

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Virginia Tech Shooting SITUATION REPORT #5 1230 Hours 20 April 2007

New information is in bold italics.

SUMMARY

An early morning shooting occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech, beginning at approximately 0730 hours 16 April, 2007 resulting in 33 fatalities and 29 injuries. The gunman, identified as Cho Seung-hui, a 23-year-old English major from South Korea, is among the dead. The shootings occurred in Ambler Johnston Hall and Norris Hall. Most of the victim's remains have been transferred to their family for internment. The investigation continues on campus with the main emphasis on the healing and recovery process for all those affected by this tragic incident and for those who assisted in the response. Governor Timothy M. Kaine has declared Friday, April 20, 2007 a statewide day of mourning for the victims of Monday's tragedy at Virginia Tech.

WEATHER FORECAST

Blacksburg Area: Today Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. North wind between 6 and 8 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 39. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

State of Emergency: As of 1650 hours 16 April Governor Timothy Kaine declared a State of Emergency due to the VA Tech Shooting.

EOC Activation: Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) is at Normal Operations, providing assistance to local and state agencies as requested. The VEOC is also in contact with VA Tech emergency staff.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
Montgomery County – 16 April at 1402 hours

EOC Activations:
Montgomery County – 16 April at 1300 hours and 3 command posts are set-up.
VA Tech – 18 April 14:00 hours

OPERATIONS SECTION

State Warning Point: Normal Operations, monitoring situation

Local Liaison: Maintaining contact with VDEM Region 6 and Region 4 Coordinators to obtain situational awareness and accepting requests for resources. Regional Coordinators Crigger and Coyle remain on scene working with University staff to coordinate recovery efforts. They are on 12- hour operational period, 0800 to 2000 hours only. VDSS assets continue running a Family Assistance Center (FAC) and are coordinating efforts with American Red Cross (ARC) and other support agencies. Statewide Mutual Aid provided dispatchers supporting the university's information call center were demobilized at 1200 hours 18 April. No further assistance in the call center will be required.

The Virginia Tech EOC was opened on 18 April at 1600 hours and remains operational periodically throughout the day, for strategic policy meetings. The VA Tech Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) became operation on 18 April at 1500 hours and is staff by the following locally defined support functions: Mental Health, Funerals, Transportation, Medical Expenses, Family Liaison, Employee Relations, Community Liaison, Communications, Volunteers and Donations and Family Follow Up.

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VDEM Regional Coordinators are assisting VA Tech President in drafting a Local Declaration of Emergency.

VDEM Regional Coordinator Crigger is working with the university, hazmat contractors and ESF8 assets to facilitate cleaning of impacted areas. VDEM Regional Coordinator Coyle is working with VA Tech's Emergency Coordinator in the university EOC.

VDEM staff are working with the university to develop a demobilization plan for all ESF resources. VDH Planner, Grady DeVilbiss, and Dr. Hirschey, Local Health Director are developing a cleaning protocol for the impacted areas.

All ESF6 assets remain on scene. Plan to demobilize VDSS personnel at 1800 today. At that point, local Community Services Board will be lead for this ESF. At that point the "family assistance center" will become a "campus assistance center" to reflect focus on returning students. We anticipate that Sunday will be a busy day for service requests due to students returning to the campus.

DCJS staff (2) are on scene working the victim witness program. Have been on scene since 18 April.

VDEM Regional Hazmat Officer (RHMO) T. Crozier arrived on the scene 19 April to assist with the cleanup operation of the crime scene. VDEM RHMO W. Collins will also be on scene today 20 April to assist in the clean operation.

Request For Assistance*

Status

None

**Completed Requests are located in previous Situation Reports*

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services – VDH Regional Health Planner remains on scene. The Emergency Coordination Center opened at 1300 hours 16 April and is coordinating activities with the VEOC.

The Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) ceased operations on 19 April at 17:00 hours and has demobilized with all assists returning home.

Fatality Management – *Work continues on repatriation of remains.*

Released – 28

Ready for release - 5

Casualty Tracking (non-fatal). *Total: 12 hospitalized: 1 in serious condition, 1 transferred, remainder in stable condition*

Carillion New River Valley Medical Center. 2 in good condition

Carillion Medical Center, Roanoke. 1 serious, 1 transferred to INOVA

Montgomery Regional Medical Center. 8 stable (3 of 8 pending release)

Behavioral Health Support. *DMHMRSAS is coordinating with local Community Service Boards (CSBs), Red Cross and VA. Tech. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team from Chesterfield departed last evening. Currently, VSP has 20 CISM peers on scene. Fairfax police were requested directly by VSP - 4 peers on scene and will be doing demobilizing police peer teams. NC Police has 4 peers on site. FBI Peer debriefers are on scene and handling the ATF, others.*

Communications. *VDH Division of Injury and Violence prevention developed a new Web page on responding to and preventing school violence. A link was added to the VDH homepage, www.vdh.virginia.gov "School Associated Injury and Violence Prevention." The link directs viewers to the new Web page, www.vahealth.org/civp/educator/schoolviolence.asp*

ESF 13 – Law Enforcement - *CBS reports that the hate group Westboro Baptist Church plans to protest at funerals of the victims of the Va. Tech shooting. The group pickets military funerals for soldiers killed in Iraq.*

VDH will continue to track, report and assist / request external assistance as required. VDH EP&R Regional Team will assist as required.

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Local VDH Emergency Planner is assisting the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCEM) in developing a resource document for victims and their families.

ESF 13 – Virginia State Police (VSP) –Virginia State Police continue the investigations supported by FBI, ATF Agents and Campus Police. VSP and VA Tech Police Department are providing security for the Campus. The Secretary of Public Safety remains on scene to lend assistance.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) – The Family Service Center (FAC) is staffed by 2 VDSS staff, 9 local DSS staff, 7 representing Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and Victim/Witness program, and 1 from the Virginia Funeral Director's Association. One additional family has been registered at the FAC. VDSS has a representative in the Emergency Coordination Center. Arrangements are being made to have representatives from the Funeral Directors Association and the Bureau of Insurance available. Staff from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is on site to take applications. Behavioral Health Counselors have been on the scene since 17 April.

New River Valley Community Services Board staff and counselors continue to support the Family Service Center. The Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Authority working with the Red Cross has established support services at the Roanoke Airport and the Marriott Hotel in the City of Roanoke for arriving family members. University staff has been assigned to support families throughout this process. As such future contacts for services will be coordinated with the family representatives. Agencies providing services through the FAC will assess the need for continued services and will remain available as long as the need exists.

On 19 April, 25 families were seen by agencies/organizations represented in the FAC in the Inn at Virginia Tech. All family paperwork for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has been completed. All remains have been identified and families notified. The Virginia Funeral Directors Association representative has contacted local funeral homes and offered assistance, if needed. A Resource List will be revised today to ensure the correct information is available for distribution. The ESF-6 function will be demobilized at close of business today. Counseling services, under the lead of the New River Valley Community Services Board, will relocate from the Inn to the Squires Center for the weekend. Counseling will continue with the expectation that those services will be required as students return to campus next week.

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will provide an interpreter for the proposed service to be held as part of a Day of Mourning on Friday, April 20.

2-1-1VIRGINIA is working with the New River Valley Ministerial Association and developing a process by which to make counselors available over the next 30 days. The understanding is that the available on-site counseling will be closed down on Friday 20 April.

The VT Remembrance Fund for Student Safety has been established to receive and administer contributions that will provide support for the Virginia Tech community in the near term and will support efforts to make Virginia's campuses safer in the longer term. Support to the VA Tech community will help the University and local charitable organizations respond to the needs of those who were affected by the campus tragedy of April 16, 2007. Longer term, the Fund will support efforts within the Commonwealth to make our academic campuses safer through means including but not limited to security enhancements, planning, safety education and training, and counseling. The Fund may also support response efforts to future incidents of campus violence. This fund was initiated by Bill Reynolds and his colleagues at CB Richard Ellis. CB Richard Ellis, which owns and manages commercial properties throughout Virginia and North Carolina, will be reaching out to its tenants and vendors to encourage their support of the Fund. Similar funds are being established at community foundations in Roanoke and Christiansburg. The Foundation for Roanoke Valley announced that an anonymous donor made a gift to create the School Violence Assistance Fund. Similarly, the Community Foundation of the New River Valley is in the process of establishing the 4-16-07 Fund.

Red Cross (ARC) – ARC is providing staffing at 3 locations, local YMCA, VA Tech Family Service Center and the VA Tech Student Center. They are also helping to staff the VA Tech Call Center. Shuttle service

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is being provided by ARC personnel from the Roanoke Airport to the VA Tech campus for arriving family members. ARC Public Information Officer (PIO) is on scene. ARC is providing meals to emergency response personnel. Local ARC representatives are assisting victims and their families in making transportation arrangements for themselves and their possessions and continue to support mental health services.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 - Resource Management – Coordinating resource requests. **None Pending.**

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 - Emergency Management – Planning Section preparing daily Situation Reports.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ESF 15 – Public Information – VDEM PIO is on scene at VA Tech. Joint Information Center (JIC) was established 17 April. The JIC is fully operational from 08:00 to 17:00 hours with PIO representatives from VA Tech, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), and ***Mines, Minerals and Energy. The JIC will begin downsizing 19 April with a limited staff on duty for the upcoming weekend. Approximately 500 calls were received 19 April by the JIC. A media briefing was held at 16:15 hours, 19 April conducted by a VA Tech representative. The Investigation continues and will be transitioning to the next phase over the next several days.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Montgomery County Emergency Management, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, VA Tech Police, and Emergency Response Personnel remain on-scene. VA Tech has contracted with Cook Counseling to assist students with addressing the incident. The VA Tech Call Center Toll Free # is 800-533-1144. The Call Center hours of operation are 08:00 to 18:00 hours. The Inn at Virginia Tech is providing support services to family members. The Squire Student Center is providing support services to students.

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