan.org.

Opening Day

Dale Ellis

Oklahoma County *REACT*



What do you call an event that has 60,000 people, 13 entertainment venues, over a ton of high explosives, 43 city police officers, city ambassadors, county sheriff's deputies, Oklahoma County *REACT* members, starts on the last day of every year, and ends on the first day of the next year? In Oklahoma that event is Opening Night. For Opening Night 2007, the day started with line-up at the new Oklahoma City Police Bricktown Station. Lt. Bratcher, the OKC Police Event Coordinator,

handed out assignments and *REACT* was given perimeter security for the fireworks launch area. The OKC Fire Marshal and the fireworks company determine the safety exclusion area. This area typically starts with an area of three square city blocks and expands significantly prior to the midnight fireworks show.

REACT manned traffic barricades and patrolled the area to ensure that unauthorized entry was prevented. During and after the fireworks show, *REACT* watched for fires in the local area and had contact with the fire department. After the area was declared safe, *REACT* units assisted with traffic in the area.

**Happy Anniversary,
San Angelo *REACT*
David Behrend**

San Angelo *REACT*, Inc. (SARI) – Team 3387 recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary in October 2006. The Team held an open house at their building. The event was covered by local TV stations and several members were interviewed. Prior to the event members made an appearance on a local TV station for an interview announcing the anniversary and open house.



The first event for SARI in 1976 was a Halloween patrol.

SARI quickly grew during the CB craze to well over 100 members. Since that time, we, as many organizations have discovered that volunteerism is not what it used to be. We now have 14 members.

Early in its years, SARI built a mobile communications van from a small Chevrolet van that had a 30 foot telescoping antenna mast. It also carried several different radios in it.

In the late 80's, SARI obtained a "new" 1977 Ford box delivery van that had been used by GTE (now Verizon) and donated to the Team. The members carefully thought out a design for the van and began construction, doing much of it themselves. A five (5) kilowatt generator and RV type air conditioner was installed, as well as interior and exterior power outlets. Antenna holes were drilled and mounting kits were mounted and cables run to the operating positions. Furniture, radio consoles and interior storage were installed.



The mobile command post carries nine radios, including two VHF (150 MHz), two UHF (460 MHz), one Low band (30-39 MHz), one low band (40-49 MHz) for American Red Cross, CB radio, amateur radio, 800 MHz radio for the City of San Angelo and a cellular phone.

During our years, we have used part of the 7th floor of an office building and the basement of an abandoned fire station. SARI eventually was able to purchase a building to house our equipment, have an office and a monitoring station. We also were able to purchase the adjacent property for future growth.

Regular activities that SARI is involved in include: the annual Concho Christmas Celebration (a month long Christmas light display), the Woolman Triathlon, Striders Duathlon and a technical rescue competition held each year at Garner State Park. We also participate in other walks / runs and other events performing traffic

control and safety. Also, SARI is one of the primary organizations contacted by the police department when additional assistance is needed for traffic control, supplementing officers or relieving them to return to regular duties.

SARI was also instrumental in helping the local Code Blue Citizens Patrol program get established. We obtained a radio license, then purchased a repeater and antenna as well as procured the top of the tallest building in San Angelo, which happened to be Conrad Hilton's (of the Hilton Hotel chain) second hotel for a repeater site. Code Blue has free use of the repeater, but *REACT* maintains the right to use it in an emergency.

Of our original charter members, only one person, Gary Pittman, Unit 38 / 2 remains. Gary has served on the board of directors for most of his time on the Team in several positions on the board including, mobile operations officer and several stints as President (due to term limits). He now serves as Executive Vice President

In 2006, three members completed 27 years of service, all starting in 1979. All have served on the board of directors for most of their "careers" with the Team. Kyle Abbott (KB5RRP), Unit 34 / 1 has served in several positions and currently serves as President. Mark Byrd (KE5IOX), Unit 44 / 6 has also served in several positions including President and is currently the financial officer. David Behrend (KB5FNK), LM569, Unit 41 / 3, started as a Junior *REACT*er, and also has served in several positions and currently serves as membership officer.

Does your Team have a history you'd like to share with the rest of us on our 45th anniversary? Let us know.



SKYWARN

Has your Team joined the Skywarn effort? If not, call your local forecast office.

Submission Guidelines for *REACT*er:

Check our submission guidelines on the website. Electronic submissions are preferred. Send to:

<editor1@reactintl.org>.

Please reduce photos. Your editor has only a dialup connection and can't handle large files. Paper submissions should go to:

**Don Tarbet
144 Atkinson Rd.
Bradford, ME 04410**



Emergency Communications Training

The Level I *REACT* Emergency Communications training manual is available online for members to download free of charge. This program is similar to that offered by ARRL to its members, but has been expanded to include additional materials regarding other radio services (including GMRS, CB, FRS, and MURS, in addition to Amateur Radio) due to the wide variety of radio services often used by *REACT* Teams.

The *REACT* EComm program is available only to *REACT* members. See the EComm Flyer at:

<http://www.reactintl.org/committees/EComm%20Flyer.pdf> for more information about the Emergency Communications Training and Certification Program. *REACT* Members should send e-mail to:

IWantEComm@reactintl.org for information about downloading the manual online.

If you have more training ideas and want to volunteer to help the training and development committee, contact Tom Currie, the committee chairman, at training1@reactintl.org.

EDITOR'S CORNER Don Tarbet

Don't forget the anniversary of *REACT* International. Let's use the occasion to recruit new members and to expand our own capabilities. Let's get some new ideas.

For example: Jim Koritzky, president of Penobscot *REACT*, Team #6088, is interested in developing a fax network as an adjunct to our other means of communications. If you are interested, drop Jim a note at 207-942-8067. The idea has the additional benefit that, as a last resort, materials for the *REACT*er could be sent to Jim as your editor is one of Jim's Team members.

Whatever your feelings about CW, it is no longer a requirement for ham licensing. That means that *REACT* members with Technician licenses can use portions of the 10 meter phone band which provides additional communications possibilities. An upgrade to General would allow the member access to National Traffic System nets.

As indicated in Norman Kaplan's Headquarters article (p. 3), FEMA requirements are getting stiffer. Find current incident forms at:

http://training.fema.gov/EMI-Web/IS/ICSResource/ICSResCntr_Forms.htm

According to the American Red Cross, they "will be conducting no credit checks without an additional consent form being signed by the person... Again, the consent form in the background program has been modified to reflect that only background check information is being verified. Under no circumstances will the Red Cross conduct a 'mode of living' check."

Life Membership

Did you know that *REACT* life membership is a great way to honor a member who has served your Team or Council with great dedication? Life membership applications can be downloaded at <http://www.REACTintl.org/pubs/lifeapp.PDF>, or you may request one from the RI office.

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SILENT MICS

Marilyn Kornmaier Oklahoma County REACT

It is with great sadness that Oklahoma County REACT #2620 announces the transfer of Marilyn Kornmaier, Unit 215 to God's REACT Team. Long time Team members welcomed her monthly calls as part of the Sunshine Committee. Marilyn, a long time member will be missed by all.

Dale Ellis
Oklahoma County REACT

Ed Neil Dodge County REACT

Long time REACTer Ed Neil of Omaha passed away recently. He was diagnosed with cancer in June. He had been a member of Heartland REACT and at present was a member of Dodge County REACT. He will be missed by his wife, Kay, and his REACT family.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Radio Restrictions on US Military Installations: Army press release supplied by Tom Currie, REACT Training Officer

A revision to the Code of Federal Regulations mandates that all federal military installations prohibit the use of cellular phones, PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), and similar communication devices by persons operating motor vehicles, unless used with a hands-free device. Effective 1 March 2007, the use of such devices without hands-free devices will be prohibited on [this federal military installation]. This regulation applies to all devices using cellular technology. Cellular systems built into the vehicle and activated by voice or push-button (On-Star) are considered hands-free. An earpiece used in one ear or headphones are the only other approved hands-free devices for motor vehicle operators.

Radio communication devices (hand sets or "mikes") may only be used by operators if the radio device is mounted (wired) to the vehicle. Use of walkie-talkies or phones in the direct connect mode is not authorized. This includes the use of Motorola or other "Brick" type radios in government and privately owned vehicles. The use of tactical radios in tactical vehicles is not subject to this regulation.

The use of video technology in any playback mode, by the driver, is prohibited. The only exception is the use of vehicular-mounted navigation systems.

Any vehicle operator desiring to use cellular phones, PDAs, and similar communication devices without a hands-free device may do so only after safely exiting the roadway and placing the vehicle in park. The wearing of portable headphones, earphones or other listening devices while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited.

Operators found in violation of this policy during the grace period of 1 March 2007 through 1 April 2007 will receive a warning ticket. Beginning 2 April 2007, violators will be ticketed. Violation of the above stated policy may result in suspension or revocation of post driving privileges, the assessment of points, and/or a fine.

These restrictions apply to all personnel on post and to military personnel both on and off post regardless of their duty status.

Currie adds: The bottom line for REACT members is that they should be aware that hand held cell phone and handheld radio usage on any military installation is definitely prohibited and that similar restrictions may be applied elsewhere. It is important to find out what rules apply, especially when traveling.

BATTERY BANTER

Bob Leef, Crest **REACT**

The single greatest factor in preventing decreased capacity and extending the overall life-span of a battery is how it is recharged. Generally speaking, it is always better to slow charge a battery than to fast charge it. Conventional fast charging relies on delivering a high amount of current into a battery, which can cause the battery to heat up. This heating actually results in a boiling away of the electrolyte of the battery, reducing the battery's capacity and life span. This type of high-current charging is especially bad for the new Nickel Metal Hydride type batteries, reducing overall life span by as much as 50%.

Radios are shipped with a "wall wart" charger as standard equipment for a reason – your overall battery life expectancy will be months longer. Check your owner's manual for charge time – it's probably recommended for about 10 to 12 hours.

If you know the capacity of your radio's battery and the radio's rated current draw on both transmit and receive, you can easily approximate the maximum amount of operating time you'll get from a battery pack. The standard used for determining this is called "Ninety Five, Five," and is used by Motorola

and other commercial radio manufacturers to rate the average operating time of their handheld radios. It assumes that 95% of the radio's operating cycle is in the receive mode and 5% in transmit mode.

For instance, suppose we have a radio that draws 40 milliamps on receive and 800 milliamps on high power transmit. If the radio is being operated by a 700 milliamp battery pack, then approximately 8.9 hours of battery life would be typical. $[700 / (40 \times .95 + 800 \times .05)]$ Of course, this is only a generalization. If your operating habits differ from the 95/5 rule, you can expect slightly different real-world results.

So what if you aren't getting the expected amount of operating time? Well, just like people, batteries need exercise. While your battery pack isn't in danger of developing a potbelly, it can suffer from decreased capacity caused by crystalline formation, and that can cause it to perform poorly.

The process of crystalline formation takes place because, as the battery ages, the electrolyte in the cells can actually begin to solidify into crystals, making it harder to move electrons through them. The larger the crystals, the more the capacity of the battery will be reduced.

Often, you'll hear this phenomenon mistakenly referred to as "memory." In reality, the affects of crystalline formation

aren't true memory, and modern rechargeable battery packs suffer from little or no real memory. None the less, crystalline formation can cause your batteries to fail when you need them.

In order to keep the battery in top notch shape, these developing crystals need to be broken up into smaller pieces, allowing power to readily flow through the cell. This breaking up of the crystals is accomplished by "exercising" the battery pack.

"Exercise," in this sense, is accomplished by discharging the battery pack deeply, to about 1 volt per cell. You can do this manually by monitoring the battery pack very closely while using it. As an aid, many modern radios have built-in battery voltage meters that effectively allow you to see the voltage of the battery, even under load. Many drop-in battery chargers these days employ some sort of "discharge" function that effectively "exercises" the pack for you.

While it is important to come close to the 1 volt per cell standard as possible, it is also important not to discharge your battery pack completely. In fact, you should always avoid discharging your battery completely, as doing so can cause a short or battery cell reversal to occur.

Batteries should only be exercised about once a month for NiCads, and once every three months for NiMH batteries.

There is no benefit to doing it more often, as regular exercise is sufficient to prevent crystalline formation from taking place. If done too often, this type of strenuous discharge can do more harm than good for the battery. Just like a human, your battery can get worn out from too much exercise.

While a few manufacturers are still packaging their radios with older Nickel Cadmium (NiCad) battery packs, some significant leaps in newer technology have been made in the last few years. So, if your NiCad pack just isn't doing the job, and you want something that offers increased capacity, the most promising advance thus far is the new and improved Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) battery technology. NiMH's offer an increase of as much as 150% capacity over similarly-sized NiCad battery packs, and they are as much as 50% lighter. That makes for super long operating times. Nickel Metal Hydrides are also more easily recycled, and are therefore more environmentally friendly than their NiCad cousins. Plus, NiMH's are easier to care for, and, as we mentioned above, do not have to be exercised as often as NiCads.

The easiest and best way to prolong battery life is often the most overlooked: use a lower power setting on your radio! These days, most radios offer a super low power setting of merely a fraction of a watt output, as well as possibly offering

a middle power (1 or 2 watt) setting. Transmitting at one of these lower power settings is sure to extend your operating time, and it may even save you some money!

Last but not least, here is an answer to the question "can I leave my radio on while the battery is being charged?" In a word, INADVISABLE!. You would be trying to fill the battery at the same time running it down. The radio draws almost as much as the charger puts out. Also, the charger creates some noise that could damage the voltage regulation circuitry in the unit.

Major portions of the above are reprinted with permission from "Make your Portable Radio Talk Forever" by Ken Collier KO6UX

Getting the Word Out

**Ron McCracken,
RI PR Chair**

Does notice of your Team meeting appear each month in all the local papers that carry community events?

Does it appear on local computer bulletin boards and information websites?

Does it appear on radio and TV stations that air community events?

It needs to.

The local computer club here reminded me of this. Its meeting info appears each month in several local free papers as well as the daily. It never misses.

You can e-mail meeting info to most of these now. One e-mail can get you a whole lot of good PR. Free. Just send it to all the media in the area.

They will appreciate that you included them in your post, and that they all got the same info. How they handle it is their job. You've done your part.

If you are having a guest speaker or a special topic, be sure to include that. Your speaker will welcome a larger audience. Your special topic may attract particular people with an interest in it.

Offer a presentation or workshop on FRS radio and you will likely be swamped by new FRS operators. Most are keen to be good operators so your Team has a real chance to help them, and thus to help itself.

In your workshop, outline in very simple terms to new operators the FRS/GMRS differences in their radios. Most FRS users want to be good operators. Your Team can help them become that. Urge them to avoid the GMRS channels 15-22, unless licensed.

Point out that those licensed GMRS operators can help save their lives in an emergency. When you explain the benefits,

most will be happy to co-operate. Point out that the FRS side of their radios can save lives too. Tip them to the benefits of using the FRS-only channels 8-14. Mention your SOS Drill to demonstrate the safety benefits of FRS.

Most FRS operators are first-time radio users. Your Team has the opportunity to help these new radio enthusiasts become responsible operators. Your Team will likely attract new members through its FRS workshops. Many will later wish to become GMRS, CB or ham operators.

Remember, however many come, your Team name and its safety presence get into thousands of homes each month this way. That is how you can make *REACT* a household word.

Take advantage.

What is the state of your Team's supply cupboard? Does it resemble Mother Hubbard's? Check it today. Get an order off to HQ now so you will be well stocked when *REACT* Month arrives.

Plan to honor some of your deserving Team members. HQ has attractive certificates you can present to them.

Do likewise for your Team's liaisons in emergency services and the community. HQ has certificates to help you with that also.

Headquarters has Note Cards showing the *REACT* logo on the cover. Use them to send thank-you notes, get-well wishes, etc., to organizations and people who have helped your Team.

Fly the *REACT* flag at City Hall, your Team's meeting place, etc. Carry it proudly in Memorial Day and other parades. Display it at your safety events.

Host an Appreciation Night during *REACT* Month or anytime. Use *REACT* logo envelopes for invitations to show your professionalism.

Issue media releases on events your Team will be hosting or supporting. Send those on *REACT* letterhead in *REACT* envelopes. Use these tools to raise your Team's profile at minimal cost.

Give visitors to your Team's safety displays *REACT* litter bags to carry away safety leaflets, etc., and then keep in their vehicles as reminders of correct distress message content.

When your *REACT* Council meets, do invitations go to "un-attached" Life Members? It's a win-win for Teams in your Council and for *REACT*. Capitalize on it.

Life Members often have a wealth of *REACT* experience your Council can tap. Put that experience to work for the benefit of all. Keep those Life

Members active, interested and appreciated.

You may be able to entice your Life Members to form new *REACT* Teams in their towns based on the popular FRS radios so many people now have. That means new Teams and new *REACT*ers to help keep costs down for all.

Each of us has a vested interest in seeing new Teams form and new members swell our ranks. We get more members to help with events, and more dues to permit more projects and services for all. Life Members are a resource your Council can't afford to let slip through the cracks.

Available Publications Bob Leef, Crest *REACT*

There are two publications on the RI website that are of interest to *non-members* as well as members.

For example, **Planning Safe Community Events** is a very detailed instruction that would be appreciated by non-*REACT*ers who are involved in community affairs. The six sections include all need-to-know items: Introduction/Defining Terms, Parking and Traffic Control, Crowd Management/Security, Communications, Volunteer Management, and Sample Planning Forms.

REACT Radio Systems shows the entire spectrum of what *REACT* can and does use. In

Chapter Four, the public will read briefly about CB, FRS, MURS, Amateur, GMRS, Business ("IG"), and VHF Marine. In Chapter Five there is even information on packet, APRS, Television, Callphone, and the Internet.

Non-members as well as every member should avail themselves of these free downloads. The former might even be impressed enough to move into the member category.

**From *THE DAILY PLANET*:
Stark County, Ohio
Disaster Drill
Daniel Davidson VP
Multi-County *REACT* Response Team, C260,**

May 17 is a day that will in infamy for the State of Ohio. At approximately 3 PM on that day terrorism reared its ugly head for that state. A joint task force of FBI, FAA, state and local SWAT teams raided a suspected terrorist cell just inside the Stark County boarder. Several suspects were taken into custody but that did not stop their covert plans.

Shortly after 5 PM that same day and surface to air missile hit a small commuter jet leaving the Akron-Canton Airport, bringing it down just south of the runway. The jet broke up,

caught fire and struck several vehicles on the ground. While the exact total is not known it is reported that all on board were killed.

Numerous departments were brought to the scene to help fight the fires and control the crash site, among these were State, Federal, and local law enforcement agencies. The local Multi County *REACT* Team was also brought in to assist with control around the scene. They in turn activated their statewide Mutual Aid Response System which brought in Teams from Allen County, Flag City and Medina County.

Incident Command was set up using the new NIMS (National Incident Management System), the new interagency linked radio systems and CAK radio Systems. During the entire three day span on scene there was only one additional incident involving some civilian trespassers, who after being detained and questioned were released.

A full investigation will be done by all law enforcement agencies and they expect to have full details released within the next few months. It is unknown at this time whether this was an act of domestic or foreign terrorism. No parties have claimed responsibility at this time.

Well, thank goodness what you just read is only the culmination of a years planning on the part of the local EMA and the Canton Akron Airport as a drill.

The FAA brought in its crash simulator, a fuselage powered by a tanker of propane. Local agencies brought in various autos that were also flipped and set afire. While they did not use human casualties for safety reasons they did have real suspects to be chased and captured.

We here in the Ohio Council and the Teams that make up our family were proud to involved with an exercise of this magnitude. This level of involvement has only come after years of growing pains on the part of all the *REACT* members. In three of our counties *REACT* is the only sanctioned civilian emergency response group. This is an accomplishment we carry with pride and we hope that this will show all *REACT* member nationwide what can be done with hard work and a dream.

