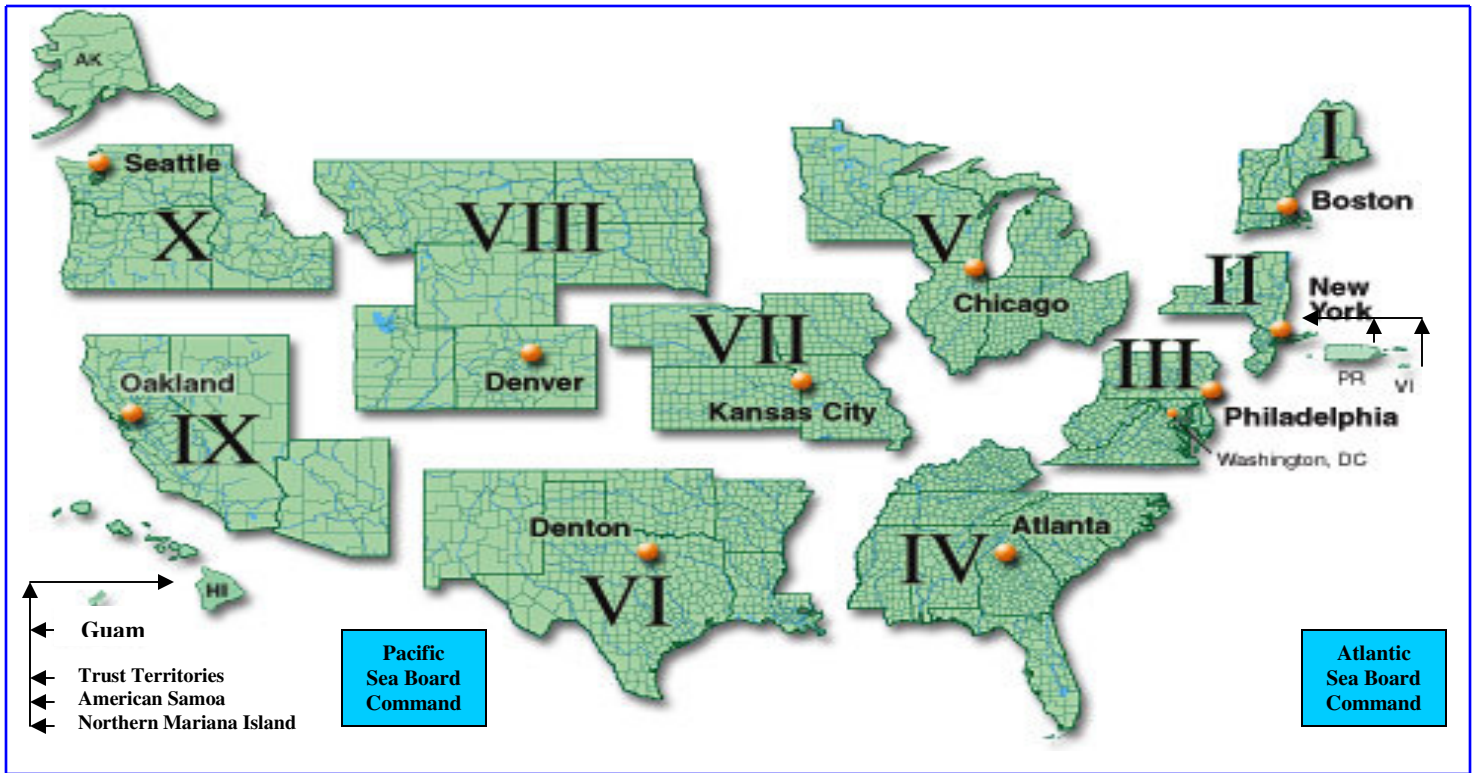


Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Newsletter



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Hence The Concept

Special Two Part Series

Hence The Concept

Letter from the Administrator

Marc E. Klein

How Governor's Mobile Tactical Command came about "Hence the concept"

Part One

On September 11, 2001, our world stopped and our freedom was tested. Again, in history events on national television impacted our lives. The instant bravery, courage, unity and strength among millions of our fellow citizens are what America stands for. "Our nation under god with liberty and justice for all" Our fore fathers stood for honor, grace, dignity and our heart felt sorrow went out to these men and women of all walks of life.

Knowing in my heart that the World Trade Centers would collapse and hearing the reports, seeing those brave men and women sacrifice their lives to save thousands. How can anyone in the world understand the impact of one of our saddest days in modern history? Where do we go from here? **"Hence the concept"**

Where is the justice? How could this happen? Why did this event occur? Why was this plot not stopped? Explain those and thousand of other questions then just maybe we would better understand the impact of 9-11. The impact that changed my world!

Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Newsletter

September 11, 2001

My day started taking my wife to the doctor's office for her pre-op surgery meeting. A young man brought a portable TV into the waiting room and I noticed the young man and mother was one of my supervisor's wife and son. I looked at the World Trade Center burning and just then the second airplane hit the north tower. I turned to my wife and told her that we needed to post-poned her surgery. Just then my beeper went off over 10 times and each message said call fire headquarters 911. I finally got through to my supervisor and he gave me my first direct order in 27 years of being a professional firefighter. He ordered me to place all eight reserve rescues and stock all five reserve fire engines and make them Advance Life Support units. Chief told me to secure my family and bring enough uniforms to last for weeks.

Chief also informed me of some classified information and the unknown possibilities. He told me that I will have a staff of 10 employees to master the job. I turned and kissed my wife and told her to get the kids home. I turned to Janice my supervisor's wife and told her to secure her family and go home. While I was driving home my beeper never stopped going off updating us of possible situations. The next eight hours and in record time we equipped eight rescues and five reserve fire engines to Advance Life Support status with all the paperwork signed and ready to be turned in to the state of Florida which met and exceeded the minimum requirements. Standardization of equipment needed during an emergency of the unknown. **"Hence the concept"**

August 15, 2004

Then as the next few years went by Florida got hit with one major hurricane after another. Then Hurricane Charlie hit Central Florida and I was assigned to Central Task Force Four. When Hurricane Charlie finished with Central Florida we started our deployment. The skies were dark and still slight rain was falling to earth. We responded to the eastern part of the county. What should have taken us about a 10 minute emergency response took nearly an hour. Being part of Central Task Force Four we were responsible for hundreds of square miles to include the Walt Disney World Resort Areas. Then dispatch reported to us that over 750 emergency phone calls originated from the eastern part of the county.

My partner and I turned left onto a major highway and immediately saw the destruction. During our slow response we cleared debris from the roadway, cutting tree limbs out of our path and moving miles of down electrical wire from the roadway. The sky was eerie, no moon, no street lights illuminating the roadway, no vehicles on the roadway other than the task force, no airplanes in the sky. The wind was still blowing and a light rain was still falling. Miles of darkness and loneliness struck...

The job that faced us when we finally got into the area was unmanageable we needed heavy duty moving equipment and we needed it now not tomorrow. Dispatch response was to go around and find another way into the community and our response was that it is impossible. These trees were as big as round as the redwood forest trees in circumference. The 24 inch chain saws were no match for these trees then out of his home came this small gentlemen who informed us that he could help us move these trees to the side of the roadway so our emergency vehicles could at least get into the effective region. We gladly asked for assistance then dispatch was advising us of the fires, injured persons who needed our help and waiting for our arrival. **"Hence the concept"**

One tree was removed then the next and within the next six hours we opened up five miles of highway for emergency vehicles only. All residents were ordered to stay home and away from this part of the county. This major highway only had the north bound lanes open for two way traffic. Roadways into the suburbs were being cleared by homeowners and firefighters. A community together stays together. The outpour of support from the neighbors and the community was touching. The sun was coming up over the horizon and the highway and most of the emergency calls that were placed on hold earlier in the evening have been resolved or assigned to. **"Hence the concept"**

The task in front of us just started. Questions were being asked were do we go? How do we get started? Where is the additional task force coming from? Where was command and staging and how were we going to feed the initial responding task force in this part of the community? We started to ask hundreds of questions? Where is our leadership, how long were we going too being left out here alone freelancing? We started traveling from street to the next to see if anything needs to be done immediately to control the area. Total command structure failure and what about the infrastructure commands? It took days to really get control of the situation. **"Hence the concept"**

Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Newsletter

The loudest and the county with the most money in Central Florida Region won the war on getting outside help to respond into Central Florida. Surrounding counties needed help more so but in my view point the loudest and the biggest giant in the area gets the most for the taking. **"Hence the concept"**

Freelancing and price gouging galore was out of control and where would it end? Pine trees that were in one part of a home, but the people could live in the other part hired tree surgeons from around this country just to help them cope a little. **"Hence the concept"**

Several out of state tree surgeon companies were asking \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 dollars to remove one tree. I remember being in charge of a small task force of firefighters sent in to a community to secure a grid. An older man and women walked up to me and asked if we could help them. We offered them a helping hand after hearing their plight. Walking over to the next street and seeing these three trees through his home and witnessing a \$9,000.00 bill to be paid upfront in cash to remove these three trees was to say the least over whelming.

I called my wife and asked her to call a local tree surgeon who we have used for years and whom my wife has known for over 25 years. Shortly my wife informed me that the average tree removal was from \$750.00 to \$1,500.00 per tree. I walked up to the lead tree surgeon and advised him of the local pricing and asked him to handle the job at the local rates. The homeowner agreed to the lower price given by my friend. The lead tree surgeon laughed and said no, I asked for his name and place of business took all the information I could obtain off the truck and wrote down the description of the team of tree surgeons. Then I explained to them what we were going to do because of safety issues beyond their control. (Double standards maybe) They became very upset and I told them that our team will do the work cutting these three trees out of their home then placing a blue tarp over their roof to secure the home. We saved this couple \$9,000.00. I then informed the county officials of this type of price, gouging. Where is the justice? **"Hence the concept"**

Several days went by and I was attached to another small task force at a mobile home park that was devastated in the eastern part of the county. You have to realize that this community of retired people were hungry and started complaining they were hot. The temperature during the heat of the day was in the mid-nineties. **"Hence the concept"**

Once we arrived in this community we saw hundreds of retired people sitting outside their manufacture homes. There is no electricity in this area and Florida Power was informing us that the restoration of power to this region will take at least three weeks. After driving around the complex our staging area was at the community center which was totally intact. Our team went though hundreds of damaged manufactures homes and started asking the homeowners if we can transfer there large size window air conditioners to their community center and they agreed. **"Hence the concept"**

The window units were under the pile of debris. In tow we had several a/c units; we asked the community leader if we can tap into his power lifting generator to run these a/c units. The generator was sitting idle because the community center was closed. During this time we hooked up their refrigerators, ice machine, microwave and television. The word was getting out within the community and in just a few minutes hundreds of people started to help partition off rooms with 30 ply plastic sheathing hanging from the ceiling. Calculating the a/c output gave us the dimensions for each room. By the time we left late that night the community center was a little bit stronger, more manageable and a lot cooler. **"Hence the concept"**

I personally made an air conditioned oxygen and medication supply room and moved in cots for people who needed to sleep with their sleep apnea machines. This community finally got back to some type order with a new direction but with a lot of questions that needed to be addressed. Being part of Fire/EMS command I learned a tremendous amount. During a break I called my friend Mr. R who was part of command of the local utility company. Impressive responses to questions I asked Mr. R then he hesitated and he told me straight up what standard procedures. We are winging it. I asked him one other question, is other agencies have the same standards that you have. His response was I hope so? After the situation was back to normal I sat down with Mr. R. and asked several hard questions. Mr. R. answered each one of my questions and together we formed a stronger bond that Standard Operating Procedures needed to be written for each field of operation. A standardize infrastructure response team needs to be deployed and trained under one umbrella and have Subject Matter Experts available to respond for teams. **"Hence the concept"**

Part one of two

Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Newsletter

Creating the Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Round Table

We will identify Governor's Mobile Tactical Command

1. The first meeting is in **Orlando, Florida on July 21 – 22, 2007**, (RSVP) – We will create a task force of experts to form a round table. The maximum number of experts from each state should not exceed two.
-

We will identify the impact of having Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Headquarters established in each region and will generate over **118 new jobs**

2. The second meeting is in **Atlanta, Georgia on August 25 – 26, 2007**, (RSVP) – We will have the necessary information to establish specific commands for each region and their location.
-

We will identify the topography and address special needs and how our equipment will be able to be shuttled by land, sea or air to the affective area of ground zero

3. The third meeting is in **Saint Louis Missouri, on September 22 and 23, 2007**, (RSVP) – We will finalize a list of all special equipment needed for each specific region.
-

The direction and scope of establishing Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Headquarters will be better identified and defined by the fourth meeting

4. The fourth meeting – is in **Washington D.C, on October 20 and 21, 2007**. We will invite specific Associations, Organizations, Special interested parties and private groups to help offset the cost of networking and to establish the first **Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Headquarters**.

If each state pays their initial share by the fourth meeting and we generate **\$25,000,000.00** in donations from the private sector each state will only pay ONE MILLION DOLLARS THE NEXT YEAR (if the donation from the private sector continues). If we receive more donations then originally pledged, the states will off set-the cost difference the following years! By acting today, the first completed **Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Units** could be on-line by mid spring of 2008.

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The next newsletter will be about the S.M.E's, producing our own power for Governor's Command and neighboring areas and how our C-8500's are transformed into emergency response vehicles and support units. We are also addressing equipment that is attached to **Governor's Mobile Tactical Command**. Please R.S.V.P my office if you would like to participate as a Subject Matter Expert. Any other questions please feel free to call or write me at the above address. These newsletters by the end of next year will likely turn into a magazine where one stop shopping of experts will be listed in our database along with our Hazardous Material Experts. If you would like to subscribe to: **Governor's Mobile Tactical Command Newsletter** please forward \$29.95 for 26 issues per year or \$9.95 per year as an e-mail attachment. You can go to our website at www.governorcommand.com and read additional newsletters.