



Our First Newsletter

This is a first attempt at putting together a Newsletter for our Homeland Security Team. The ideal of a Newsletter was first brought to my attention by Alpha Teams First Squad leader, Bill Frazier. Bill saw a need for information to be distributed to all team members and I would like to say Thanks to Bill for his insight and his direction in helping me carry out my duties as a Team Leader.

I have written many Newsletters in the past for our Ham Radio Club and I'll tell you up front, it's not an easy task and any help any of you can give me will be appreciated.

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter or if you have any suggestions for future articles, please contact me and let me know.

I am not as articulate as many of you in the group and frankly at times I can be point blank and if I step on some toes in the process I'll apologize in advance, but please understand that this is a serious business and my job and my fellow Team Leaders job is to see that we become as professional and proficient as possible.

I want everyone to enjoy their time with our group and I hope we can make it interesting and fulfilling for all.

Where we've Been

The Rhea County Homeland Security Team has been in existence for about a year now and we have already seen it's activation on several different types of events.

So far we have responded to a Military plane crash, a festival and a graduation at the local High School.

All of these events were different and required different responses. Our team has risen to the occasion in every event and has done a professional job every time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that help to make our Teams the best they can be.

It takes participation for us to work as a team and I hope you will continue to participate in our training sessions and to attend our meetings.

Where We're Going

Some of our goals for the future are to provide you with many different types of training. We will try and include training in Biological Threat, Chemical Threat, Explosions, Nuclear Events, Radiation Threat, Natural Disasters, Crowd Control and a host of other areas we feel need attention.

Recently it has been brought to our attention that from a liability stand point, we can only carry a limited number of people on our roster. We have reached our Maximum number. As a result, we have had to start a waiting list for people that want to join the team. This isn't fair to them or fair to the team. I am asking each of you to evaluate your situation and if you feel that you cannot fulfill your obligation to the team with attending meetings or taking training, please ask to step down. We hate to lose people and I hope you can understand that when we carry a roster of over 80 people and only have 30 or so active, something has to be done. This is a serious business folks, and we need Team members Trained, Ready and Willing to respond when called.

Homeland Security Firearms Training

At the last meeting I had announced that we are offering a firearms training course.

This is not mandatory training, it is volunteer only, but I strongly urge you to consider taking this course or if you can't or choose not to, at least consider going out to a firing range and practice once and awhile.

The course we are offering will be given at the Travis Shooting Range. Claude Travis or Rabbit as a lot of us call him will be the instructor. This course will be between 40 and 50 hours long, possibly longer, depending on what areas we need to cover.

The cost of the course is \$130 and you supply the ammo for your handgun. For the Shotgun



and Rifle portion of the course, both weapon and ammo will be supplied.

This course will take several weeks to complete at 2 to 4 hours a session. Also, as an added benefit to our team, Mr. Travis has agreed to let any Homeland Security members that want to take this course, pay their fee any way they would like, either a one time payment or spread it out over the length of the course. If you are interested in taking the course, contact Claude at 775-3506 and work out the details with him. You'll have to tell him you are with our group, and he has a list of all of our members, so if by some unforeseen reason you weren't on the list, he'll need to clear it with your team leader.

So, please consider some type of training or practice. These weapons are tools, and for you to be effective with them you need more than just shooting 50 rounds a year at a qualifier.

May 27th Meeting

If you missed the last meeting, or slept through the one we had, I'll try and fill you in on some of the highlights.

Handgun Qualification: There will be handgun qualifications for those who have not yet done so on June 3rd at the Rhea County High School Shooting Range. The morning session starts at 9AM if you can't make that one, there will be another one at 6 PM. Contact Mike Owenby at the Sheriff's Office if you plan on attending the 6 Pm session.

If you aren't going to qualify or carry a Weapon, let your team leader know. This is not a reason to be removed from our roster, but it will affect where you can be deployed.

Uniforms: Anyone wanting to order a shirt or hat, see your team leader. Shirts are \$28 and hat are \$10. All items have to be paid for in advance. While we're talking uniforms, let me emphasize that uniforms are only to be worn when we are called out. If in doubt, ask your Team Leader.

Pepper Spray: We are planning another Pepper Spray class. If you need this class tell your Team Leader. We need a head count so we can finalize out plans.

Disciplinary Board: We will be setting up a disciplinary board with combined members of the Homeland Security Team and The Sheriff's Department.

Member of the Month: This month the outstanding member is Ray Mathis. Ray has shown dedication and professionalism above and beyond the call. Thanks Ray

Watts Bar: Below is Roger Reynolds from Watts Bar going over some plans and discussing an upcoming drill for our teams early in June.



Sheriff Neal: Rhea County Sheriff Mike Neal attended the meeting and expressed his thanks to our HS Team. Mike said that he had received many compliments after the Gay Day Festival and that he appreciated our efforts. Mike said we made him look good, the county look good and we made our Homeland Security team look good. Mike also answered many questions and talked about different things he'd like to be able to do for Homeland Security.

Next Meeting: Our next Homeland Security Meeting will be on June 24th - 6 PM at The Civil Air Patrol Complex.