

# LEVERAGING REGIONALISM TO SUPPORT NCR RESPONSE OPERATIONS

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# The Importance of Regionalism

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- In a regional system, each sovereign jurisdiction must coordinate, share information, and allocate resources when needed during mutual aid and significant events that require situational awareness.
- The National Capital Region (NCR) homeland security and public safety community must maintain a collective regional perspective at the local, state, and federal levels and commit to working collaboratively across jurisdictions and disciplines.
- NCR stakeholders work regionally to learn from emergencies, emulate key successes, and correct critical failures.

# Strengthening Regional Coordination

- Following the 1982 Air Florida crash, a COG task force, including police, fire, and EMS officials, made a series of recommendations implemented by area governments to strengthen the region's disaster response.
- The actions taken since then have served the NCR during other major emergencies and have been continually improved upon by regional partners.
  - September 11, 2001
  - January 6, 2021
  - January 29, 2025 - Mid-Air Collision



# NCR Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) 2005

Mutual aid is the provision of law enforcement, fire, rescue, emergency health and medical services, transportation, communications, public works and engineering, mass care, and resource support.

- Three situations trigger Mutual Aid under the Act:
  - A public service event (e.g., Presidential Inauguration)
  - An emergency (e.g., major disaster, a declared state of emergency, or declared local emergency)
    - Local emergency has been interpreted to include regular emergency responses across state lines
  - Training or exercises for either situation
- MAA provides public safety and other emergency services across jurisdictional boundaries which increases the ability to preserve the safety and welfare of the entire NCR.
- Authorized by the Intelligence Reform & Terrorism Prevention Act (2004), which also defines the NCR.

# Mutual Aid Operations Plans (MAOP)

- Operational agreements between jurisdictions to provide mutual aid.
- Agreed upon methods and procedures among the specific emergency providers for their respective jurisdictional response to a request for mutual aid.
- Contain the “nuts and bolts” of how a discipline puts the MAA into action.
- Current MAOPs include:
  - Police
  - Fire and Rescue
  - Emergency Management
  - Transportation
  - Corrections
  - Debris Removal



# RICCS, NCR Watch Desk, and Coordination Calls

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- **Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System (RICCS) and NCR Watch Desk**
  - A system used for rapid communication to homeland security and public safety personnel, as well as government officials during major incidents via email, text, voice, and conference call.
  - RICCS is operated at the NCR Watch Desk 24/7 and provides situational awareness of varying incidents occurring in the NCR.
- **Coordination Calls**
  - Convene short-notice teleconferences among public safety personnel to coordinate regional preparation and response.



# January 29, 2025 – Regional Response

- 300 first responders on the scene
  - More than 90 agencies overall participated throughout the response and recovery effort
- COG supported the regional response through:
  - Regional emergency management coordination calls
  - Amplifying messaging through coordination with region's public information officers
  - Leveraging information sharing, such as mapping and video programs, and other resources



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