

July 12, 2013

Subject: Summary of Discussion from Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Leadership Conference, July 11, 2013.

The second Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Leadership Conference convened at 7:30 P.M., Thursday, July 11, 13.

The group assembled early with an opportunity to greet and become familiar with our newest neighbors Cindy and Joe G., and the opportunity to meet Deputy Sheriff, Cpl. Nichols.

The formal portion of the conference began with a Q & A with Cpl. Nichols who reiterated the transitions the department has had to make to meet the constraints of their budget, expand their presence and make the upgrade to their cruisers and communications. Howard S. discussed how economic realities contributed to the dissolution of the Community Oriented Policing (C.O.P.s). Cpl. Nichols reassured us that didn't mean a reduction in support of services, like Vacation Watch, from the Sheriff's Department.

Howard S. asked Cpl. Nichols if he had any hand reinstating RaidsOnLine crime digital crime database that, up until the past month, had been out-of-commission for accessing information for our immediate area and complemented the efforts to "clean-up" the department's web-site. Cpl. Nichols when the question was raised in the last meeting he mentioned our concern to the department web-master to see if that problem could be remedied.

Robin R. commented that he was definitely aware of an increase in law enforcement presence in the community and commended Cpl. Nichols for taking the time to address the group. No other comments or questions were posed; Cpl. Nichols departed at approximately 8:00 P.M.

Howard S. made some introductory remarks to begin the slide-show explaining the purpose, objectives and goals of Neighborhood Watch and for the conference emphasizing the floor was open for discussion at any time as the ultimate goal was to promote cohesiveness in working together to prevent crime.

Betty B. remarked that she wasn't sure what households were in her cell and asked why she was only assigned 4. Howard S. reassured her that the diagram depicting the clusters was a "working model" with room for alterations.

The tornado video evoked several comments from Gene P. and Theresa R. Gene was reminded of a woman and her daughter they knew in Moore, OK., that were crushed under a table by a car dropped by the tornado. Theresa mentioned that she'd read reports that the wind was so strong it literally blew the hair from the hide of cattle and sucked-up the asphalt from the street.

Everyone was made aware of the danger of wildfire and how little, if any, depending on the conditions, advance notice there is to evacuate. Howard S. reviewed some preventative measures and where to look for the most up-to-date draught information.

Howard S. reaffirmed the safest place during an earthquake is not inside a building. Robin R. added that the bi-level bridges, firehouses police stations were flattened adding to the crisis. Gene P. told us that, while on duty in California, they were to keep shoes next to their bed. He explained that, even during a "low intensity" earthquake, glassware will be shaken from the shelves and windows will shatter leaving shards of glass everywhere on the floor causing egress even more dangerous.

The discussion about pandemic and terrorist threat was academic; everyone agreed our vulnerability to bio/chemical or EMP threat was high due to the proximity of Fort Hood.

Joe G., scoffed at the reference to "Fallujah" during a video about response social collapse by a commentator who probably had never been there by enlightened the group that, by comparison, crime in U.S. cities like New York or Los Angeles, is 100 time worse than any city in Iraq. And, he added that the gang and criminal take-over of entire neighborhoods is a growing problem in Killeen. Howard S. relayed information he'd gotten from a presentation from a Bell County Commissioner about the number of evictions notices and execution orders issued by the Bell County Constable. The number in Killeen was 10 times higher and more intense than the surrounding communities. The unprecedented draw-down and reduction-in-force drew Howard S. to the conclusion that if there were a local example where complete social breakdown could happen in our area, it would be in Killeen.

Howard S. concluded the conference by revealing the initial commercial publication of the quick reference guide, when the binding would be completed so distribution through the cell POCs can be made.

Howard S.  
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Woodlake Neighborhood Watch