July 8, 2004

Fort Detrick to get emergency siren system, radio station
Tune into AM 1610 for emergency, weather, current events

by Joyce Kelley
Public Affairs Office

A modular series siren system that will tie into Fort Detrick's newly installed radio station is expected to be up and fully operational here by September, said David Eskildsen, Fort Detrick's fire chief.

Federal Signal's Modular Series Siren, a family of electronic sirens, is capable of producing high intensity warning signals over a large area. The controller provides a flat frequency response from 200 to 2000 Hz, produces warning signals for many types of
served with in the military.

Enter first and last name:

Select branch of service:
  All Services

Find

emergencies and is a way to communicate to the community.

Although the system is capable of handling 275 sirens, Fort Detrick will install six on post. The six locations include two in the housing area, and one each at the headquarters building, signal area, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and near the Directorate of Installation Services.

In the future the sirens could be located at other areas, such as Area B-11 on Shookstown Road or the Water Treatment Plant on Market Street in Frederick, Eskildsen said.

When the sirens sound, employees and residents from Fort Detrick will be notified of the emergency through the siren system and its live and digital voice messaging system. Broadcasts will instruct listeners to tune into the radio station for additional information.

Solar signs that will be placed at each of the three gates will flash and instruct drivers to tune into AM 1610.

Additionally, a message will be sent to computer monitors instructing users to tune into the radio station.

The sirens are powered by a 12-volt battery and will continue operating, regardless of whether the installation loses power.

The sirens will be adjusted to cover the area of Fort Detrick with an
estimated range of three to five miles, Eskildsen said.

"The plan is to link the radio station to your desktop computer," said Mike Jewett, director of Information Management. He said the DOIM is currently trying to isolate the bandwidth so the station can be played by Real Player, a common software program.

Jewett said about 4,000 people have access to a computer, either through their desktop, Blackberry or Terminal Services Access Control System accounts.

In addition to the warning system, the sirens will replace the current speaker system for daily bugle calls.

The system has the capability to isolate one siren, such as the one that will be on the headquarters' building parade field, and can be used as a speaker system for ceremonies, Eskildsen said.

The siren system will tie into Fort Detrick's newly installed radio station, which was manufactured by Information Station Specialists.

The ALERT AM Emergency Advisory Radio System is a communication tool for emergency management. It has the capabilities to report National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Emergency Alert System/Weather Radio Receiver with specific area message encoding that activates upon receipt of all NOAA codes, including notifications that can be targeted to
as many as 16 specific countries regarding weather and Emergency Alert System notices.

The Fort Detrick radio station can also notify individuals of local weather conditions, post closings and special events.

An "emergency" play list takes precedence over current events listings.