

## ▪ INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Since 1999, International Disaster Response of the American Red Cross has provided support to people around the world by responding to large-scale, sudden-onset disasters and complex emergencies. To respond quickly and effectively, the American Red Cross has developed a network of highly-trained people who are prepared to assist with international emergency response operations. Members of this **International Disaster Response (IDR) Roster** ensure that the American Red Cross response around the world is of the highest quality and meets the needs of those affected by disaster.

IDR Roster members have been deployed worldwide in a variety of capacities alongside local Red Cross or Red Crescent societies as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Relief and logistics specialists have provided vital services in response to flood, hurricane, earthquake, tsunami and drought emergencies around the world, including in Dominican Republic, Mexico, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Lesotho. Water and Sanitation specialists assessed post-tsunami needs in Maldives while Family Links delegates worked alongside the ICRC to restore family links in Sri Lanka. Members from the IDR Roster have worked with the Federation in Grenada, Niger, Kenya, and Haiti, providing emergency relief and food programming, information and reporting, as well as finance and administrative support.

## ▪ BTC TRAINING

International Services conducts the six-day **Basic Training Course for International Delegates (BTC)** twice a year for a select number of participants, replacing the International Response Team (IRT) training previously offered. The BTC is a prerequisite for international deployments and inclusion on the IDR Roster and is appropriate for those with technical expertise in a core function of International Disaster Response as well as relevant domestic or international field experience. The BTC is designed to provide an introduction to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) and to prepare future candidates for international missions. The course provides participants with the history and the overall context of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and introduces people to the values and Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The course aims to have participants experience the realities of working as Red Cross/Red Crescent international staff through a variety of case studies and scenarios. BTC trainings are facilitated by emergency response professionals from the American Red Cross, Federation, and ICRC.

At the conclusion of this training, participants are evaluated and may be selected for inclusion on the IDR Roster for future short-term (from one to three month)<sup>2</sup> international deployments. Opportunities for specialized trainings, including the relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU), may be available on an annual basis to members of the IDR roster.

## ▪ BTC TRAINING APPLICATION

The next Basic Training Course for International Delegates will likely be held in early 2007. The course will be announced via Service Areas approximately two months prior. Applications will be included in the announcement and posted on CrossNet. RedCross.org and CrossNet will be updated in the near future with more information on steps to becoming an appropriate candidate for the Basic Training Course.

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<sup>1</sup> The BTC replaces the International Response Team (IRT) training

<sup>2</sup> Normally one month deployments are volunteer and after that a pay structure can be introduced

## ▪ BTC APPLICANT PROFILE

Professional and technical experience level, as well as appropriate motivating factors and personal characteristics are required for members of the IDR roster. The Personality Checklist included with the application helps potential applicants reflect on these traits. Applicants must have technical competency in an international emergency response context in one of the core functions, have field experience, be available for four week voluntary deployments, and have personal attributes appropriate for international emergency response contexts. Foreign language skills and affiliation with the Red Cross/Red Crescent are also strongly preferred.

BTC applicants must possess all of the following qualities:

### 1. Technical Competency (preferably in an emergency response context)

In at least one of the following core functions:

- **Emergency Relief**                      Disaster management, rapid needs assessments, beneficiary targeting, distribution planning and management, voucher programs
- **Water and Sanitation**                Potable water distribution, latrine construction, waste management, urban planning
- **Restoring Family Links**                International Family Tracing Services or ICRC Restoring Family Links operations, and the tools and techniques for Restoring Family Links in disasters and international humanitarian emergency response
- **Logistics**                                Requisition, procurement, customs clearance, commodity tracking, stock control, warehousing, transportation
- **Finance and Administration**        Computerized accounting, finance and budget management, financial reporting; property management, human resources services and administrative procedures
- **Information and Reporting**        Coordination and analysis of data, report preparation, writing and dissemination
- **Information Technology and Telecommunications**    Manages voice and data technologies, VHF/HF radios, global positioning systems (GPS), and mapping (area of potential IDR interest and recruiting will be limited)
- **Food Programming**                    Food-/Cash- for-work programs, food distribution, supplemental feeding (area of potential IDR interest and recruiting will be limited)
- **Health**                                    Provision of emergency medical services and immunizations (area of potential IDR interest and recruiting will be limited)
- **Shelter**                                    Planning for and provision of tents, iron sheeting, simple construction (area of potential IDR interest and recruiting will be limited)

### 2. Field Experience

- At least two years of overseas volunteer or professional service
- or*
- At least three disaster response/emergency management deployments

### 3. Availability

- Available on short notice for minimum of four-week international volunteer deployments
- Available for annual training and refresher courses

### 4. Personal Attributes

- Function effectively in physically, emotionally, and psychologically demanding environment
- Team work, leadership, problem solving, decision making, analytical, communication and diplomatic skills
- Tolerant, flexible, resourceful, resilient, assertive, and cooperative
- Culturally astute with high tolerance for diversity and able to work with international counterparts
- Commitment to policies and principles of the Movement and motivated by the humanitarian imperative