



northeast homeland security regional advisory council

NEWSLETTER

SERVING 85 COMMUNITIES IN NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

December 2016

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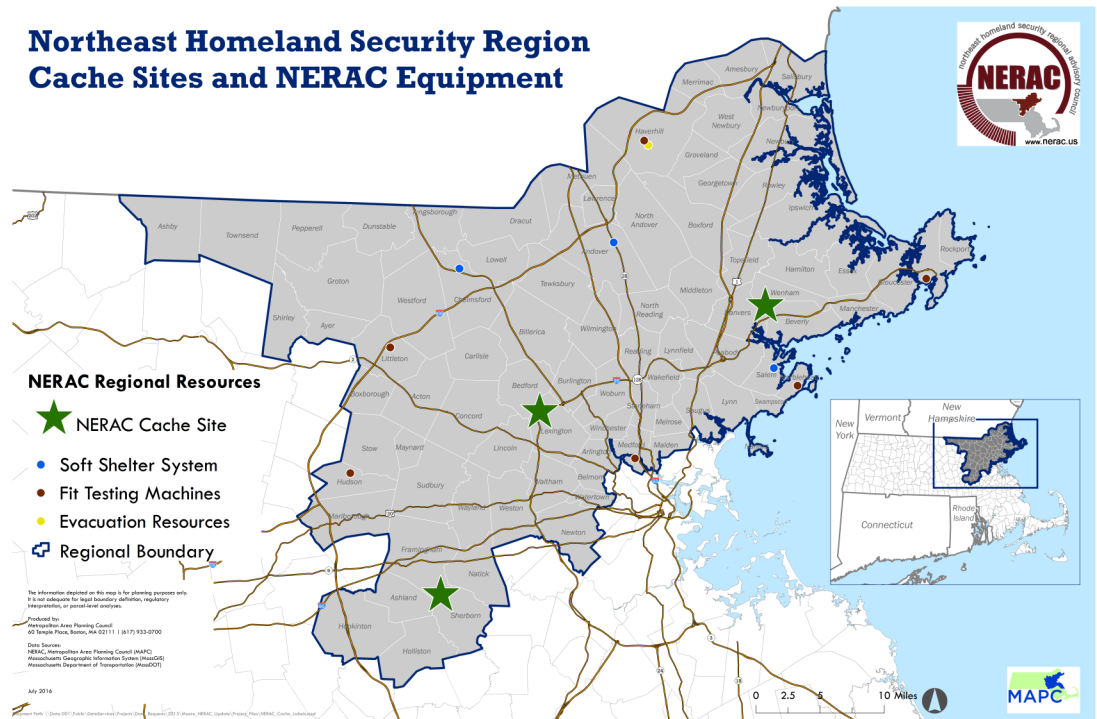
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Northeast Homeland Security Region Cache Sites and NERAC Equipment



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For more information on NERAC, please visit www.NERAC.us or contact Tim Moore, NERAC's Program Manager, at 617-933-0767 or tmoore@mapc.org.

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NEMLEC STARS Box Truck



NERAC has completed the purchase and outfitting of a box truck for the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) School Threat Assessment and Response System (STARS) Team to transport a portable x-ray machine when responding to schools faced with acts or threats of violence. The STARS Team is a regional task force of specially-trained law enforcement officers, firefighters, educators of all levels, local hospital personnel, school administrators, community-based mental health professionals, and school-based mental health professionals such as social workers, guidance/school counselors, adjustment counselors, and school psychologists. All of these individuals serve as volunteers on the STARS Team and provide

assistance to schools in member communities on the preparedness for, response to, and recovery from all types of emergencies and traumatic events.

The truck purchased by NERAC is a 2016 Ford E-350 with a heavy-duty hydraulic lift gate designed to safely raise and lower the x-ray machine (which weighs more than 600 lbs.), and an interior specifically outfitted to secure the machine during transport. The truck has communications capabilities and was outfitted with emergency lighting and sirens. Prior to this investment being made, team members were rolling the delicate x-ray machine up and down a ramp into a trailer, which was hazardous to their own safety and the calibration of the machine.



The x-ray machine can now be easily transported to any of NERAC's 85 communities should it be needed, where the STARS Team can assist with the management and operation of it. This ensures that should there be a threat or concern that a weapon is being brought to a school, all backpacks and other bags can be scanned to either find the weapon or provide assurance that no weapon entered the building.

FFY2016 Regional Homeland Security Plan

In August, NERAC submitted its FFY 2016 Regional Homeland Security Plan to the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). This plan details how the Council will invest the \$924,250 of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding it will receive this year to enhance the region's ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events. It was developed by the full NERAC Council and its subcommittees at meetings in May, June, and August of 2016.

As a result of the budgeting process, the Council has made plans to continue investing in the Regional Cache System, to support ongoing training and exercising throughout the region, and to support the specialized response teams that serve the region such as the Northeastern Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team (NEMTRT) and NEMLEC's various operational units.

The equipment available from NERAC's Regional Cache System, which has been used over 300 times by communities over the last 6 years, will be expanded to include off-road vehicles for transporting equipment and personnel to difficult to access incident scenes, and new LED light towers to provide light during overnight operations. There will also be an open house at the cache sites to allow stakeholders to view demonstrations of the equipment and become familiar with what is available.

Training and exercising opportunities funded through this grant cycle will include ICS-300, ICS-400, COML, COMT,

and International Trauma and Life Support training. Additionally, funding will be available for tabletop exercises that focus on homeland security/anti-terrorism priorities at the sub-regional level.

To ensure sustainment of the skills developed by the NEMTRT, NERAC will be providing backfill and overtime reimbursement to the departments with members on the team for 10 drills on trench, rope, structural collapse, confined space, and wide area search rescue tactics.

NERAC will also continue to support NEMLEC's SWAT, Motorcycle, and STARS Units through investments in both training and equipment. The SWAT Team will be provided with breaching tools, search mirrors, and a Level III ballistic shield, while the STARS Unit will be receiving a new command vehicle. Training will also be provided for the Motorcycle Unit to ensure that they have a sufficient number of trained mechanics available to service motorcycles during incidents without taking them out of service.

In addition to these projects, NERAC also received \$366,700 of FFY 2016 Competitive Local Share funding to lead collaborative efforts with the Southeast Homeland Security Region to conduct a full-scale technical rescue exercise and improve response to active shooter events through a multi-faceted training program (explained in further detail on the next page).



Active Shooter Training

As part of the FFY 2016 budgeting process, the EOPSS made 20% of the State Homeland Security Program grant funds available to all four homeland security regions for award on a competitive basis. NERAC successfully applied for \$165,000 of funding that will be used on a collaborative active threat training effort for first responders in the Northeast and Southeast regions. The project will focus on training law enforcement officers to safely eliminate all types of active threats, and improving survivability of victims by providing training for law enforcement, fire service, and EMS personnel to work together to deliver effective and immediate medical care as soon as it is practically possible. The overall goals and objectives for this project are based on the principles of DHS's [First Responder Guide for Improving Survivability in Improvised Explosive Device and/or Active Shooter Incidents](#).

The project will bring two different training courses to the Northeast and Southeast regions. The first course is called Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERTT), and will be offered several times in both regions to law enforcement audiences. This course was developed by Texas State University, and has been



adopted by the FBI as the standard for their special agent tactical instructors. The course is intended for officers who are likely to be the first on-scene during an active shooter event. During the two-day program, officers will learn how to isolate, distract, and neutralize an active shooter through classroom presentations and challenging force-on-force simulations designed to test and improve their skills.

The second program to be offered is called the Active Threat Integrated Response Course (ATIRC). This three-day course, which was also developed by Texas State University, is designed for a combined audience of law enforcement, fire service, and EMS stakeholders to learn how to cohesively respond to active shooter events and provide medical interventions to victims as soon as it is safely possible using Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) principles, including care that is appropriate when facing a direct threat, an indirect threat, and during casualty evacuation.

Backfill and overtime reimbursement will be available for these courses (at a maximum rate of up to \$35/hour). Registration information for individual courses will be distributed to all police and fire chiefs in the region, and posted at www.nerac.us as dates/locations are confirmed.

Portable Radio Caches

The NERAC Cache sites in Beverly, Framingham, and Lexington each have 30 XTS2500 UHF portable radios in their inventory available for use. These radios all have a full display with a keypad, a speaker mic, and an 8-hour battery life. They are typically accessed by communities that are having large planned events where high levels of radio traffic cause a need for additional channels to be used.



There are 16 zones in each radio, which are programmed with a variety of federal and regional interoperability channels, including the BAPERN network, each of the state's EMS regions, and all of the Fire Districts in the region. If the use of local channels is desired, the borrowing municipality is responsible for programming the appropriate channels into the radio, and encouraged to make radio reservations far enough in advance to allow time for this.



The daily fee for each radio is \$2.00, which enables communities to borrow this \$2,000 resource very affordably. Radio usage guides with additional information and complete channel plans can be found at www.nerac.us under the Regional Resources tab on the main heading (login credentials are required).

CAT Tourniquets

NERAC recently purchased 12 combat application tourniquets (CAT) for each of the 21 hospitals in the region. These tourniquets were originally used in combat operations by the U.S. Army, and have proven to preserve the lives of victims of explosive and ballistic events long enough to allow for transport to a higher level of medical care in both military and civilian situations. After the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, tourniquets (and even some improvised tourniquets) were credited with saving many lives and limbs.



The modern design of these tourniquets enables them to be



applied with one hand, allowing for self-application if necessary. The advanced design does not contain screws and clips, which can be difficult to maneuver in stressful and hazardous environments.

The tourniquets distributed to the hospitals in the region will serve as a resource in the event of a mass casualty event where an individual emergency department is overwhelmed, or in the event of an explosive or ballistic event occurring inside or near a hospital.

DHS Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism

On October 28th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a comprehensive [Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism](#). The strategy, which builds on Secretary Johnson's [2015 Memorandum](#) that created the Office for Community Partnerships (OCP), was built to improve community level prevention and intervention activities that counter the narratives of violent extremism and prevent individuals or groups from considering turning to violence based on political, religious, or philosophical ideologies.

DHS identified four primary goals in this strategy, which will be updated every three years:

1. Enhance understanding of the evolving violent extremism threat & develop effective ways to counter the threat.
2. Raise community awareness by disseminating information to community partners.
3. Support community-based efforts to counter violent extremism.
4. Enhance oversight and coordination of DHS Countering

Violent Extremism (CVE) activities.

While law enforcement and counterterrorism efforts must continue to disrupt ongoing plots by individuals who have already been radicalized, this comprehensive strategy is designed to improve the nation's ability to stop individuals from reaching the point where radicalization motivates them to commit violence.

In July, DHS also announced a \$10 million funding opportunity for the first ever CVE grants, which are intended to develop resilience, train and engage community members, manage intervention activities, build the capacity of community level non-profits, and challenge extremist narratives.

For supplemental information on CVE, please visit the FBI's "[Don't Be a Puppet](#)" page, which provides a short training program on violent extremism, or their 2016 guide on [Preventing Violent Extremism in Schools](#), which was developed by their Office of Partner Engagement.

Evacuation Resources

In collaboration with the Merrimack Valley Regional Transportation Authority (MVRTA), NERAC has transformed five former transportation authority vehicles into dedicated emergency evacuation resources.

Currently, one Ambubus, two Evacuation Buses, and two Evacuation Vans are available at the MVRTA facility in Haverhill.



Ambubuses can house up to 12 non-mobile passengers on backboards and stretchers along with 10 mobile passengers, and are equipped with basic emergency medical supplies. Two other transit buses have been refurbished and turned into Evacuation Buses that can be used to transport mobile passengers, while the two Evacuation Vans are refurbished paratransit vehicles designed to safely transport patients who are confined to wheelchairs. All of these resources are strategically held in reserve for emergency use only. They can be requested by contacting Northeast CMED at 978-946-8130. Bus drivers are provided by the MVRTA.



NTAS Bulletin Update

On November 15th, DHS released a new National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin, updating and reinforcing the information from the bulletin that was released in June of 2016. Since that time, the overall threat environment has not changed, and DHS remains concerned about violent extremists conducting attacks within the United States with little or no notice. There is also continued concern about threats and/or violent attacks directed towards communities and individuals based on perceived religion, ethnicity, nationality or sexual orientation.

The bulletin specifically acknowledges the crucial role that public vigilance had in the effective response to the September bombing attacks in New York and New Jersey. Although there are no elevated or imminent threats at this time, the holiday season provides additional opportunities for extremists to target public events and large gatherings, so DHS is encouraging the public to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings at all times.

To view this bulletin in its entirety, please click [here](#). It will be in effect until May 15th of 2017, at which time the threat levels will be reassessed.

All NTAS bulletins and other elevated or imminent alerts are posted to www.dhs.gov and to DHS's twitter and facebook pages. To receive mobile updates, go to: www.twitter.com/dhsgov. They are also automatically posted on the NERAC website at www.nerac.us when they are released by DHS.





NERAC MEETING SCHEDULE

NERAC Full Council

Date: 2nd Thursday of Every Month

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Burlington Town Hall Main Hearing Room

Training and Exercise Committee

Date: 2nd Thursday of Every Month

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: Burlington Town Hall Main Hearing Room

Communications Interoperability Committee

Date: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month

Time: 9:30am-12:00pm

Location: Essex County RECC (Middleton)

Regional Cache Committee

Date:	Dec. 14th	March 7th	June 16th
Time:	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Location:	Lexington DPW	Framingham DPW	Burlington Town Hall

ICS Working Group

Date: 2nd Thursday of Every Month

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Location: Burlington Town Hall Main Hearing Room

All agendas and open meeting notices for NERAC meetings are posted at www.nerac.us. For questions regarding any of these meetings, please contact NERAC's Program Manager, Tim Moore, at 617-933-0767 or tmoore@mapc.org.

Is your department active on social media?

Follow the official NERAC Facebook and Twitter accounts for up-to-date information on trainings, exercises, and resources.

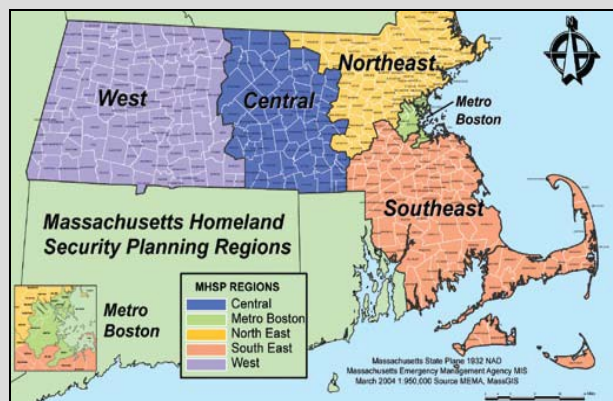
www.facebook.com/NERAC.HS/

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MASSACHUSETTS HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM

In 2004, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) designated 5 Homeland Security Planning Regions. EOPSS appointed multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional Advisory Councils for the Northeast, Southeast, Central, and Western regions. These groups represent all relevant public safety disciplines, including law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, public health, hospitals, emergency medical services, public works, transportation, corrections, communications, and local government. The Metro Boston Region has a 9 member advisory council, with 1 representative from each jurisdiction in the region appointed by that jurisdiction's chief executive officer.



The Advisory Councils serve as the policy making and administrative bodies for the Homeland Security Regions as defined by the Massachusetts Homeland Security Strategy developed by EOPSS. The regions receive funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through EOPSS.

MAPC acts as the fiduciary for the Northeast, Southeast, Central and Western Homeland Security Councils, and also provides planning, facilitation, administrative support, and project management services to these regions.

NERAC Smartphone App

NERAC has developed a smartphone/mobile device application available for use by all public safety stakeholders and first responders designed to put critical information about NERAC in your hand when it is needed most. The app consists of the following three plans:

About NERAC

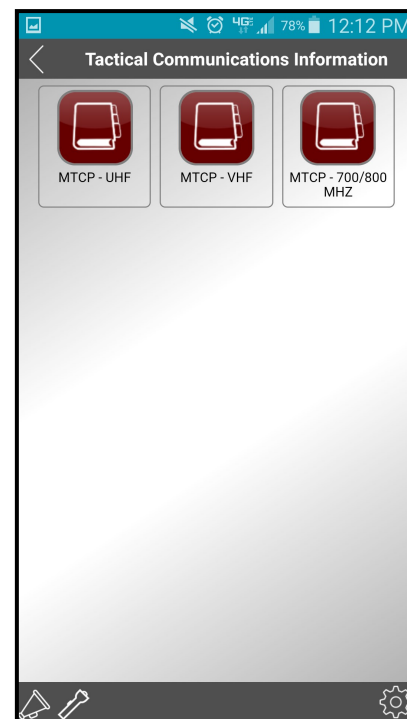
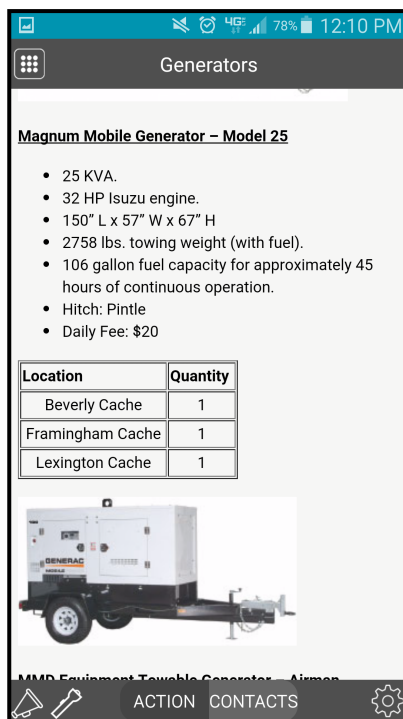
This plan contains general information about the NERAC region, the Council, the Council's projects and initiatives, and important contact information. It should be downloaded by anyone who has an interest in the Council's activities or a desire to become involved in the Council's work.

NERAC Regional Resources

This plan contains specific info on NERAC funded equipment that is available to communities in the region, including quantities, model numbers, capabilities, and contact numbers for access. It is designed for use by anyone who may be in a position to make a resource request on behalf of a municipality/agency.

Tactical Comm Info

This plan contains information on the Massachusetts Tactical Channel Plan (MTCP) for UHF, VHF, and 800 MHz radio systems. It should be used by anyone who may be programming radios or repeaters for local or regional interoperability activities.



For instructions and passwords needed to download this application, please visit www.nerac.us or contact NERAC's Program Manager, Tim Moore, at TMoore@mapc.org.

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