



**American
Red Cross**

of the National Capital Area

News Release

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For Immediate Release

American Red Cross of National Capital Area Participates With Public Safety and Transportation Officials for CapWIN With Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md), U. Md. President, Dr. Dan Mote

Fairfax, Va. (July 29, 2008) – The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area Emergency and International Services staff joined D.C., Maryland and Virginia public safety and transportation officials in a briefing and demonstration of CapWIN (Capital Wireless Information Net) at University of Maryland on July 28. The event, primarily presented to thank Rep. Steny Hoyer for his efforts to fund it, demonstrated CapWIN's operating progress, benefits and accomplishments and future potential to enhance information-sharing in real-time when managing planned events or unforeseen crises in the region.

Joe Sciuto, senior director of emergency and international services for the Red Cross of the National Capital Area, and his staff hosted Hoyer's tour of the new Red Cross Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV). Through generous donations, American Red Cross of the National Capital Area owns and operates a technologically-advanced MCV which uses CapWIN's mobile data software. The MCV enables the Red Cross to quickly respond to a large disaster and remain operational on the scene while communicating via satellite with the chapter's Regional Disaster Coordination Center (RDCC) and also partnering Government and Non-Government agencies.

The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area's Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) provides a mobile platform utilized as an alternative to the Regional Disaster Coordination Center (located at the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area's Headquarters, 8550 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22310). The RDCC and the MCV are used to coordinate the provisioning of Red Cross services to the community and to provide communications and collaboration with our Government and Non-Government partner agencies.

The MCV, based on a Winnebago platform, provides workstations for 14 Disaster Relief Workers; each workstation is equipped with Satellite Communications, providing Computer Network Connectivity and an Internet Protocol Telephone, access to interagency communications systems such as CapWIN and WebEOC. The capabilities of the MCV allow the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area to bring the tools for managing a complex incident directly to the sight of the disaster.

CapWIN is a regional coalition of public safety and transportation agencies across Maryland, Virginia, D.C. and the Federal Government enabling interoperable data communications, operational data access, and incident coordination and situational awareness across jurisdictions and disciplines. The program involves a community of more than 4,500 registered first-responders from more than 80 distinct agencies consisting of law enforcement officers, emergency management, transit and EMS fire responders and support personnel from the region.

Congressman Steny Hoyer is an active supporter of the CapWIN program and works to continue funding for this project.

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Left to Right: Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-MD; Linda Frazier, Asst. Dir, Readiness, and Joe Sciuto, Sr. Dir, Emergency and Int'l Services, American Red Cross of the National Capital Area; Dr. Dan Mote, president, University of Maryland

About the American Red Cross

The **American Red Cross of the National Capital Area**, with a ratio of approximately 55 volunteers to each paid staff member, provides relief to victims of disaster and empowers people in our community to prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters and other life-threatening emergencies.

Financially supported by the generosity of the local community, your National Capital Area Chapter responds 2-3 times a day to local disasters – 553 in 2007 alone – while continuing to build its capacity to effectively prepare for and respond to the next major disaster striking our community. You have an integral part with helping Red Cross to continue serving clients during times of disasters impacting the large National Capital Area communities annually. Financial gifts provided to the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area enables us to continue preparing and providing services such as shelter, food, and counseling clients. **Contributions may be mailed to the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area, 8550 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcrossnca.org.**

The National Capital Area includes the counties of Prince George's, Montgomery, and Fairfax; the District of Columbia; and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The chapter maintains a field office on Fort Belvoir, and a presence at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Andrews Air force Base. The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area is the premier local resource empowering individuals and mobilizing our community to survive the unexpected and save lives.

For details about services offered by the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area, contact Kathy Thompson, director of communications and media relations, 703-584-8412, or e-mail thompsonk@redcrossnca.org

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