



IAEM 2008 AWARDS PROGRAM

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Person Submitting Entry:
Henry P. Cortacans and Devin Kerins

IAEM Member

Non-Member (An entry fee of \$75 is required for each entry by a non-member.)

Title: State Planners, EMS Task Force – State of New Jersey

Relationship to the entry submitted: Self
(such as self, colleague, subordinate, supervisor)

Name of Organization:
Emergency Medical Services Task Force – State of New Jersey

Mailing Address of Organization:
150 Cabinet Street

City/State/Province/Country:
Newark, NJ / USA

Zip/Postal Code:
07102

Phone: (include country code & city code)
(973) 972-2787

Fax: (include country code and city code)
(973) 972-7145

E-Mail Address:
CORTACHP@UMDNJ.EDU and DEVIN.KERINS@RWJUH.EDU

Web Site:
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/ems/>

CHOOSE THE AWARD CATEGORY FOR THIS ENTRY:

Career Excellence Award

Academic Recognition Award

Public Awareness Award

Check Division:

- Local Emergency Management Agency (government)
- State/Regional/National International Government, International,
or Non-Profit Organization (such as colleges/universities or associations)
- Commercial or Other For-Profit Organization

Technology & Innovation Award

Check Division:

- Local Emergency Management Agency (government)
- State/Regional/National International Government, International,
or Non-Profit Organization (such as colleges/universities or associations)
- Commercial or Other For-Profit Organization

Partners in Preparedness Award

Interagency Disaster Preparedness Award

Business and Industry Award

Name of the Program/Activity: (or name of the person if you are entering someone for the Career Excellence Award or Academic Recognition Award)

PORT SECURITY EMS RESPONSE PLAN FOR NEW JERSEY'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - USCG SECTOR NY

Brief Summary of the Program/Activity: (Maximum 100 words)

A two-mile stretch from Newark Airport to Port Elizabeth, New Jersey has been dubbed by terrorism experts as the most dangerous two miles in America. On this swath of land, chemical facilities, refineries, rail yards, rail lines, an international airport and the third largest port in the country occupy more than 100 potential targets – some more hazardous than others. The New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Task Force, an organization born from the September 11th attacks designed to prepare, plan, and respond to catastrophic events in New Jersey has coordinated the project management of the State's largest EMS response plan for maritime disasters within the US Coast Guard's Sector New York.

Details of the Program/Activity: (Answer each section.)

1. Tell us why this program/activity was/is important, or explain why the individual deserves the award for which this entry was submitted. (maximum 200 words)

The area around New York Harbor has been classified as a Tier One Port by the Federal Department of Homeland Security. This same area also ranks among the most likely to have a major impact on the United States and World economy should a disaster occur. In addition, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the country. Devin Kerins and Henry Cortacans, State Planners of the NJ EMS Task Force, realized the consequences to the citizens and visitors of New Jersey should a catastrophic or high-impact event take place within this domain. As a result, they coordinated the development of the Port Security EMS Response Plan for Sector NY (New Jersey's Jurisdiction). This 600+ page detailed response plan addresses the objectives and numerous other details for the first 90 minutes of a response. The plan defines the responsibilities of the local EMS providers, the County OEM EMS Coordinators, the NJEMSTF, and the NJ Department of Health and Seniors Services. Included in the plan are local hospitals and their capabilities, pre-designated EMS facilities (Casualty Collection Points, Treatment and Transportation areas), air medical facilities (Helibases, and Helispots), incident and regional Staging Areas, and initial response communications plans. From the onset, the NJEMSTF realized this would be a major initiative and went about dividing the project into phases. Phase One focused on the EMS response to an incident of significance (IoS) at the most vulnerable five chemical and port facilities as identified by the vulnerability assessment from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. Phase Two focused the response to an IoS at any of the sixteen ferry terminals that transport commuters between New York City and New Jersey. Phase Three planned for a catastrophic or biologic event involving the major cruise lines that embark from Cape Liberty Cruise Port in Bayonne. This phase also addressed a joint air operation between the US Coast Guard, NJ State Police, and other providers to evacuate large numbers of critically injured patients from a ship off the coast of New Jersey. Phase Four focused the response to an IoS at any of the four major bridges and two tunnels linking New York City with New Jersey. And finally, Phase Five addressed how to coordinate scarce resources among multiple concurrent events involving the ports or water crossings. As a result of the above, twenty-seven site-specific EMS emergency operations plans were drafted and bonded into this overall plan/project.

2. Number of staff, volunteers, and community members involved in program/activity. (maximum 200 words)

The key to the success of this planning process was the inclusion of all major relevant agencies and organizations throughout every step. Among these agencies the NJEMSTF State Planners included all the local (municipal) EMS agencies with primary response authority for the facilities, the County OEM EMS Coordinators that have jurisdiction within those facilities, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, the New Jersey State Police Aviation Bureau, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, the United States Coast Guard, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Centers for Disease Control, the ferry company operators and facility managers, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, and other partners. Over 75 individuals from more than 35 organizations and agencies were involved in this activity.

3. Tell us how staff, volunteers and community members were involved. (maximum 200 words)

Planning team members were broken into small group workshops where the relevant organizations, agencies, and individuals would brainstorm, have facilitated discussions, and work on their respective site plans. Additionally, there were members of the NJEMSTF available to assist with questions regarding incident management and planning. The small working groups utilized GIS tools and other items to complete a questionnaire developed by the State Planners to use as a guide when drafting their areas of the document.

4. Tell us how the tactical plans and budget were developed. (maximum 200 words)

The tactical plans (planning process) took place by establishing a venue to conduct these planning meetings. All relevant (municipal, county, state, and federal) partners were invited to participate. Briefings were held at each planning meeting on the project management timeline, task list, vision, mission, goals, and objectives. Planning workshops allowed participants to work on their site-specific response plans. At these workshops, the NJEMSTF provided GIS (Geographical Information Systems) tools, paper maps, overlays, aerial photography, consultants (who volunteered their time) and other items to conduct business. There was no budget (other than salary hours for the two full time State Planners) for this specific project.

Financial Resources for the Program/Activity:

To help judges evaluate both your efforts and the results, including the impact of your project, please estimate cash, grants and in-kind contributions that supported your program/activity. For consistency and comparison purposes, calculate values in U.S. dollars (go to www.xe.com to use free on-line currency converter).

a. Cash (actual financial contributions, donations, grants etc.)

Our positions are funded by DHS Grant. Salary Time dedicated towards this project Estimated at \$ 15,000.00

b. In-Kind (value of materials, labor, etc., contributed to project)	\$ 0
c. Total vale of cash, grants, donations and in-kind resources (add a & b).	\$ 15,000

Number of people affected by your program/activity: Potentially Twelve million people within a 14-mile radius

Is your program/activity ongoing? **Yes** **No**

Tell us how the project has had an impact on your constituency or community.
(maximum 200 words)

Of all the emergency services in the State of New Jersey, the EMS-discipline has been the only successful first responder organization to overcome the politics of “home rule” and “jurisdictional boundaries” to produce such a comprehensive and detailed response plan. Under the umbrella of the NJEMSTF, the State Planners were able to come up with the concept and coordinate the project so that all “relevant parties” and “those who had authority and jurisdiction” came together to collaborate in the planning process. Throughout the process, many of the participants complimented the NJEMSTF for their efforts and progress in producing such a comprehensive plan. Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCCL), a well known and established cruise ship company, sent representatives from their Miami office to these planning meetings, and publically stated that this is the most extensive plan for emergency medical services that they have ever been involved with and were thankful that the NJEMSTF proactively engaged them. Additionally, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness has publically vetted and acknowledged the efforts, calling the NJEMSTF and the EMS discipline, “the model agency and discipline for other New Jersey emergency response organizations”. Furthermore, this entire process has “stimulated” the other disciplines to begin to duplicate what the NJEMSTF and EMS has accomplished. The goal for New Jersey’s residents and visitors is to produce a multi-discipline overarching document that can be used for this area and serve as a model for other vulnerable ports in the nation. In the meantime, NJEMSTF is preparing to exercise components of the plan with homeland security grants over the next few years.

Complete and return this form and up to two attachments with supporting documents no later than **Aug. 15, 2008** via e-mail to info@iaem.com.

There is no entry fee for current IAEM members who submit entries. If a non-member wishes to submit an entry, there is a \$75 entry fee per entry. Non-member entry fees must be remitted with the official entry form to: IAEM, 201 Park Washington Court, Falls Church, VA 22046-4527.

IAEM accepts VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover (please include the security number located on either the front or back of the card along with the card holders billing address).

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date:

Security Code:

Credit Card Billing Address: