



Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association

Memorandum

Date: April 24, 2013
To: CRCOPA Membership
From: Chief Richard Mulhall
Subject: Emergency Activation Procedure – Blue Plan

The Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association (CRCOPA) has a long successful track record of mutual aid response to incidents within the Capitol Region. In the recent past, we’ve see an increase in violent incidents reaffirming a critical need for a more refined response to calls for mutual aid. The recent Newtown incident once again shows the importance of a good mutual aid response plan. A controlled response ensures that the proper number of officers and necessary equipment arrive on scene expeditiously to assist the local Chief of Police.

This document frames a system that can be activated by any of the Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association members. The Capitol Region Chiefs of Police are ready to fully execute the system to improve the coordination of personnel and equipment in order to meet the emergency needs of the region in an enhanced methodical manner.

The procedure will involve the use of:

- CRCOPA Mutual Aid Compact
- CRCOPA SWAT Tier Resource Directory
- RAFS Procedure

This document outlines a proposed action plan for activating defined mutual aid within our communities. Training has taken place with all agencies and work continues to educate the line officers, field supervisors, and communications personnel. In addition department are reviewing their local departments’ Standard Operation Procedures to ensure they include the Blue Plan. The Blue Plan leverages systems that CRCOPA has been building since the 1960’s – Mutual Aid, RAFS, enhanced tactical capabilities, Regional Equipment and other items. This plan includes the Connecticut State Police into our tiered plan. In the near future we will begin on defining the next levels of support – other regions, our federal partners and the military.

Each community will need to establish a staging area where responding Units will report. In most cases under a Level 1 response, Units will report directly to incident locations. Under Level 2 responses, responding Units will report to secondary staging areas (usually



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the local PD) for deployment instructions. This document needs direct review by each Chief to ensure it reflects all appropriate details.

For each of the departments in the Capitol Region we have prepared a two page summary that details and selects departments that will be responding to your requests for mutual aid. We have worked with your command staffs to ensure it is as accurate as possible. You should review your specific plan on a regular basis and if there is a need to adjust the plan in any way, you will need to contact CRCOPA to ensure the plan is modified with the changes.

I would remind you that each department will need to do the following to ensure the plan will be implemented as designed:

1. Ensure that the summary plan for your department is placed into your communication center.
2. Ensure that your dispatchers are well trained in the document. Note that we have developed a standard text for requesting mutual aid. Dispatchers just need to read what is written for each level of response (Levels 1, 2 and 3).
3. A review of RAFS is in order as the system is based on a dual dispatch over RAFS 1 and the Hot Line. Once we are sure that all dispatch centers are monitoring RAFS 1, we can move to a single band dispatch.
4. Ensure that your line supervisors know this plan well. The current Capitol Region POST Review Training Course that your officers, supervisors, and command staffs attend includes training on the plan. Internal review at roll calls will back up this training.
5. Stating incident details is unnecessary; only the request for mutual aid is needed. In debriefings of recent incidents it was obvious that there was “self dispatching” which resulted in overrunning local Command and Control Systems. The call should go out as “Mutual Aid” to ensure that our local supervisors will be able to properly handle the influx of assistance until a local Command Center can be established.

NOTE: All communications on RAFS 1 or 2 are *Plain English* only (no codes) to comply with NIMS, interoperability, and Homeland Security Standards.