

County Executive, Barry Grossman has established a monthly newsletter to ensure that the Erie County Public Safety Center and those in the public safety field have a healthy and consistent line of communication. The newsletter will relay important achievements made at the Center and pertinent information that needs to be shared with each of you. The goal of this newsletter is to keep all of you who are involved in the public safety field both internal and external of the Center well informed and connected. Please see an attached copy of the Administration's first newsletter. The County Executive's office will continue to send the publications of the *Public Safety Newsletter* to you on a regular basis to all Emergency Service Providers/Committee Members and all Public Safety Center Employees.



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Public Safety Newsletter

July 2010

I am very proud to put forth this administration's 1st public safety newsletter. The purpose for this newsletter is to communicate the important successes and concerns as well as keeping employees and Erie County citizens well informed. I look forward to bringing you up to date information through future newsletters.

Barry Grossman
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Barry Grossman County Executive
Jerry Mifsud Director of Administration
Harry Love Director of Public Safety
Dale Robinson Emergency Management Coordinator
John Grappy 911 Coordinator
Abdul Osman Chief Information Officer

Matt Exley, our Training Administrator, continues to put the newest recruits through the training program. Exley has been involved in the Fire Service and EMS for 16 years and has also worked for Venango County 911 for six years. He has worked in Stat MedEvac Communications for two years and is a Department of Homeland Security Instructor.

Exley states that the training program has been "completely revamped." The state of PA requires 184 hours of training to be a 911 dispatcher. Before being signed off, 1000 hours are now required to operate all consoles. Exley explained that they currently have 10 new recruits enrolled in the program. All are cleared as call takers

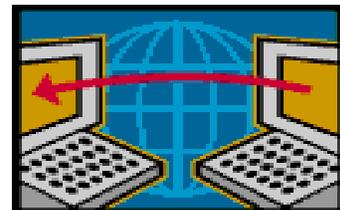
and some have moved on to training on the Fire or Police consoles. Candidates must also take a nationally recognized CRITI-CALL exam prior to employment.

New candidates are certified as a PA State Call Taker, Fire Dispatcher, EMS Dispatcher, Police Dispatcher and EMA Dispatcher and will also hold certifications from APCO in Fire Service Communications and Public Safety Telecommunicator I.

Exley explains that they are beginning to train a new class of Certified Communications Training Officers to provide better on-the-job training for new recruits. He also notes that a brand new Continuing Education program is in effect

requiring four times the required amount of yearly con-ed "to keep our employees sharp and up to date on new technologies and local pre-plans."

Currently, the Operations Department is collaborating with the IT Department to complete the four console training room that will allow better training of new recruits and update the training of current employees on a regular basis.



On Wednesday, May 26, 2010, STAT MedEvac personnel conducted a landing zone exercise at the 911 Center to give the class a first-hand look at

the process of setting up a landing zone and directing the craft in for a landing.

The Dispatcher must know the proper procedures for communicating with the flight crew, as well as the ground crew. The class will soon be moving into the PSAP to begin on-the-job-training.



Welcome to two new staff members! Anthony 'Tony' Flaminio is our Lead Communication Specialist. Tony comes to us from the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office, where he maintained the Sheriff's communication system. Tony, now a resident of Millcreek Township, brings years of experience with him, along with the desire to work with our IT Department to solve our radio issues.

Also joining the team is Keith Comi. Keith transferred from the IT staff at the Erie County Courthouse to take our newly-created position

of Network Administrator. Keith brings many years of experience in software, hardware, and network to round out our team at the Erie County Department of Public Safety (ECDOPS).



Our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) section has been diligently working to restructure the Erie Fire Department Emergency Response Zones (ESZ). They will be working concurrently with our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Database Coordinator to accommodate changes in dispatch procedure for Erie Fire. These changes are being made in response to a staffing plan worked out by the City of Erie and the Erie Firefighters.



Members of our IT team recently underwent training in Johnstown and in State College, and returned with a wealth of information on GIS and CAD systems. Since we maintain the geographic database used by our 911 and Computer-Aided-Dispatch systems, it is important that our staff maintain their proficiency. Many other 911 Centers must rely on vendors to provide this support, usually at a premium price!



Prior to the spring primary elections, the large training room at ECDOPS was used by the Erie County Elections Board to provide training to the individuals responsible for setting up the electronic voting machines at all the county polling locations. This is a good example of one branch of County government helping another branch save money, as this training had previously required renting conference space from a local hotel.



Visitors

Louis J. Aliota, a 35 + year Director of Pharmacy Services and Healthcare Consultant, recently toured the 911/Public Safety Center in order to become more educated with the services and talk with, as he puts it, “the front line individuals” of the Center.

He stated the following about his experience, “I just wanted to express how impressed I was as to the dedication, commitment and

enthusiasm from both individuals, Matthew Exley, Training Administrator and Dale A. Robinson, Emergency Management Coordinator during a personal tour and general orientation of the E-911 & Emergency Management Program of Erie County.”



Aliota described his conversations with Matt and Dale as “informative, intuitive and constructive.” He also described his gratitude by stating, “I certainly have a greater appreciation, respect and admiration for the dedication of the men and women of the agency and what they do to protect, secure and provide critical services to our community.”