

BACKGROUND

The “TSUNAMI RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE XXI CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN GAMES- MAYAGUEZ 2010” Project originated from a grant awarded to the **Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN)** by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**. The Request for Proposals was issued by the PRSN on October 7, 2009 and the Project was described as follows:

“The responsibility of the contractor will be to develop, prepare and test the 2010 Caribbean and Central American Games tsunami response plan. These activities need to be coordinated with the Puerto Rico Seismic Network, corresponding agencies and the Security Committee established for the games. The response plan and final report will need to be in English and Spanish. The proposal needs to include at least an orientation exercise (seminar), tabletop exercise and a full scale exercise. This response plan will need to take into consideration the triggers to the tsunamis and their potential impact. The plan will cover all the venues for the games.

The consulting firm **José A. Bravo Asociados (JABA)** received the invitation and submitted a proposal titled “Proposal for 2010 Caribbean and Central American Games Tsunami Response Plan”, submitted on October 12, 2009. [ANNEX 1]. The Project was awarded to **JABA** and the required contract between the **PRSN** and **JABA** was signed.

DRAFTING OF THE DOCUMENT

JABA initiated immediately a process of meetings with all of the interested parties. The first activity was an orientation meeting for all Security and Emergency Management agencies called by the Security Director of the Games ' Organizing Committee, Lieutenant Colonel Edison Vélez, of the Police of Puerto Rico, on October 25, 2009, in Mayagüez. In the course of that meeting the participants were informed that the Games would be considered as a "Planned Event" that should be handled as a "domestic incident" to be managed as required by the "National Incident Management System" (NIMS). This situation implied the requirement for a single all-encompassing plan that would cover not only response to Law Enforcement incidents but also Emergency Management operations of all kinds. The Document would have to contain separate Annexes for each type of foreseeable contingencies, one of which could be a Tsunami. Consequently, with the approval of the SNPR, the Project became the drafting and initial implementation of ANNEX B.3.08- TSUNAMIS , a part of ANNEX B- CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR SPECIFIC HAZARDS, of the Games' Security and Emergency Management Plan.

During the month of November, 2009, the State Government of Puerto Rico issued two documents that had a substantial impact on the drafting process of the Games' Security and Emergency Management Plan and the Tsunami Response Annex. First was the Executive Order 2009-043 of the Governor of Puerto Rico, which totally restructured the State Emergency Management organization to make it more compatible with the NIMS. The second document, required by the said Executive Order, was the Procedure for the Employment of State Government Resources in the Response to Domestic, approved by the Director of the State Emergency Management Agency and dated November 12, 2009. Basically, both

documents define the structure of the response organization for any type of incidents and their directives apply to the XXI Games.

JABA was the contractor in charge of drafting the second document, and its detailed knowledge of the provisions of the Procedure gave way to an informal advisory role by the Company's officers to the authors of the **Games' Security and Emergency Management Plan**. This contributed, finally to having a **Tsunami Annex** that fits perfectly within the **Games' Security and Emergency Management Plan** and the response structure it provides for.

On December 16, 2009, **JABA** delivered electronic copies of the first draft of the **Tsunami Annex** to the **PRSN** and the National Weather Service. On the next day, it delivered printed copies of the document.

Several work meetings at all levels took place during the second half of January and the month of February, 2010, leading to changes in the **Games' Security and Emergency Management Plan** that could have effects on the provisions of the **Tsunami Annex**. For instance, **JABA** was invited to attend with the principal officers of the Games' Organizing Committee (President, Executive Director and Director of Security) a meeting on February 17, 2010 with the Secretary of the Recreation and Sports Department of the Government of Puerto Rico. During that meeting the Plan was tentatively approved.

During the second week of March, 2010, several important meetings took place, including the official presentation by **JABA**, on March 9, 2010, to the Director of the **PRSN**, Dr. Victor Huérfino Moreno, and his technical staff, of the **Games' Security and Emergency Management Plan** and the **Tsunami Annex** draft. The extensive discussion of these documents resulted in several suggestions by the **PRSN** that were incorporated in a new version with recommended changes sent by the **PRSN** to **JABA** via e-mail on March 15, 2010.

On April 15, 2010, **JABA** sent to the **PRSN**, via e-mail, the final version of the **Tsunami Annex**, which incorporates the changes recommended by doctor Huérfino and his technical staff during the March 9 meeting. [ANNEX 2]

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Even before the final version of the **Tsunami Annex** was submitted, **JABA** participated with the **PRSN** in several activities aimed at orienting Security and Emergency Management officers on the Tsunami hazard. It attended a preparatory meeting held in Mayagüez on March 16, 2010, for the **LANTEX 2010 Exercise**, sponsored by **NOAA** y la **PRSN**. During the exercise, on March 24, 2010, a representative of **JABA** met at the Headquarters of the Games' Organizing Committee with its key personnel and demonstrated the instruments used to transmit Tsunami advisories, including a NOAA Weather Radio monitor and a laptop computer with wireless Internet access to view the bulletins released by the participating agencies. The officers were able to observe the complete process from issuance of the initial advisory and the subsequent Tsunami Warning to the arrival of the first wave to Mayagüez.

On April 23, 2010 **JABA** offered a formal training session for the command and management personnel and the interagency coordinators from several State and Municipal agencies assigned to the PREMA's Zone 3 and Zone 4 E.O.C.s (Aguadilla and Mayaguez). The training took place in Mayagüez. [ANNEX 3].



On April 29, 2010, JABA conducted in Mayagüez a Tabletop for the same group. With approval of the PRSN, the scenario that was used for the exercise was based on NOAA's LANTEX 2010 Exercise. [ANNEXES 4 y 5]. An innovation introduced by **JABA** during this exercise was providing tables depicting streets of a miniature city, with scale models of all kinds of emergency vehicles. This new tool allowed the participants to visualize the scenario and the operations that would have to be carried out.

