



## NEWS RELEASE

**2015 March 26**

### **SCAPA DART Announces**

### **April 25<sup>th</sup> Disaster Airlift Mobilization Exercise at South County Airport**

The South County Airport Pilots Association (SCAPA) Disaster Airlift Response Team (DART) stands ready to provide volunteer emergency airlift services to aid local communities' disaster response after a cataclysmic event which impairs regional surface transportation. This year's mobilization exercise will occur April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the south ramp of South County Airport, 13030 Murphy Avenue, San Martin, CA. Over 70 people from SCAPA and local emergency management agencies such as the Gilroy Office of Emergency Services, Morgan Hill Office of Emergency Services, Morgan Hill and Gilroy CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) are scheduled to participate either at the airport itself or from their home base of operation. During the mobilization, SCAPA DART will set up an operations area, check in volunteer workers and pilots, receive requests for materiel and people to be flown in mock emergency operations, and fly those operations. Flight operations will include the transport of:

- food from providing airport(s),
- "emergency workers" from their homes in south county to their jobs in north county,
- ambulatory "injured" people to distant hospitals,
- local "evacuees" from South County Airport to outlying airports where they can find food and shelter,
- and other mock missions as requested by partner organizations and citizens.

Although most flights will be under one hour in length, the longest flight will likely be from Bellingham airport in Washington State, where a study group from the Cornwall Church has partnered with store associates and managers of their local Fred Meyers grocery store to donate a real gift of food to our mobilization. The communities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Martin will not need feeding as there is no real disaster expected at this time, so this real food donation will be forwarded to the Saint Joseph's Family Center in Gilroy for use in their Lord's Table and/or Food Assistance Pantry programs. Mutual aid during the exercise will be provided by the Watsonville Emergency Airlift Coordination Team (WEACT), the Western States Association of Sheriff's Air Squadrons, Stanford Hospital LifeFlight, San Carlos Airport Pilots Association, and the Northwest chapter of EVAC.

A real benefit of this exercise is the chance to get local emergency service organizations dialed in to the capabilities of SCAPA DART. Said Jennifer Ponce of the City of Morgan Hill Office of Emergency Services, "The City of Morgan Hill's Office of Emergency Services (OES) will be activating its ham radio capabilities both in the

Emergency Operations Center and in its OES support vehicle. Morgan Hill greatly appreciates the partnership with SCAPA DART. The more we can practice our response together the more efficient we will be during times of crisis. Getting to know each other on a face to face basis before a disaster assures those urgent coordinated efforts are initiated quickly.”

Attendees during the event are expected to include:

- Jim Petersen, President, SCAPA
- Rod Pharis, SCAPA DART Co-Chair and Author of the Disaster Airlift Response Plan
- Paul Marshall, SCAPA DART Co-Chair and mobilization Operations Director
- Colette Armao, Aviation Planner, Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
- Roy Shackel, Fire Captain, Office of Emergency Services Coordinator, City of Gilroy
- Jennifer Ponce, Office of Emergency Services, City of Morgan Hill
- Colin Tanner, Leader, Gilroy CERT
- Michael Baulch, Manager, Stanford Life Flight / Stanford Transfer Center
- Peter Plinck, Co-Chair, Watsonville Emergency Airlift Coordination Team
- Bob Tucknott, Commander, Western States Association of Sheriff's Air Squadrons

For more information, see

- <http://www.southcountypilots.org/>
- [http://www.southcountypilots.org/images/stories/DARP\\_Revision\\_2.0\\_16114.pdf](http://www.southcountypilots.org/images/stories/DARP_Revision_2.0_16114.pdf)
- DART April 25<sup>th</sup> Mobilization Summary Sheet
- SCAPA DART Background Information

Inquiries about the April 25<sup>th</sup> mobilization, should be directed to David Dindak, SCAPA DART Public Relations Coordinator, 408 461 0413, [david@2mypi.com](mailto:david@2mypi.com)

The pilots and ground volunteers of SCAPA DART thank our major funding sponsors

