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**Statewide Full Scale Terrorism Response Exercise  
Held at Joint Base Cape Cod**

*3-Day Exercise Tested Interagency Cooperation and Mass Search and Rescue Operations*

**Framingham, MA** – From September 15 – 17, 2017, the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM), the Massachusetts National Guard, and the Massachusetts Homeland Security Regions sponsored a terrorism based emergency response exercise at Joint Base Cape Cod, located in Bourne, Massachusetts. This 72 hour full scale exercise, known as Operation SCORE (Statewide Collapse Operations Response Exercise) was designed to test interagency cooperation, communications interoperability, operational coordination in a mass search and rescue operation, medical care in a hostile environment, and long term sustainability in an interagency response environment.

This three-day full-scale exercise brought together approximately 350 members of regional technical rescue teams from across Massachusetts, 200 personnel from the Massachusetts National Guard, as well as staff from the Department of Fire Services (DFS) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

On Friday September 15, 2017, The District 14 Technical Rescue Team participated in this statewide mobile exercise.

The District 14 team, which includes members from the Framingham, Hopkinton, Milford, Natick, Hudson, Shrewsbury, Marlborough, Northborough, Holliston, Concord, Westborough Fire, and Ashland Fire and Police, were assigned the operational period of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Friday, September 15.

“The event organizers put in a lot of hard work and planning to make it as realistic as possible,” said Framingham Fire Lieutenant Tom Rinoldo. Rinoldo, who is the Assistant Director for the team also stated, “It was an incredible opportunity for the team to participate in the exercise. We were able to put our skills and training to the test and work alongside other agencies toward a common goal.”

It is the third in a series of five full scale mobilization exercises being conducted to challenge and assess the fire services' statewide technical rescue capability, as well as interagency cooperation between the teams, the Massachusetts National Guard Homeland Response Task Force, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Teams.

“Operation SCORE was the culmination of over a year of planning with many agencies coming together with the goal of partnering with National Guard soldiers and firefighters from across the State that have special training, skill sets, and equipment to respond to disasters, manmade or natural. This mobilization exercise proved we can come together to work in adverse conditions, self-sustain for many hours, keep our personnel safe, and deliver the mission,” **said Exercise Director Chief Kevin Nord of the Duxbury Fire Department.**

This exercise was collaboratively developed through a working group consisting of representatives from the Massachusetts Homeland Security Councils, the regional technical rescue teams, FCAM, MEMA, DFS, EOPSS, and the Massachusetts National Guard.

Operation SCORE was funded through Homeland Security Grant Program funds via the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Massachusetts Homeland Security Councils. This exercise served to test skills and equipment that have been paid for via these homeland security funds over the last ten years.

“Hurricanes Harvey and Irma highlight the importance of exercises such as Operation SCORE, which strengthen the already robust collaboration that exists between state, local, and National Guard elements,” **said Public Safety and Security Secretary Daniel Bennett.** “Operation SCORE is an excellent example of how federal funding is used to further enhance state and local technical rescue capabilities, counter-terrorism response, and overall emergency preparedness.”

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