

Emergency Prepared and Homeland Secur

Even under adverse conditions, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service must maintain its ability to respond to and investigate criminal attacks against the U.S. Postal Service and provide security for postal employees and assets. The Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Group (EPHS) of the Postal Inspection Service ensures the agency meets this challenge by developing policies, procedures, and capabilities that will allow the Postal Service to continue to safely deliver America's mail.

EPHS works closely with Postal Service managers and certain federal agencies on issues of national security, classified intelligence and programs, and emergency preparedness and response. EPHS programs cover a wide spectrum of national security concerns to coordinate aviation security, bioterrorism liaison, continuity of operations, continuity of government, counterterrorism liaison, event-mail screening, protection of classified information, and weapons of mass destruction.

Biological Detection System (BDS) and Related Programs

EPHS staff members refined the Postal Service's plan to support the deployment of equipment that can detect biohazards in the postal system. At a BDS symposium sponsored by the Postal Service's Emergency Management Activity Task Force in March 2003, EPHS staff, including 15

Postal Inspectors chosen to serve as coordinators, presented information to more than 100 postal managers and

other staff about a BDS pilot test scheduled for 15 postal sites. Inspectors also worked with the Postal Service's district and plant Emergency Management Teams on an Integrated Emergency Management Plan to address all hazards, including man-made and natural. Emergency Management Team training at BDS deployment sites was completed between April and May 2003. The BDS pilot test was completed successfully in July 2003.

The Postal Inspection Service's Emergency Preparedness and Home-



The Postal Inspection Service conducted several BDS Preparedness Drills during 2003 at selected postal facilities. The drills allowed Postal Inspectors to practice personnel evacuations, work with local first responders, and perform Hazwoper entry and decontamination exercises. The photos at top right show Postal Inspectors performing various exercises during BDS drills.



land Security Group and Fraud and Dangerous Mail Investigations Group co-sponsored training in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (Hazwoper) and BDS crime scenes for 91 Postal Inspectors in FY 2003. The Inspectors were certified as Hazwoper Technicians and BDS crime-scene investigators, and were issued personal-protection equipment for use in responding to biological attacks.

During the first six months of FY 2003, EPHS staff continued to work with the U.S. Postal Service's Engineering Group and Mitretek Systems in a multi-phase project to analyze and assess potential terrorist acts that use chemical, biological, radiological, or explosives threats against the Postal Service. The consequence-management phase of the study was completed, and Mitretek submitted its final report in April 2003. Inspectors are continuing

to work with postal managers to implement recommendations from the report.

National Emergency Communications Test

Beginning in February 2003, EPHS staff conducted its first national emergency communications test as part of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The purpose of the test was to ensure viable communications between Postal Inspection Service offices nationwide and the EPHS Group office at National Headquarters in Washington, DC, in the event of an emergency.

The test comprised six modes of communications: landline phones, secure telephone units, fax machines, the Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS), e-mail, and satellite phones. EPHS staff measured the timeliness and accuracy of

transmitted and received messages, and gathered feedback from divisions. Staff also evaluated equipment operation and the clarity and completeness of messages. The test was considered successful and identified a few opportunities for improvement related to secure telephone units, GETS, and satellite phones.

Postal Inspection Service division offices submitted drafts of their local Continuity of Operations Plans in FY 2003 to the EPHS Group for review, with a deadline of July 1, 2003, for any recommended revisions. Division managers finalized their plans and submitted them to Headquarters for final approval. Division offices will store their plans locally and at National Headquarters.

The Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Group was authorized to establish Postal Inspector liaison positions with three national secu-



The Postal Inspection Service unveiled a new Command Center during FY 2003 at National Headquarters in Washington, DC.

riority intelligence agencies: the CIA, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security. The liaison positions will enable EPHS staff to gather intelli-

gence on threats that could affect the Postal Service. An added benefit of the new positions is that other agencies will learn how to assist the Postal Inspection Service in developing and analyzing threat information. The Postal Inspection Service is now able to access foreign and domestic intelligence related to homeland

security issues that can affect the postal infrastructure and the Postal Inspection Service's security and law enforcement mission.

Natural Disasters

Postal Inspectors must address a wide variety of man-made and natural disasters that can affect postal operations across the country. Disasters may range from truck or train accidents, which may expose mail to security hazards, to raging floods or tropical storms that can destroy mail, close postal facilities, and harm employees. Postal Inspectors respond to the scene of the incident and provide security guidance to managers, ensuring that facility infrastructures and operations are secure and operational.

In December 2003, FedEx Flight 647, carrying 33,875 pounds of U.S. Mail from Oakland, California, crashed and caught fire upon landing at the Memphis, Tennessee, FedEx hub. Because the fire did not penetrate the

Postal Inspectors from the St. Louis Division responded to the scene of a two-train collision in May 2003 at a signal passing near Matfield Green, Kansas. The engineer of a train containing two rail cars of U.S. Mail, traveling west-bound to Ft. Worth, Texas, suffered a heart attack and lost control of the train, causing it to strike an east-bound train containing one trailer of U.S. Mail.

Postal Inspectors assisted local postal managers in determining the origin and identity of the mail, and notifying offices of the incident. Inspectors also helped with the recovery of the mail, although most of it was destroyed in a fire that broke out after the collision.





wall of the MD-10 freighter, the mail was not damaged. Postal Inspectors were present to provide security as mail was unloaded from the plane and transported to the FedEx Hub.

Hurricane Isabel caused numerous postal facilities to close due to high winds, flooding, and sporadic power outages across the Eastern and Capital Metro Areas in September 2003. Various flights were canceled as the weather deteriorated. Six states, plus Washington, DC, were declared to be in an emergency status. The Postal Inspection Service activated 24-hour Command Centers at National Headquarters and affected field divisions to monitor the hurricane and help postal managers with securing accountable property, providing safety guidelines, and initiating special procedures for registered mail. Postal Inspectors also assisted in assessing damage at postal facilities and worked individually with managers on other security-related issues.

In August 2003, the northeastern part of the country experienced a widespread blackout that affected postal sites in New Jersey, New York, Pittsburgh, and Detroit. The Postal Inspection Service activated Continuity of Operations Plans and Command Centers in those areas, and Postal Inspectors provided security for postal facilities and assistance with operational problems caused by the emergency.

Postal Inspector Ron Pry of the Houston Division researched information for a memorial plaque honoring Postal Inspection Service employees who gave their lives in the line of duty. The plaque was dedicated during a ceremony led by Chief Postal Inspector Lee Heath at National Headquarters.





IN MEMORIAM

Here, in honored memory and in appreciation of their sacrifice, are inscribed the names of those law enforcement officers of the United States Postal Inspection Service who gave their lives in the line of duty enforcing the laws of the United States, protecting both postal employees and the integrity of the U.S. Mail.

May they rest in peace and may they never be forgotten.

<small>CHARLES FITZGERALD POSTAL INSPECTOR CLINTON, MS 9/23/1908</small>	<small>ERNEST M. HARKINS POSTAL INSPECTOR OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 1/12/1949</small>	<small>JOHN P. MCAULIFFE INVESTIGATIVE AIDE CHICAGO, IL 3/14/1960</small>
<small>BENEDETTO M. SPIZZIRRI INVESTIGATIVE AIDE CHICAGO, IL 3/14/1960</small>	<small>MICHAEL J. HEALY POSTAL POLICE OFFICER CHICAGO, IL 6/21/1981</small>	<small>TERRANCE M. ASHBURY POSTAL INSPECTOR LOS ANGELES, CA 2/3/1990</small>
<small>ROBERT F. JONES, JR. POSTAL INSPECTOR WASHINGTON, DC 7/14/2000</small>		

DEDICATED THIS 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2003