

# NAS Meridian hosts EOC Mobile Training Team

By Penny Randall  
Staff Writer

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Since its inception, CNIC has been involved with innovative anti-terrorism and emergency preparedness training, an initiative driven in response to the lessons learned from previous natural and man-made disasters and the Presidential Report on the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina which read, “An investment in the continued training and exercises of our command and control is a top priority.”

Commander Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) hosted a mobile training team-delivered CNIC Emergency Operations Center Incident Management Team (EOC IMT) Course at Naval Air Station Meridian from July 20-23.

“The Meridian team did an excellent job in the EOC scenarios and the command had an excellent participation rate,” said Tim McKenzie, assistant SOTG Chief based in Norfolk, Va. “Our job is to provide the fundamentals to help an installation operate their EOC. We did this through classroom work and exercises. The people who manage an EOC need to function as a team, which will improve efficiency, in order to properly respond to emergencies and threats of disaster.”

The idea for the course pilot was conceived after installation commanding officers and regional staffs submitted requests for a mobile delivery of the popular CNIC Shore Force Training Center (SFTC) San Diego course.

Working closely with the CNIC N37 Emergency Management Branch, the SOTG coordinated with CNRSE staff to plan and execute the mobile course. Led by the CNIC Shore Operations Training Group (SOTG) with support from the SFTC and the CNIC N37 Emergency Management Directorate, instructors taught the course over three and a half days to 26 students from various Meridian departments. The class was comprised of fire, security, safety, emergency management, Fleet and Family Support

Center, MWR, Environmental, Public Affairs and various other specialists assigned to the Navy’s ashore emergency operations centers. Each student learned how to properly serve as a member of an installation’s EOC during an emergency.

The Incident Management Team course was initially offered monthly at the SFTC at Navy Base Coronado in San Diego, Calif. Since its ribbon-cutting in October, the EOC IMT course continues to be the most popular SFTC course offering. Navy Installations Command EOC training policy requires mandatory graduate quotas of six key EOC positions per installation (with other EOC positions highly recommended).

EOC IMT course lessons cover EOC team member roles and responsibilities, information management, communications, and the use of C4I Suite, the Navy’s current common operating picture online application. The course also consists of a number of practical application classroom exercises utilizing student working groups to apply the knowledge gained during lectures.

For operations center exercises, students are broken into common EOC functional groupings such as operations, logistics and plans. The groups are then given a practical scenario of an on-base emergency where they are forced to realistically lead, brief, coordinate and plan. Each day, classroom instruction is followed by an EOC exercise that gets progressively complex as the course progresses.

NAS Meridian Projects Officer Lt. Cmdr. Jim Pribble was among the staff members who were impressed with the course.

“Not having a background in EOC procedures, I was very impressed with the SOTG team,” Pribble said. “They were very effective in teaching a group of people with various backgrounds and jobs to function as a team. I think that we all realized that emergency management applies to everyone. You may not be a part of the command team leading the event, but at some point you are going to be asked to perform a role, and this course helped prepare us all for that role.”