# The CCPS All-Points Bulletin

Mission: To reduce crime, enhance public safety and assist victims throughout North Carolina.

*August 2011*


# Message from the Secretary

The hurricane season brought Irene, a mighty storm that touched more people on the East Coast than any other on record, yet one that did not douse our humanitarian spirit. The outreach made by first responders, volunteers and the many employees within the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety speaks volumes about the goodness within our state.

Gov. Bev Perdue and many state agencies sent out the proper warnings and preparatory instructions. The State Highway Patrol provided a smooth traffic flow out of the endangered areas, the swift water rescue teams were able to ferry out hundreds of residents from their flooded homes, and the N.C. National Guard delivered truckloads of food and ice. That just scratches the surface.

During the height of the storm, Troopers Charles .H. Alford II and Gregory S. Fletcher were notified by a motorist that a mother and her children were stranded in high sand and water on N.C. 12 in the Buxton area. They responded to the area, located the vehicle and transported them to safety.

The swift water rescue crews had to first cut fallen trees that were blocking roads before they could get to the flooded homes.

First responders and the National Guard found a man in his home unconscious from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by generator fumes. They were able to get him medical treatment in time to save his life. These are but a few examples of the great efforts that were made through a collaborative effort between North Carolina partners to assist the citizens of our state.

Ensconced in the basement of the Administration Building in Raleigh, members of the Division of Emergency Management have been coordinating the rescue and recovery operation with local, state and federal partners working around the clock.

Throughout this process, there has been close collaboration, communication and support through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.  It's a strong working relationship and will carry over into our efforts to recover from the losses.

I am proud of the incredibly smooth operation that took place during this difficult time by CCPS employees.  You performed admirably and it shows.

The unsung heroes are the employee's families who patiently waited for their loved one's return after extended absences.  Their support is part of this joint effort to help clean up and rebuild.

While another hurricane forms in the Atlantic, we stand ready to face any challenge. Thank you for your service, dedication and hard work.

*Reuben Young*

*The State Emergency Response Team Assembles for a briefing in the situation room.*

*Adjutant General Gregory Lusk and CCPS Secretary Reuben Young join Gov. Bev Perdue during one of numerous press conferences on Hurricane Irene.*

*Sgt. Jorge Brewer works in the Joint Information Center, reaching the Hispanic Community.*

*Adjutant General Gregory Lusk meets with his top team to discuss strategy.*

***NEW BERN.-*** *First responders and service members of B Company 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team receive a briefing before heading out in to the flooded streets for search and rescue missions.*
*(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Kelsey Blankenship, 382nd Public Affairs Detachment)*

***KINSTON*** *– NCNG's B Company 120th Combined Arms Battalion unload their gear to assist the EM Eastern Branch Office with relief efforts.*

*NCNG soldiers unload bottled water.*

## *Congratulations!*

*The following employee was promoted:*

Butner Public Safety: **Gregory Perry**

*The following employees celebrate significant service milestones in their state careers:*

*25 years*
Emergency Management: **Darlene Johnson**
State Highway Patrol: **Michael Lanier** and **Anthony Hill**

*20 years*
Emergency Management: **Deborah Miller**
State Highway Patrol: **Sylvia Brecheisen**, **John Gardner**, **Ernest Goodwin**, **James Hardy**, **Randy Lee**, and **Lisa Mason**

## *Comings and Goings*

*Welcome to our new employees:*

Alcohol Law Enforcement: Emily Hinson
State Capitol Police: Terry Branch

*Best wishes to our recent retirees:*

Butner Public Safety: **Ronald Briggs**
Emergency Management: **Ronald Wall**
State Highway Patrol: **Robert Bauer**, **Mark Moore**, **George Pomeroy**

**Butner Retirees:**

***Ronald Briggs***

***Michael Beal***

## *NCNG Brigadier General Clontz Retires from the Military*

Brigadier General Iwan B. Clontz, the assistant adjutant general for Air, North Carolina National Guard, retired from the military on Aug. 30 after 40 years of service. He remains at the Joint Force Headquarters.

His prior assignments included N.C. Air National Guard director, and chief of staff, North Carolina Air National Guard. He is a Master Navigator with more than 4,000 hours flying time.

## *Major Robert Carver promoted to Lieutenant Colonel*

Maj. Robert Carver was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the North Carolina Air National Guard Aug. 8 in a ceremony held in the Office of the Adjutant General in Raleigh.

The former reporter for WRAL-TV joined the National Guard in 2001 after a nine-year break in military service. In 1997, he became deputy director for public affairs at CCPS. On Sep. 11, 2001, he was called to active duty with the National Guard and has been a full-time member of the Guard ever since.

From 2001 to 2005, he was the Guard's state public affairs officer. In 2005, he transferred to Eastern Europe and was assigned to the country team at the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova, as the Chief of Bilateral Affairs. He returned to North Carolina in late 2007, and earlier this year, was assigned as the Guard's director of Public Affairs and Visual Information.

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## *Trooper's Instinct Leads to Arrest of N.Y. Murder Suspect*

On Aug. 8, Trooper B. M. Sellers was on NC 87 in Bladen County and ran the registration on a 2009 Hyundai directly in front of him. The vehicle was wanted in connection with an attempted murder in Bronx County, N.Y.

Trooper Sellers requested back-up from the Bladen County Sheriffs Department and fellow highway patrol members. During the stop, Sellers and Trooper P.M. Sanders ran identification checks on all four occupants. Three identities were confirmed but the fourth occupant in the back seat was evasive in responding to questioning about his identity and seemed nervous. The man was placed under arrest for resist, delay and obstructing a law enforcement officer and transported him the Bladen County Jail for identification and processing. The suspect was later identified as a man wanted in New York for attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, assault inflicting serious injury. He also had outstanding warrants from Robeson and Mecklenburg counties for numerous motor vehicle driving violations. He is currently being held in the Bladen County Jail where he is under a $2,000 secured bond and is awaiting extradition to New York.

Colonel Michael Gilchrist said, "It is through the hard work and dedication of these officers involved that led to the apprehension of a wanted and dangerous criminal."

## *Fifth Annual Patrol Stroll is Saturday, Sept. 24*

The fifth annual Patrol Stroll, a benefit for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, is Saturday, Sept. 24 at the N.C. State Highway Patrol Training Academy, 3318 Garner Road, Raleigh.

The Patrol Stroll starts with a 1- mile fun run at 8:30 a.m., followed by a 5 kilometer run, then a 50- yard M.A.D.D. Dash for children.

The event brings citizens and law enforcement together in a combined effort to highlight the awareness of the dangers of impaired driving, while promoting health and wellness for all North Carolinians. For more information, or to register for the event, go to www.thepatrolstroll.org.

# Employee Spotlight

When hurricane season sets in, Ron Wall, a natural hazards program manager for the Division of Emergency Management, is called upon to forecast the weather for emergency planners.

***Ron Wall***

"I'm like a Christmas tree," he said. "They bring me out during storm season, then put me back in the closet."

Wall's dry sense of humor has kept his co-workers amused during his13 years at EM. He tells the story of how in September 1998, just before he went into a briefing with then Gov. Jim Hunt on Hurricane Bonnie, he was handed a slip of paper saying he was being made a permanent employee. Bonnie was projected to take a similar track up I-95 as the destructive Hurricane Fran in 1996. After the briefing, Hunt and he faced a bank of microphones and the awaiting news media. Gov. Hunt started asking Wall whether this was his best forecast and was he sure the eye was going to turn.

Wall told the governor that he was sure, but there was always uncertainty with every forecast. According to the best calculations, the storm should bend to the right at 8 p.m.

Hunt told Wall that this was serious business, and some people's jobs were at stake.

Wall said he blurted out, "For goodness sakes, governor, I just got my job today." The room erupted in laughter.

Wall said Bonnie turned just as he predicted and the next morning, the governor found him and said he could keep his job and that he hoped he hadn't been too hard on him.

A year later in 1999, the storm of the century hit North Carolina, Hurricane Floyd. Floyd was one of the largest Atlantic hurricanes of its intensity ever recorded.

"My take on Floyd is that every storm has its own particular personality," Wall said. "We were worried about Floyd as a storm—a wind storm, but that never really came to pass. It turned out Floyd was really significant as a rain storm—it gave us flooding of Biblical proportions. We found out we had a good forecast on the river flooding that took place but we had no way of knowing the impact the river flooding would have on individual citizens and their homes. Our flood mapping program arose out of Floyd, and that was a good thing. I recall taking at least 10 minutes of 'splaining to convince Gov. Hunt that the National Weather Service did river flood forecasts, and they did it well."

In 2005, Wall was watching the radar on Hurricane Katrina as it approached and said he had a bad feeling about that one. His predication came long before the mainstream weather forecasters began reporting the storm's intensity.

With the most recent hurricane, Irene, Wall briefed Gov. Bev Perdue and members of the Emergency Operations Center.

*Gov. Perdue discusses Hurricane Irene with Ron Wall.*

"Irene was bad enough, but not as bad as it could have been," Wall said. He said the long days were no different from other hurricanes.

When Wall was promoted in 2007 to as a planner II, he became the manager of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, and he took charge of the Continuity of Operations Plan for state agencies.

"I was amazed at how well people responded to COOP," Wall said.

Ron Wall has done a great job keeping us informed of developing weather systems as well as his work on state plans," said Elaine Wathen, assistant director of the Division of Emergency Management and plans chief. "He is super intelligent. When Ron brings out a point, you know he's done his research and he knows what he's talking about."

Working at Emergency Management has been a second career for Wall, who retired from the U.S. Air Force after nearly 25 years of active duty.

Wall's family dates back generations to Rolesville, where he currently lives, and to Wake Forest where his father, William Henry "Billy" Wall Jr. was reared on an 800-acre farm.

Ron was born, the first of three sons in 1947 in El Paso, Texas. His parents returned to Rolesville when he was six months old. He has fond memories of his early years playing baseball and spending summers at Camp Kanata in Wake Forest where he swam, canoed, hiked and did archery and crafts. He spent as much time as he could there to keep from having to spend time in the tobacco fields.

"I had to pick cotton once, and I didn't like it," Wall said. "It hurts your back having to stay bent over."

Wall's younger brother, Tony, had attended Carolina Military Academy and when he came home for weekends he wore his uniform to church. The girls at church swooned over him, so Wall figured he needed to get a uniform, too, and he decided to go to Virginia Military Institute. His father cautioned him that it would be hard if he attended VMI. Wall figured,

“How hard?” He was making all A’s in high school. His dad asked again if he was sure he wanted to go. He said he was sure.

Not long after his enrollment, Wall told his dad, “It wasn’t as bad as you said it would be. It’s worse.” He said they made everything hard.

When he first started at the college, Ron was 185 pounds and able to do about four pull-ups. By Christmas time, his weight had dropped to 139 pounds, and he could do “as many pull-ups as you could count.” He returned home, svelte, with his 44 brass buttons and tails on his uniform. The girls didn’t pay him a bit of attention.

“I went to VMI for all the wrong reasons, but I did the right thing,” Wall said. “My time at VMI was my defining experience. If you could find a way to prosper in that system, you could make it anywhere.”

Wall graduated in economics in 1969 and was commissioned in the Air Force. He was sent to Laredo Air Force Base in Texas to be trained as a pilot, but he had bad knees. He had three choices and decided to be a weatherman because he had taken enough math and physics classes to qualify for the position. The Air Force sent Wall to the University of Texas at Austin to get the equivalent of a bachelor of science degree in atmospheric science.

A young civilian named Betsy had a student job of plotting weather maps. They met and were married in 1971. They moved quite a bit during his military career, first to Myrtle Beach, S.C. to an Air Force weather station. Next, he taught weather to student pilots at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. His son Robbie was born during that time in 1974. Other duty stations included Illinois, Missouri, Texas and Korea. His last assignment was with the International Military Staff at North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters in Brussels. He retired as a colonel and returned to Rolesville in 1994 and worked three years at Lowe’s Home Improvement store.

*Ron Wall with son, Robbie and wife, Betsy*

“Everyone should have to work retail at some point in their lives,” Wall said. “It’s humbling, number one, it builds character and it’s hard work.”

While he was there, a co-worker told Wall about some Emergency Management jobs. He sent a letter to the then director, Eric Tolbert, and was hired in the summer of 1998.

He quickly found out that coming into state government with the military mindset does not work. “If you don’t make personal relationships first, you can’t get things done,” he said. “In the Air Force, it didn’t matter if people liked you, because there was no time. You were forced to do what you could do as fast as you could do it.”

Ron's immediate supervisor, Ed Jenkins, said, "What many people don't know about Ron, he's tough on the outside, but a 'softie' underneath. If a friend came to him with a personal need, he'd help in any way he could."

Wall said everyone at Emergency Management has been nice to work with. "If you ask people to do something, they will either do it or tell you who can. I will miss my association with them."

Wall retires from Emergency Management at the end of August, but plans to keep busy. His brothers and he have five rental houses to manage, and Ron has built a new workshop for his woodworking. He built much of the furniture in his house, including an entertainment center, side board, beds, tables and an old ice box. He said he built a reproduction of Gen. Stonewall Jackson's field desk used during the Civil War. The original is at VMI.

*Ron Wall and the EM Planning Staff*

Wall compares his life to Candide, the character in the book by French philosopher and satirist Voltaire. Candide goes out into the world and experiences hardships that erode his optimism. In the end, Candide said, "We must cultivate our garden."

Wall said like Candide, he will be in Rolesville cultivating his vegetable garden.

"I'm happy that I've spent 13 years working with Emergency Management and Crime Control. I would do it again,' Wall said. "It almost makes you believe in pre-destination."

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The *All-Points Bulletin* is your newsletter! If you have information you would like included, please contact the Public Affairs Office at (919) 733-5027 or send e-mail to *pmcquillan@nccrimecontrol.org* before the 15th of each month.