



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Training and Exercise Committee Meeting

March 12, 2026

12:00pm

*MPTC Lynnfield Police Academy
425 Walnut St, Lynnfield, MA 01940*

- **Call to Order**
 - Chair J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM
- **Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2026 Meeting**

MOTION put forth by M. Collins.

- Approve the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes
- Seconded by N. Hovey.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
- **Budget Updates**
 - FY23 Grant End Date: July 31, 2026
 - FY24 Grant End Date: July 31, 2027
 - FFY25 – No updates, MAPC is waiting on word from EOPSS.
 - BF/OT Eligibility Policy
 - MAPC shared that recent trainings have raised questions requiring clarification on eligibility for BF/OT reimbursements. While formal guidance from EOPSS is still pending, the Committee discussed establishing an interim policy within existing guidelines to ensure consistency in how MAPC advertises BF/OT eligibility.
 - Currently, MAPC states that municipal departments may request reimbursement for overtime paid to non-exempt first responder personnel who either attend a training or provide backfill coverage (but not both for the same shift). The Committee discussed the need to further define “first responder personnel,” particularly in light of recent training participants that included dispatch staff and administrative roles.
 - The Committee also reviewed whether SHSP funds should support state-level entities, such as law enforcement personnel from state universities. Based on prior EOPSS guidance emphasizing municipal prioritization, the Committee expressed consensus that BF/OT reimbursement should not extend to state university law enforcement.



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- Additionally, prior NERAC policy allowed reimbursement for full shifts (10 hours) beyond the actual training hours for backfill; however, since formal guidance from EOPSS is still pending, the current approach is to reimburse backfill only for the duration of the training.
- **Project Updates**
 - *ASIM and Reunification Training and Equipment*
 - The ASIM Basic Train-the-Trainer was held January 13–14 at MPTC.
 - The second phase, SSAVEIM training, is planned for May 28–29, 2026, with a train-the-trainer day followed by instruction led by the new trainers, including school personnel, emergency management, PIOs, and first responders.
 - MAPC is working on configuring the registration survey and hope to have it out by mid-April so people can start registering.
 - *ASHER Tabletop Exercise (Acton, Boxborough, Groton, Littleton)*
 - There is \$38,000 allocated in FFY23 to hire a consultant to facilitate an HSEEP aligned Active Shooter TTX.
 - The scenario will be a homegrown violent extremist attack at a Jr. High School in Acton, MA, on an election Tuesday when school is also in session (contributing to the Election Security spend requirement).
 - NERAC hired a consultant to plan the exercise and is paying BF/OT for participants.
 - Based on estimates from the participating departments, they expect to be well within their BF/OT allocation even with full rates.
 - The Interop Committee reviewed their radio communications checklist, and Dave Spinosa connected with Chief Arnum to provide support with creating the ICS-205 (required for AAR-IP approval).
 - The Final Planning Meeting occurred on March 9th, and the exercise date is March 23rd.
 - *Cape Ann ALICE and WAVR-21 Training*
 - There is \$66,500 allocated in FFY24 to fund trainings for Essex, Gloucester, Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Rockport.
 - The ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training would be provided to 298 general government employees.
 - The WAVR-21 (Workplace Assessment of Violence Risk) training would be for 26 municipal leaders.
 - The municipalities have trainers who can deliver the in-person portion of the ALICE training, so MAPC is looking into justifying a sole source procurement, and what options we have for the online portion that will remain within the performance period of the grant.



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- WAVR-21 will need to be a competitive procurement, but the assessment/training curriculum are proprietary, so we'll need to draft a scope for threat assessment training that will still meet their needs. We'll discuss how to accomplish this with the municipalities.
- *MetroWest ASHER/MCI Exercise Series*
 - There is \$87,500 allocated in FFY24 to facilitate an exercise series for the MetroWest REPC communities of Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Natick, and Sherborn.
 - Project lead Chief Cassidy of Holliston has confirmed they are still interested in pursuing the project. MAPC will schedule a call with him to discuss vision and needs.
- **Technical Rescue Teams**
 - *Update on EHP Delays*
 - MAPC was notified by EOPSS earlier this week that FD-14's April drill will most likely not be approved in time for the drill, due to the partial government shutdown that has affected DHS and FEMA.
 - We notified FD-14 and they confirmed they will still proceed with the drill.
 - *Fire District 14 Technical Rescue Team*
 - ERR May 2026 Rope Drill
 - AAR February 2026 Wide Area Search Drill
 - *Northeast MA Technical Rescue Team*
 - AAR February 2026 Water Rescue Drill

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Approve the Technical Rescue ERRs and AARs as presented.
- Seconded by M. Collins.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by M. Collins.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

****Next Meeting: April 9, 2026****



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

ATTENDEES – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department*

Michael Collins: Beverly Department of Public Services*

Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department*

ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Klag: Emergency North Shore Medical Center*

Chief John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department*

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Lauren Sacks: MAPC

Karla Kahale: MAPC

Connor Grenier: Northeast MA Technical Rescue

Shawn Green: FD-14 Technical Rescue

Chief David Evans: Newbury Fire Department*

*Denotes a Full Council Member.

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- March 2026 Meeting Agenda
- February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- FFY23-24 Budget Updates
- FD-14 ERR May 2026 Rope Drill
- FD-14 AAR February 2026 Wide Area Search Drill
- NEMTRT AAR February 2026 Water Rescue Drill