

# Safest in America

A Publication of The Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security

Spring 2011

## NW REGIONAL BUSINESS COALITION GAINS MOMENTUM

The Mercyhurst College Public Safety Institute (PSI) and Northwestern Pennsylvania Region II Emergency Response Group (ERG) met in 2009 to kick off an ambitious attempt to partner with the regional business community to improve the overall operational safety of these private enterprises. This partnership formed the Northwest Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security (NWPABCHS).

The Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security was the model for the NW Coalition, and on numerous occasions, Executive Director Kelly Barcic consulted with their leadership team. Dr. Art Amann, Director of the Public Safety Institute at Mercyhurst College is one of founding coordinators. "Kelly's support and the work that has already been done in Pittsburgh laid the groundwork for us," he said.

"If there wasn't the existing model, probably nothing would have happened in Erie. We are grateful for all the expertise and support we received so far."

On March 9, Dr. Amann and Rick Lamb spent the day in Pittsburgh with the Coalition staff learning more. "It really is a natural extension of our work in the region to support their effort," said Barcic. "What we learned along the way can help make the NW Coalition a smooth launch."

In the NW region, the Mercyhurst PSI has been training first responders and providing logistical support to their efforts for several

years. In the case of police training, this education has been offered for approximately 20 years. The ERG is comprised of five counties in NW Pennsylvania: Crawford, Warren, Erie, Venango and Forest. The ERG works closely with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and other public safety agencies to improve the level of safety in the region.

*Continued on page 4*



*Left to Right: Dr. Art Amann and Rick Lamb look to get started on the NWPABCHS.*

## MEMBERS MEETING

Members are encouraged to bring a non-member to the meeting. Informational tables are available for Coalition member companies.



## FEEDBACK REQUESTED

### Complete the Electronic Survey

You are invited to participate in our first PRBCHS Opinion Study. Feedback from our member organizations is an important component of the Coalition's ongoing planning and improvement processes.

To make participation as convenient as possible, we will send you the survey via your email. Look for it in the near future.

Please note that the survey itself should take no more than **10 minutes** to complete.

There will be areas for you to share your ideas and comments. The survey results will provide important information to help form our strategy development and enable us to make appropriate adjustments to our programming efforts.

We appreciate your time and assistance in providing information and input that will help us enhance the value of the Coalition to your organization.

## GIANT EAGLE JOINS THE COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Sealy spent 25 years in the Central Intelligence Agency, serving the bulk of his career as a field operations officer, including two tours as a station chief.

Mr. Sealy's CIA headquarters experience includes rotational assignments in the Directorate of Intelligence and direct experience in the policy-making and Congressional oversight process. Mr. Sealy retired from the CIA in late 2003 as Chief of a staff overseeing special sensitive activities worldwide on behalf of the Deputy Director for Operations.

Mr. Sealy then joined the H. J. Heinz Company in Pittsburgh as Vice President, Chief Risk Officer, where he became an expert in food defense and facility security as it pertains to food processing plants globally. Since 2006, he has served as the Vice President of Risk Management Services for Giant Eagle Inc., a major regional supermarket chain operating over 350 stores. Additionally, Mr. Sealy is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, where he teaches on intelligence-related subjects.

Reid Fleming has 36 years in the retail loss prevention field. In 1984 he joined the Loss Prevention Department of Giant Eagle Inc, a major regional supermarket chain operating over 350 stores, where he is now the Director of Loss Prevention & Security. He currently oversees the Security, Loss Prevention, and Emergency Planning/Asset Protection programs. Prior to this he served as the Assistant Director of Security for a regional chain of discount stores.



## KASEY BETUSH JOINS STAFF

Welcome Kasey as the Coalition's new intern in the role of Business Continuity Associate! She is working directly with Kelly and will assist companies with their needs. "I have already learned so much about Homeland Security, since joining the staff," she said. "This Coalition is a unique organization and I'm looking forward to working with the individual companies."

Kasey is currently enrolled in the MBA program at Point Park University, and she also earned graduate credits at Chatham University's MBA program. Her undergraduate degree is in the Political Science and Business Management from the University of Pittsburgh.

She has also studied in London and has enjoyed travel to France, Greece, Holland, Ireland, and Scotland.

Kasey's enthusiasm will keep you smiling, and she will be contacting you in the near future with details for the Spring Member Meeting.

## THANK YOU, CHIEF FULL

Emergency Services Director Chief Bob Full, one of the founding members of the Coalition, is moving to his new position as Chief Deputy Director with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in Harrisburg.

“We are so grateful for all the work Chief contributed to the Coalition,” said Kelly Barcic. “He and his staff have continually supported our efforts. His leadership experience and expertise in disaster management will be missed.”

“We could always count on Chief to help spread the story about the importance of the Coalition. He was a network builder, and he helped to set the standards for emergency preparedness and training in all of Southwestern Pennsylvania.”

“We wish him continued success and look forward to his resourcefulness now at PEMA. We are sure he’ll be back for future Member Meetings!”

Full began his employment with Allegheny County in January 1998. His resignation was effective March 6.



## ALCOSAN HOSTS WATER SECTOR COURSE

### Coalition Staff Served as Members of the Host Committee

The DHS-funded Water Interdependencies course was attended by nearly 200 people—executives, managers, and operators of water sector (water and wastewater) utilities and employees from the business sectors of Agriculture and Food, Public Health and Health Care, Communications, Information Technology, Transportation, Emergency Services, Energy, Chemical, and Dams.

PEMA Director Glen Cannon, who was the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Assistant Administrator for Disaster Operations and the manager and chief operating officer of Allegheny County from 1996 to 2001, spoke at the conference. Cannon remarked that the aging infrastructure in our nation needs our attention.

Water sector utilities are dependent upon other national critical infrastructures such as energy to operate their pumps, transportation to deliver chemicals to properly treat water, and information technology to help operators run their utilities. Additionally, many of the nation’s other critical infrastructures are dependent upon the water sector to provide clean and safe water for firefighting or irrigation for agriculture.

Therefore, it is clear that the denial of drinking water and wastewater utilities’ services—whether the result of a contamination incident, physical attack, or cyber attack—would have cascading effects, as many hospitals, schools, and commercial and industrial businesses would be forced to close.

Host sponsor—Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) provides wastewater treatment services to 83 communities including the City of Pittsburgh. ALCOSAN’s 59-acre treatment plant is one of the largest wastewater treatment facilities in the Ohio River Valley, processing up to 250 million gallons of wastewater daily.

As a nonprofit agency, ALCOSAN is funded solely by user fees with capital funds raised through the sale of sewer revenue bonds. There are 320,000 residential, commercial and industrial accounts representing a service population of 900,000. ALCOSAN recently completed a \$400 million capital improvement program which addressed odor control, treatment capacity, solids handling and wet weather planning.

## NWRBC *Continued from page 1*

Rick Lamb will serve as the Executive Director for the newly-formed NWPABCHS. He explains start-up effort as two pronged. "First, we want businesses to be aware of their own internal need for continuity planning, and second, how those business assets and resources are of value to the overall community," he said.

The initial focus of the NW Coalition will be on the BECON (Business Emergency Communications Network) alerts and the PARR (Private Assets for Region Responders) database. "Like the Pittsburgh region, these systems will be integrated into the Knowledge Center," said Lamb. "We expect rollout of the system late March."

The website, [www.nwpabchs.org](http://www.nwpabchs.org), will launch soon and will serve as part of the communication network for members to share information and act as a clearinghouse on matters of public safety and national security.

Inviting businesses to join the new Coalition is well underway. Both Dr. Amann and Lamb are actively meeting with business owners in the region and spreading the vision of the Coalition. "Business and public safety go hand in hand," said Amann. "What business wouldn't be interested in safety enhancements for their employees and their products? It is sound operational management practice."

Lamb agrees and notes that homeland security is everyone's business. "Our vision is straightforward—ensure the private sector is aware, prepared and connected."

PRBCHS members are encouraged to connect with business owners in the NW region and encourage them to contact either Dr. Amann at [aamann@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:aamann@mercyhurst.edu) or Lamb at [rlamb@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:rlamb@mercyhurst.edu) for more information.

## NEW COALITION MEMBERS

**Kennametal** maintains its technological leadership through its \$30-million Technology Center at its headquarters in Latrobe and complementary facilities in locations around the globe. Kennametal has over 12,000 employees doing business in more than 60 countries.



**S&T Bank** was founded in 1902 with a single location in Indiana, PA. Now S&T has grown to 51 offices that provide a full range of financial services to individuals and businesses in Allegheny, Armstrong, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Indiana, Jefferson and Westmoreland counties.



**Station Square** is a 52-acre indoor and outdoor shopping, dining and entertainment complex with 275,000 square feet of retail space, it features 65 stores, restaurants and entertainment venues. In 1979, the Station Square complex was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the "Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad Complex."



**"Safest in America"**

*Pittsburgh Regional Business  
Coalition for Homeland Security*