

Resiliency and Readiness

By Tom Janis
Emergency Management Officer

Are you *Ready, Navy*? Are you prepared for those things beyond the morning commute and traffic along I-64/564? I mean you might have the detours and shortcuts down, but are you going to take shortcuts for the personal safety of your family, yourself, or your Shipmates? Your readiness affects mission readiness, and your response ability is your responsibility to the Navy.

America is a resilient society. We have demonstrated time and again that when times are tough we get tougher and we get things done. That is resiliency. You could say that resiliency is being prepared for emergencies and hopefully, it is that steady state of preparedness through which we recognize our threats and dangers, that we prepare for tomorrow.

Our last few Emergency Management articles have highlighted our area and regional threats -- pandemics and zombies, flooding, winter weather events, and tornadoes. Our next major threat arrives with the annual hurricane season which runs from June through November. According to LT Allison Mabrey, the Tropical Cyclone/Resource Protection Officer for Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk, "severe weather can happen anywhere, can occur at any time and during any season, and has the potential to reduce Fleet readiness and combat effectiveness."

Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk's mission is to keep the Fleet safe by "providing timely and accurate aviation, maritime and installation weather forecasts, warnings and recommendations." Sometimes severe weather brings unwanted company. As LT Mabrey recently remarked, Superstorm- a.k.a. "Frankenstorm" Sandy wasn't just a hurricane; it also brought familiar weather impacts- coastal flooding, above normal tides, storm surge, and damaging winds. All hurricanes have the potential to spawn severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. The Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk team is striving to provide decision superior-



ity to the Fleet and shore installations in order that we all increase our response ability.

I'm not certain that we can gauge our resiliency for emergencies only by assessing the metrics or measurable attributes of preparedness prior to an emergency. But I am certain that the solid principles (Be/Stay Informed; Make a Plan; Build a Kit) behind the *Ready Navy* program will lessen the burden of recovery and help us all get back to that pre-disaster state of readiness that our family and Shipmates depend upon.

Warren Edwards, retired Major General, US Army, is the Director of the Community and Regional Research Institute (CARRI) in Oak Ridge, Tenn. CARRI's mission is to help develop choices that any community may make to strengthen its ability to prepare for, respond to, and rapidly recover from significant man-made or natural disasters. Mr. Edwards noted in a blog that **resiliency is the result** of the "continuum of Prevent, Protect (to include Mitigate), Respond and Recover — with preparedness as a theme underlying all of those tasks." He went on to state that "one cannot prevent all occurrences, but we can prevent some, ...we cannot protect ourselves from all things, but we can focus on things that absolutely require high levels of protection," that "...we can focus recovery preparations on those events where we know that we will fail — hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, ice storms."

Make resiliency your goal for 2013. Remember: your readiness affects mission readiness. Your response **ability** is your responsibility to the Navy. Be Ready Navy!

Are you and your family READY for an emergency? Take the Ready or Not Ready Quiz to find out. http://ready.navy.mil/navycni/groups/public/documents/document/cnicp_a298556.pdf