



May 16, 2006

TO: All Commissioned Corps Officers

FROM: United States Surgeon General

SUBJECT: New Training Requirements

Much has transpired in the last few months related to the readiness and response of the Commissioned Corps. Important related materials are the recent White House Publication, "The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned"; Secretary Leavitt's January 18th announcement of his Transformation decisions; and the continuing workgroup efforts by the Department to rapidly operationalize the recommendations within the "Katrina Report". Every indication points to an even greater role by the Commissioned Corps in addressing the Nation's public health and medical needs.

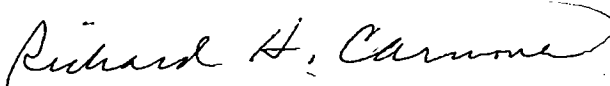
One of the immediate recommendations that can be accomplished quickly is for the Commissioned Corps to become trained in the Incident Command System, the National Incident Management System, and the National Response Plan. In fact, across government, all individuals involved in emergency preparedness and response are required to complete four on-line training courses that have been prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and are widely accepted as the national standard. (These courses are in addition to current Corps readiness training requirements) A better understanding of the FEMA course topics will promote utilization of ICS concepts in leading, managing, and participating in an emergency response.

Courses:

- IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command
- IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
- IS-800 National Response Plan (NRP), an Introduction
- IS-200 Basic Incident Command System for Federal Disaster Workers

These courses are available thru the OFRD site at https://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/NIMS_training.htm as well as instructions on how to register for the courses and retain certificates of completion.

Every officer in the Corps is expected to complete these courses by June, 2006 so we can be better prepared for the 2006 hurricane season. Thank you for your dedication to our mission.


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