

## **EMAC Committee Meeting Notes**

Thursday, December 10, 2020

3 – 4 pm EST Virtual Meeting

### **Welcome**

EMAC Committee Chair Joyce Flinn (Iowa) started the meeting at 3:00 pm EST by welcoming and thanking everyone for taking time out of their day for a quick update on EMAC.

### **Update on EMAC Operations**

Jake Ganieany (Montana) reviewed the composition of the EMAC Executive Task Force and thanked the Directors for letting their states serve on the ETF. It is an outstanding group who has been involved in document reviews for training courses and managing the day-to-day work of EMAC. We held a virtual EMAC Coordinator workshop this week and had some good discussions. One of the discussion items was the pre-payment of EMAC missions upon receipt of the reimbursement package. NEMA will be moving that to a quick survey and write up of a best practice.

While states do not have medical resources to share with one another and deployments in support of COVID have been rare, some states have shared PPE, alternate care center supplies, ventilators and other resources have been deployed in support of wildfires and hurricanes this year.

Since March of 2020, states have deployed over 3,000 personnel for wildfires, civil unrest, flooding, and hurricanes.

Since 2016, states have deployed nearly 35,000 personnel.

### **Update on EMAC Training**

Angela Copple provided an update on EMAC training.

- The E0431 course that is normally taught at FEMA EMI as a 4-day course is being converted to an online course to be delivered in May of 2021, it's unknown if the course will resume face-to-face instruction after the pandemic or will continue as a virtual course.
- Development of all the online courses, 7 in total, was completed earlier this year. Three courses are under review and updates based on feedback from learners. At the end of October, the online courses were taken over 1,200 times.
- Forty-two personnel have been qualified by NEMA in the online A-Team Training course.
- EMAC is working on engaging state training officers so they are aware of the online courses. A few states have made the EMAC Pre-Event Preparation and Just in Time for Deploying Personnel courses required for personnel deploying from their state.
- All four National Guard training courses have been converted to online offerings.

Updates to the EMAC App have been completed and are available in the Apple and Android stores, for personnel on a deployment or preparing to be deployed, including tips and guidance.

### **Update on EMAC Applications and Tools**

Angela Copple gave an update on EMAC Applications and Tools available to states and resource providers that support every part of the EMAC Process.

The Mutual Aid Support System, the free online inventory of Mission Ready Packages has recently been updated that gives state EMAC Coordinators more control over their state's inventory of MRPs. Alerts have also been added, sending an email to an EMAC Coordinator when a Mission Ready Package is published in the state. Mission Ready Packages can now be downloaded to Excel.

Resource Planner has recently been released. It is an application that allows a state to store identified threats/hazards, develop pre-scripted resource requests, and identify Mission Ready Packages in MASS from another state to link to the pre-scripted resource request. Scenarios can be viewed, including the list of pre-scripted requests, and exported out to a report. Resource Planner ties directly into the EMAC Operations System, with the ability to now import a threat/hazard or incident, and directly import all or individual pre-scripted resource requests. If the request was linked to an MRP, a draft offer of assistance is automatically generated when the request is published. Please have your EMAC Coordinator explore the new capabilities in Resource Planner. It has a huge opportunity to accelerate response.

Two applications are under development, the National Coordinating State, called NCS and Liaisons.

The NCS application allows for the NCS to view assigned events, create reports, and help support their role.

The Liaisons application allows personnel deployed to the NRCC, an RRCC, or serving as a liaison to view assigned events for a specific time frame of their deployment. A set of reports are readily available, and a situation report builder, which locks down fields that are have previously been approved by the EMAC Committee as approved data to be shared with FEMA.

Director Flinn noted that these are exciting new applications and that she's previously served in the liaison role and this will be a huge help to anyone deployed to the NRCC and RRCC.

Copple briefed that another system in development is the Reimbursement Tracking system, currently in the mock-up phase. A standardized Excel template was developed with the direction of the EMAC Special Assignment Task Force and will be the basis for system development. States have been asked to validate the template and provide feedback as the build out will be based entirely on the updated R2 form.

### **EMAC MASS Marketing Efforts**

Jake Ganieany provided an update on EMAC marketing efforts. In February of 2021, monthly Mission Ready Package and Mutual Aid Support System webinars will begin, with technical support to Resource Providers who want to develop Mission Ready Packages and need assistance. The webinar schedule will be published by the end of January 2021.

Incredibly powerful tools are available, the focus is making resource providers and states aware of the tools and utilizing them. During events, most offers of assistance are created by uploading a Mission Ready Package, and the goal is to shift from use of the Excel template to using the online Mutual Aid Support System. Included in marketing planning is highlighting states that successfully use the Mutual Aid Support System and the benefits of managing their resource inventory in the application. Thank you to Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Arkansas, and Alabama.

Dave Maxwell noted that when he retired, MASS was just getting started and asked how populated it is now.

Angela Copple said there are over 400 in the system but probably only 250 are based on good data. Doug Hoell and Angela Copple are cleaning up incomplete packages and determining if resource typing can be validated based on data entered in the MRP. Hope to have review of MPRs in MASS completed in early 2021.

NEMA is working to increase the number of MRPs across the board, many states have them in Excel form and are working on getting those in the system. They're great when they're on a computer, but even more useful when in MASS.

Dave Maxwell said he's proud that it's being used, populated, and maintained. It'll be a great thing when it's fully populated.

Samantha Phillips asked if MRPs could be categorized by type, or ESF grouping to help orient users. Angela Copple said that on the map a search can be conducted by ESF or discipline and a demonstration can be scheduled for the committee.

#### **National Guard Request for a blank RSA**

Director Flinn talked about the recent request from the National Guard Bureau for a blank Resource Support Agreement (RSA). A blank RSA is not available as it's a document generated from the EMAC Operations System. In the past blank forms have not been shared as they have been used to generate their own missions and self-deploy. Personnel who deploy receive a Mission Order which has the same fields as the RSA with the addition of tips and guidance.

The EMAC Committee discussed the request and wanted to know the justification of the request from the National Guard Bureau. NEMA will go back to the NGB and ask for the justification for the need of the form and provide that back to the EMAC Committee for further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned by Director Flinn at 3:27 pm EST.