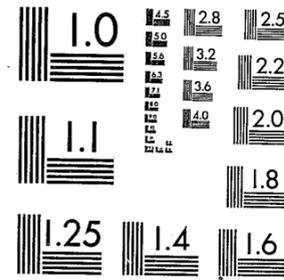


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Nuclear Security

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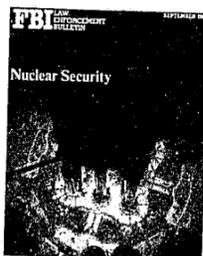
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William H. Webster, Director

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INCERT

The Citizen/Police Connection

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John T. Shettle
Superintendent

During the height of a recent snowstorm that reached blizzard proportions, the post commander of a northern Indiana State Police district received a telephone call from an obviously frightened young woman. She explained that she desperately needed assistance—she was in labor. Knowing that a trooper could not get to the residence in a patrol vehicle, the post commander informed her that two civilians operating a four-wheel drive vehicle would render her assistance. He further explained that her rescuers would identify themselves by showing identification cards with the word "INCERT" imprinted on them. They arrived a short time later, properly identified themselves, and placed her in a four-wheel drive vehicle. Enroute to the hospital, the woman noticed that one of her rescuers was using an amateur 2-meter hand radio to tell someone at the State police post that she had been picked up and to give their estimated time of arrival at the hospital. As the woman was going inside the hospital, she noticed hospital emergency personnel disembark from two more four-wheel drive vehicles.

Twenty minutes after her safe arrival at the hospital, the patient gave birth to a baby daughter. The new mother recognized one of the attending nurses as one of the persons who had gotten out of a four-wheel drive vehicle when she was arriving at the hospital. If she had inquired further, she would have discovered that the 3 four-wheel drive vehicles were part of a group of 18 that had been rendering service that morning to citizens in need. The vehicles were used to deliver emergency personnel and patients to local hospitals, pickup and deliver food and medicine, and rescue stranded motorists, taking them to National Guard Armories and Red Cross shelters.

These 18 four-wheel drive vehicle operators had three things in common. They were dedicated, responsible citizens who wanted to assist others, they belonged to organized four-wheel drive vehicle clubs, and they were all working with the Indiana State Police and other agencies in the area as part of "INCERT"—the Indiana Council of Emergency Response Teams.

The birth of INCERT occurred immediately after the great blizzard of January 1978, which blanketed Indiana. As in other States, the Indiana State Police had difficulty in coping with the demands that were created by the magnitude of the blizzard. The department, along with other Indiana enforcement agencies, attempted to respond to the crisis by committing all available resources. However, there were not enough officers to answer the thousands of calls for assistance, and many of our personnel were further limited by their inability to get out of their own driveways. Thus, the Indiana State Police found itself unable to respond in an emergency situation as it should have because of a basic lack of preparation in the areas of interagency communications, transportation, equipment, and personnel. Our salvation was the hundreds of citizen volunteers who managed to get through jammed telephone lines at all 19 State police districts and into local law enforcement and other emergency response agencies to offer their assistance. This assistance generally came from existing organized civilian clubs, such as four-wheel drive vehicle clubs, amateur and citizens' band radio organizations, and snowmobile organizations. With the invaluable assistance of these groups, we were able to survive the crisis.

"INCERT is the statewide establishment of a giant spiderweb of people, communications, and transportation directed toward reacting to and resolving emergency or situational problems that may arise."

After the 1978 blizzard, the Indiana State Police recognized the need to address three basic areas in attempting to deal with such emergencies. First, there was difficulty in meeting service demands—gone was the idea that we could handle any such situation without assistance. Second, all response organizations needed to get together to formulate a unified response plan. Third, the blizzard had revealed the outstanding capabilities to assist law enforcement already existing within the volunteer citizen organizations.

In light of the proven benefits of working with such individuals and organizations, it was decided that the department should attempt to organize and coordinate the activities of the many citizens' groups that had the capability of offering their services, equipment, facilities, and expertise during a time of crisis.

Officers in the northwest section of the State had already established a very positive working relationship with various volunteer groups. It was possible that their accomplishments in organization and development might serve as the prototype for the proposed State program. In October 1977, they formed a civilian volunteer group to work with their officers in providing emergency services. They first sought to establish contact and rapport with various citizens' band (CB) radio clubs which could perform an "eyes and ears" service in reporting traffic problems. This original contact with the CB clubs brought forth individuals representing other volunteer groups who wanted to participate. The result was

the establishment of a volunteer organization that worked with police personnel in the discharge of their emergency functions during the blizzard and the flooding of some of the rivers in the area. Prior to the blizzard, they had been formed into teams composed primarily of individuals from the four-wheel drive vehicle clubs, amateur radio groups, and CB organizations. Lines of communications which bypassed the use of the telephone had already been established, since telephone lines could be tied up during adverse conditions. A 2-meter band amateur radio base station, along with a CB base station, had already been installed at the local State police headquarters facility for use in emergency situations.

When the blizzard struck, one phone call from the district post commander to selected volunteer personnel started the ball rolling. Civilians owning four-wheel drive vehicles with CB radios picked up assigned amateur radio personnel who plugged 2-meter band radios into the cigarette lighters in the vehicles and proceeded to headquarters. Once there, predesignated amateurs and CB personnel manned their respective base stations within the post, while other "teams" proceeded to the homes of troopers who could not get their police cars on the road. These troopers used the now fully manned four-wheel drive vehicles to answer calls given them on the 2-meter band radio by the volunteers at the post, allowing them to provide police services that might otherwise have been impossible to provide.

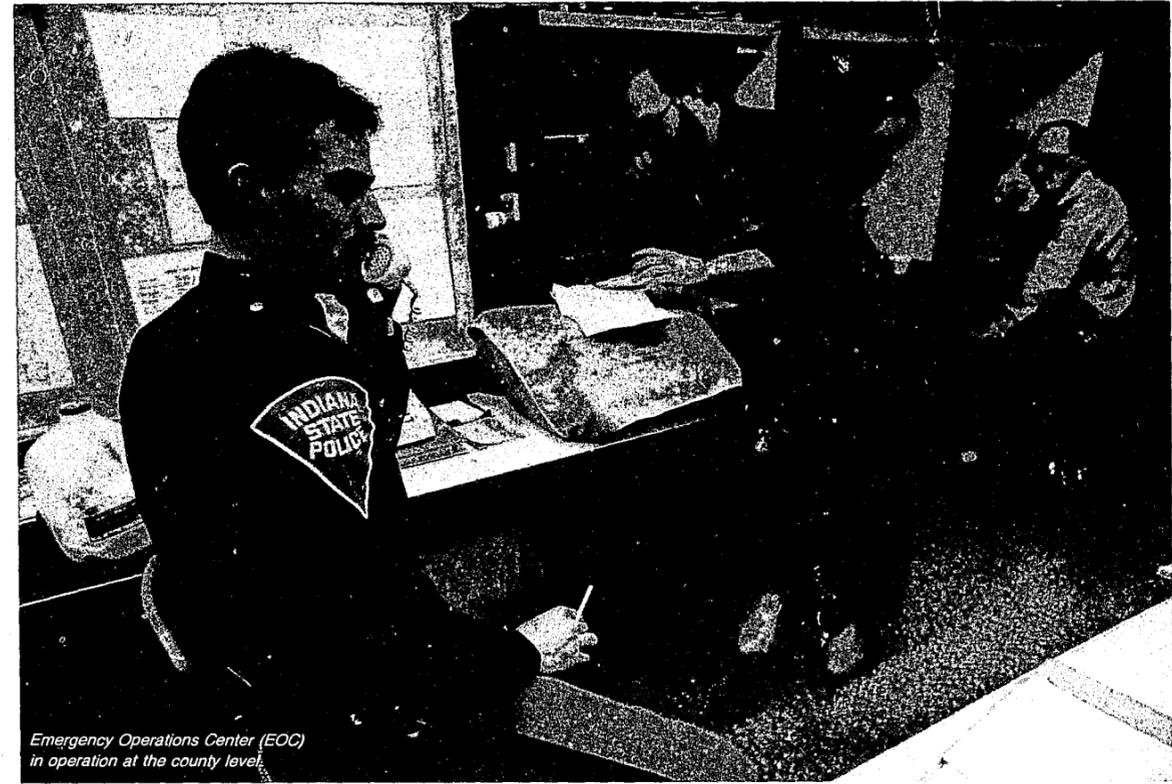
After consulting with the department's executive staff and reviewing the progress made at our test district, it was decided to expand the program statewide. The objective was to organize and coordinate the activities of CB

clubs, amateur radio clubs, four-wheel drive vehicle clubs, snowmobile clubs, flying organizations, volunteer fire departments, and any other citizen group willing to contribute their time.

In many instances, the participating organizations would be working very closely with representatives of the State Civil Defense Department. Under the guidelines of the Indiana Civil Defense Act of 1975, in the event of a proclaimed disaster, the organizations would function under the direction of this department. In such a situation, the volunteer organizations would be able to enhance the activities of the civil defense department.

INCERT can be viewed as an umbrella organization. It does not attempt to usurp the duties of existing groups or organizations already involved in local emergency response plans. Instead, it attempts to develop and coordinate their capabilities in order to work together to the advantage of all. INCERT has also sought to expand the horizons of the clubs to include not only local or county participation but also statewide involvement. By working together toward a common goal, each group is able to draw upon and complement the activities of the other groups, while at the same time, retain its own separate and distinct identity.

INCERT is the statewide establishment of a giant spiderweb of people, communications, and transportation directed toward reacting to and resolving emergency or situational problems that may arise. It is a citizen/police connection to be activated locally or throughout the State, when and where the services offered by the various citizen volunteer organizations involved are needed.



Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in operation at the county level.

In terms of structure, INCERT is a civilian organization whose members interface with State and local governmental entities. Initially, State police personnel provided the administrative leadership for the operational activities conducted at the local level. Later, in an effort to further the organizational process and to enhance and solidify the development of the INCERT program as a true civilian entity, the program was incorporated under the laws of the State as a nonprofit corporation with a board of directors. This action served the dual purpose of promoting the desired unity in volunteer/governmental services for the citizens and allowed the organization to be in a position to accept legally offers of support and assistance in terms of materials and financing of INCERT operations.

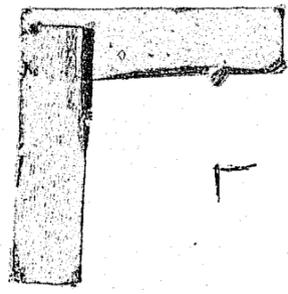
The proposal to incorporate was presented to representatives of several of the civilian organizations already participating at the local level. These civilian organizations, all having statewide group affiliations, are now represented on the INCERT Board of Directors. The present board consists of representatives from the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association, the Indiana REACT Council, the American Radio Relay League of Indiana, the National Four-Wheel Vehicle Association, the Indiana Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the Indiana Snowmobile Association, the State Office of Civil Defense and Emergency Management, and two persons from the Indiana State Police.

State police department personnel serve as a catalyst in providing the necessary coordination for communication between the administrative and operational levels of the program. The department's deputy superintendent for field operations serves as the program director. He, along with the depart-

ment's chief communications engineer, also represents the State police on the corporate board of directors. The INCERT State coordinator, located at general headquarters, functions within the operations section of the Enforcement Division. The department's Executive Division provides any necessary legal services required and responds to any liability considerations.

Emergency Operations Centers

Administratively, the Indiana State Police is broken down into five geographic "areas" in the field. In each of these areas, a trooper has been designated as the INCERT coordinator. The coordinator, part of the area command staff, is responsible for organizing and coordinating INCERT activities in his area. In most cases, each area is administratively responsible for four districts. At the district level, troopers and communications officers are selected, (generally one per county, and a district may have as many as eight counties) to



END