ANNEX R

PROTESTS AND CIVIL DISTURBANCES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Annex is to provide direction in meeting the needs of the Boston University Medical Community in an emergency situation caused by protest and civil disturbances. Loss of life, injury and destruction of property can be mitigated by proper planning and response.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

Boston University and Boston Medical Center are in the process of building and operating the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory on Albany Street. This new laboratory will help lead the country and the world in finding cures for emerging and re-emerging diseases, such as Marburg Virus, Ebola, Anthrax and Smallpox. Civil disturbances are a possibility. They may occur as a form of social protest usually in cities with State or Federal government facilities, as well as communities with socially active educational institutions. Another likely site for civil disturbance is in communities with correctional facilities. Sporting celebrations, large gatherings with intoxicated crowds can lead to spontaneous displays of civil unrest.

B. Assumptions

Disasters involving civil disturbance are usually confined to a small geographical area within a community and the initial response should result in containment of the problem. Response must be immediate and coordinated.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Gather and assess information on rising tensions.
2. Those first aware of the situation notify the Police Department to establish the confinement area.
3. BEMA Director activate the EOC.
4. Notification proceed as per Response Plan.

B. Phases of Management
1. Mitigation

The likelihood of civil disturbances can be substantially reduced by practical mitigation efforts. The root causes of civil disturbance - unemployment, substandard housing, lack of public services, ethnic prejudice, communications problems, sense of frustration and worthlessness, and the classic battle of have versus have-nots - must be addressed.

a. The community must enlist all public and private resources to act upon problems of potential civil disorders. Any increase in tension or unrest must be immediately recognized and addressed. Prompt and proper action could prevent an actual civil disturbance.

b. A mitigation task force headed by the Mayor, City Councilors and chaired by the BEMA Director will meet on a regular basis to discuss concerns and strategies. Provision for emergency meetings of the task force in time of increased tensions must be made.

(1) Mayor
(2) City Council
(3) Local Public Safety Departments
(4) Social Service Agencies
(5) Clergy
(6) Ethnic Community Leaders
(7) School Department
(8) Red Cross

2. Preparedness

a. Define and map the geographical areas of concern including schools and school bus routes that might be subject to disturbance.

b. Develop the limits of a confinement area in order to prevent the disturbance from spreading. This confinement area will be general in nature and will be adjusted to meet field conditions.

c. Assign a field commander and locate a field command post with communications to a point just outside the confinement area.
d. Develop an access control area outside the confinement area to prevent outside agitators, spectators and the press, if necessary, from gaining access to the confinement area.

e. Provide a police staffing plan for the confinement and access control areas.

f. Provide routes for fire department response to fire and rescue problems within the areas, including police protection for the firefighters and apparatus.

g. Provide ambulance access with police protection to the impacted area.

h. Provide stand-by transportation for off-site removal of people involved in the disturbance or people who wish to vacate the area for their own safety.

i. Provide secured facilities for those arrested.

j. Provide temporary shelter for non-involved evacuees.

k. Enlist those in the various areas likely to be involved in civil disturbance awareness as of a reporting system to relay information on rising tensions.

3. Response

a. Response to the disturbance with a strong police presence.

b. Activate the EOC.

c. Convene a meeting of the task force.

d. Notify the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

e. Establish the lines of the confinement area.

f. Set up the field command post and check communications with operating units and the EOC.

g. Establish access control lines.

h. Notify mutual aid communities.
i. Respond to situations as described in the preparedness section.
4. Recovery
   a. Police sweep the area to ensure public safety.
   b. Police presence to be gradually reduced.
   c. Task force meet to recommend continuance of confinement and access control areas.
   d. Task force set up reconstruction and policies directed toward mitigation.
IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Task Assignments

1. BEMA Director
   a. Develop and maintain the Civil Disturbance Annex.
   b. Coordinate response to a civil disturbance.
   c. Moderate meetings of the Task Force.

2. Boston Police Department
   a. Evaluation of situation
   b. Field control
   c. Traffic control

3. Boston Fire Department
   a. Continue fire and rescue efforts with emphasis on protection of personnel.

4. Boston School Department
   a. Report rise in tensions in schools to BEMA Director.
   b. Work with task force to ensure safety of students and faculty in school as well as to and from school.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

Upon occurrence of a civil disturbance incident, the senior responding police officer will become the on-scene commander. The on-scene commanding officer will immediately establish a forward command post situated at a location of his discretion, taking into account the problem, the accessibility and space requirement to marshall and manage the personnel and material to combat the problem. The on-scene commanding Officer is in total charge of the forward command post and all support units will report to him and operate under his direction from this fixed position. This officer will remain in charge as on-scene commander of the forward command post until relieved by a senior police official. It is essential that the forward command post management team remain at their established position to coordinate the on-scene forces.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS
A. Records and Reports

Forms for collection of information pertaining to civil disturbances are found in Annex A Appendices.

B. Resources

Every department with response capabilities and task assignments is responsible for providing and maintaining equipment and supplies necessary for civil disturbance operations.

C. Training

Local emergency response personnel may attend training courses offered by Federal and State agencies. All training will be coordinated through BEMA Director.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

All agencies assigned responsibilities in this annex are responsible for developing or updating internal action plans that will assure a continuing acceptable degree of operational readiness to carry out their responsibilities. The BEMA Director is responsible for the overall development and maintenance of this annex.

VIII. LINE OF SUCCESSION

The Police Department is the primary responder to a civil disturbance. The line of succession for coordinating this response is as follows:

A. Mayor
B. Police Chief

IX. CRISIS AUGMENTATION

Should additional assistance be required, a request for assistance should be made through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.