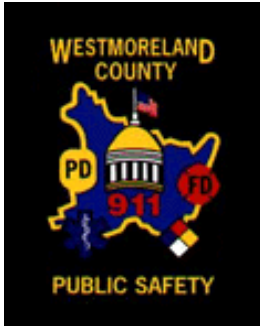


WCDPS NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 Issue 1

May 9, 2008



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Exercise Terminal Stinger

The Westmoreland County Airport Authority, in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety and the Region 13 Task Force, will conduct a major full-scale exercise at the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport on June 6 and 7.



The exercise, titled Terminal Stinger, involves a terrorist cell downing an aircraft with a shoulder fire missile, or MANPAD. Pre-event activities will take place at the Airport on Friday, June 6. A media/public relations event will showcase much of the equipment that will be used during the exercise, including the Aircraft Mobile Training Simulator from Kellogg Community College Michigan. They will be on display at the Airport beginning at 6:00 p.m.



Continued on Page 5.

3rd Annual Elected Officials Seminar

WCDPS will conduct its 3rd Annual Emergency Management Seminar for Westmoreland County Elected Officials and their Emergency Management Coordinators on Wednesday May 28, 2008 from 8:00a.m.until 4:00 p.m.

in the Commissioner's Hall Auditorium on the campus of the Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, PA.

Continued on Page 5.

Region 36 700MHz Working Group to Meet

The first organizational meeting of the Region 36 Public Safety 700 MHz Planning Committee will be held on May 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hall Auditorium, Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, Pa.

Region 36 includes 39 counties in western and central Pennsylvania. All member counties will have the opportunity to participate in the development of a regional plan that will address the allocation of the valuable new 700 MHz spectrum.

The 700 MHz spectrum was provided by the FCC from

existing TV channels after the transition of analog TV to the new digital format, which takes effect in February 2009.

This new spectrum will be licensed by state, county, and municipal public safety agencies, as well as fire companies and medical organizations, to provide urgently needed communications channel capacity for fire, police, medical and other public safety services. This new band will provide an increased level of interoperability between services and agencies, including participation of the federal public safety services.

The agenda for this first meeting includes the election of of-

ficers, discussing and passing by-laws, setting up committees, and setting milestones for the Region 36 700 MHz Plan development.

Region 36 Counties include: Allegheny; Beaver; Butler; Lawrence; Mercer; Indiana; Armstrong; Cambria; Westmoreland; Washington; Green; Somerset; Fayette; Erie; Crawford; Warren; McKean; Potter; Venango; Forest; Elk; Cameron; Clarion; Jefferson; Clearfield; Center; Clinton; Blair; Huntingdon; Bedford; Fulton; Franklin; Adams; Cumberland; Perry; Juniata; Mifflin; Snyder; and Union.

Additional information- email:

rmatason@co.westmoreland.pa.us

Exercise Toxic Tower

The Borough of West Newton Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety and the Region 13 Task Force, will conduct a major full-scale exercise at Filbern Towers, a 12 story high rise apartment building in West Newton, on October 4, 2008. This full-scale exercise is titled



Filbern Tower –West Newton

Toxic Tower, and will exercise emergency responder capabilities to evacuate a high

rise building that is in the plume of a toxic chemical release resulting from a terrorist caused railroad derailment.

“TOXIC TOWER WILL HELP US
PLAN FOR, PRACTICE AND TEST
THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
PLANS FOR WEST NEWTON
BOROUGH AND FILBERN
MANOR.”

PAUL WILLIAMS, WEST NEWTON
BOROUGH EMERGENCY MANAGER

Mobile Area Radio Repeater Vehicle (MAARV)

The MARRV is a mobile radio repeater/ communications interoperability platform mounted on a 2008 LDV / Freightliner Chassis in a 16 foot long shelter. Communications equipment includes a Motorola 4 channel trunked 800MHz radio system, 48 Motorola XTS 2500 portables, a JPS ACU-1000, and a pneumatic 56

foot transmission tower.

Purchased through the Region 13 Task Force with Department of Homeland Security grant funding, the MARRV provides a trunked radio system in an incident area where radio coverage is unavailable. It link existing on-site radio capabilities to the stand-alone trunked system.



The MAARV ties outside agencies
Continued on page 4.

County 800 MHz Radio System

Two major improvement to the County 800 MHz system are underway.

To improve communications in the northeastern part of the County and into Cambria County, the Laurel Valley Ambulance Service procured a Federal Firefighter Grant Program grant in FY 2006 in the amount of \$263,000 for a regional communications project to purchase equipment for a 4 channel intelli-repeater site. The County Commissioners have authorized funding the cost of site development and installation of equipment on the intelli-repeater tower.

DPS personnel are currently working with Motorola system engineers to locate the best spot for the intelli-repeater. DPS expects this improvement to be completed by the end of the current year. When completed, northeastern County departments and agencies will be able to talk well into Cambria County as

they travel to Johnstown.

Also underway is the addition of a 15th channel to the County-wide radio system. An additional channel will significantly increase the overall capacity of the system. Emergency responders will especially notice the effect on the system during major county-wide emergencies, such as floods and severe storms.

The 800 MHz system continues to grow. Over 4800 subscribers currently use the system on a daily basis, including several emergency service organizations in Counties adjacent to Westmoreland County that respond to calls in Westmoreland County.

The governance body for the radio system, the Radio Communications Council, meets on the 2nd Thursday of the 2nd month of the quarter at 7:00 pm in the County EOC to discuss and resolve any radio system concerns and issues.

Tour of Pennsylvania Bike Race

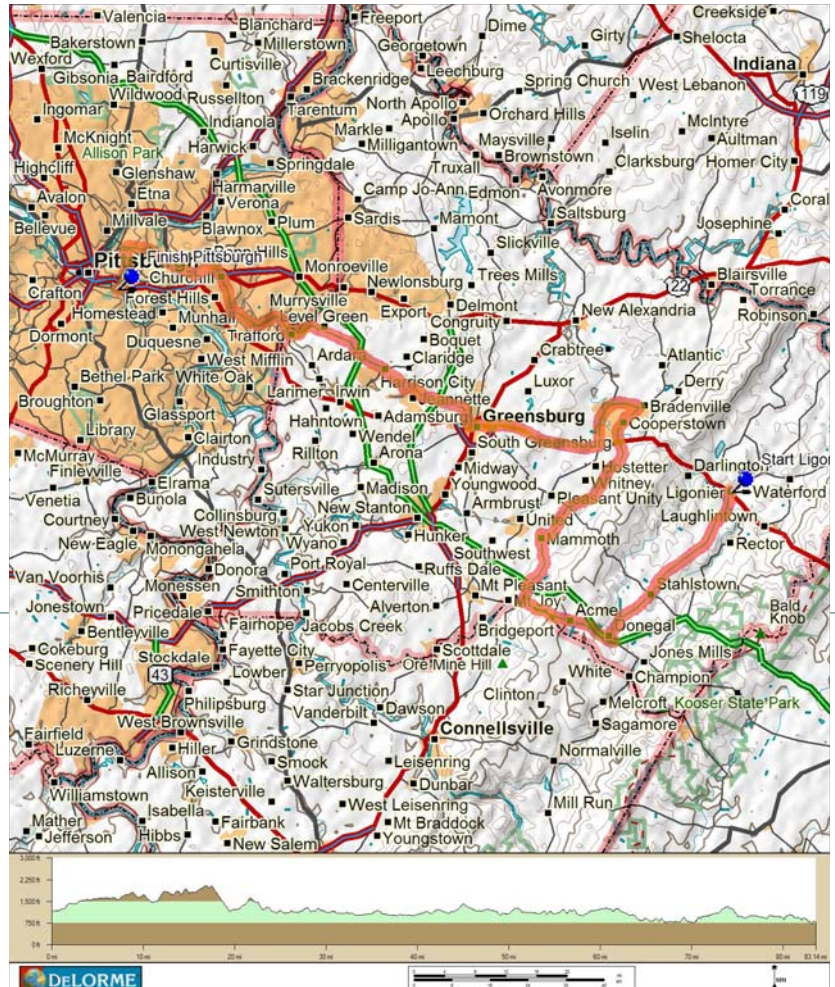
The Tour of Pennsylvania bicycle race is a 500-mile race that starts June 24, 2008 in Philadelphia, travels through Westmoreland County, and ends June 29 at Point State Park in Pittsburgh. Approximately 120 cyclists from around the globe are expected to participate.

It is the first Tour de France-style race for the under-25 class in the United States. The race has a \$250,000 purse and will cover a very challenging route that covers rolling hills, city streets, and scenic countryside.

In western Pennsylvania, the tour's route will roughly follow the historic Forbes Road, along U.S. 30, which was created in 1758 when British Gen. John Forbes and Col. George Washington forged a trail through the Allegheny Mountains, founding Bedford, Ligonier and Pittsburgh. The map to the right highlights the Tour's route through Westmoreland County.

The race is timed to coincide with Pittsburgh's 250th birthday.

For additional information contact Dan Stevens, PIO, at 723-600-7300.



Map showing Bike Route Through Westmoreland County
Highlighted in Orange

MAARV, continued

like Local Governments, DCNR, PennDOT, PSP, and non-800 MHZ trunked radio users into the Westmoreland County our radio system to provide Interoperable communications during any type of event or incident. The MARRV supports all radio fre-

quencies - Low Band, UHF, VHF, Westmoreland County trunked 800MHz, and Commonwealth 800MHz. systems.

A crew of two personnel require less than 30 minutes to setup the MAARV and establish incident-

wide communications between ALL agencies involved.

Lack of communications - NOT WITH MARRV.

For additional information, contact Dan Stevens: 724-600-7300

Exercise Terminal Stinger, continued from page 1

Over 40 federal, state, county and local organizations will participate in Terminal Stinger on Saturday, June 7 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Exercise activities that target specific capabilities necessary for successful mitigation of the incident include onsite incident management, emergency operations center management, emergency public safety and security response, explosive device response operations, fire incident response, WMD/HazMat response, emergency public information and warning, and mass care. Terminal Stinger will conclude in the early afternoon.

Terminal Stinger is funded through the Region 13 Task Force with Department of Homeland Security training grant money and fully complies with the requirements of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

[For additional information, contact Rich Matason, Director, at 724-600-7300.](#)

3rd Annual Elected Officials Seminar, continued from page 1

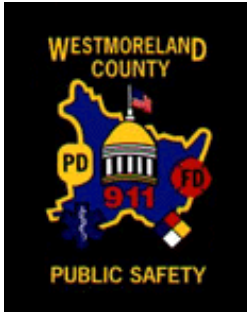
This year's agenda includes the following topics: the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and how it can assist you in your emergency management responsibilities; the new local jurisdiction requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for 2008; the new National Response Framework (NRF) and how that will affect the way emergencies are managed from the local through the state and federal levels; and the Knowledge Center Incident Management Program currently in use throughout all of western Pennsylvania. In addition, WCDPS will be displaying and explaining much of the equipment that Westmoreland County has received through the Region 13 Task Force with Department of Homeland Security grant funding. This year's Seminar will also afford a great opportunity to network with other local elected officials.



PEMA Director French

This year we are also honored to have the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Major General Robert French, a Westmoreland County native, as our Keynote Speaker. This year's seminar will afford those present a great opportunity for to meet the new PEMA Director and ask him any questions about elected official responsibilities for emergency management.

[For additional information, contact Sandy Smythe, Administrative Officer, at 724-600-7306.](#)



Westmoreland County
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911 Public Safety Road
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

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Website: www.wcdps.org

We're Back

After a hiatus of several issues, the WCDPS Newsletter is back. We have changed our format to make it more readable, and we have altered the content capabilities so that we can cover more stories in less space. This new format also allows a much more flexible way to add pictures and graphics.

Much has transpired during the Newsletter's absence and we will not attempt to play catch up. We do intend to publish this Newsletter periodically, whenever the news you need to know about DPS requires it.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions, and we hope that you will find something of interest in every issue.

Rich Matason, Director

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

WCDPS VISION

To become a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania leader in the development and execution of public safety programs and procedures through teamwork and partnership with other agencies and organizations sharing a similar vision

WCDPS MISSION

Our mission is to support the direction, management, and employment of emergency services and resources in Westmoreland County to ensure the public safety of everyone in the County, 24 hours a day every day.

- 1. Become a leader in developing and executing public safety programs and procedures.*
- 2. Lead through teamwork and partnership with other agencies.*
- 3. Support the direction, management and employment of county emergency services.*
- 4. Support the direction, management and employment of county emergency resources.*
- 5. Ensure the safety of everyone in the County, 24 hours a day, every day.*
- 6. Employ the MCCC as a forward command post and as an active back up 911 Center*
- 7. Establish a state-of-the-art county emergency management/ 9-1-1 training center.*
- 8. Seek and employ grant funding for special public safety programs.*