EVERY MARCH, MMRMA’S Risk Management Workshop focuses on nuts-and-bolts tools and information pertinent to managing risk and operations in government.

This year’s workshop is no exception, and the agenda is packed with information on a variety of cutting-edge, essential topics. Once again, we have assembled a roster of knowledgeable MMRMA staff and service providers as well as key national experts.

Political Update
For the Thursday morning opening session, participants have come to enjoy a timely glimpse into Michigan’s political and legislative landscape. Susan Demas of Inside Michigan Politics will give an insider’s view of what’s happening in Lansing amidst the backdrop of a national election year.

Legal Insights
As most readers know, attorney Michael Ellis retired as Director of Claims in December. MMRMA has invited Michael to the workshop, where he will provide a legal update at the general session.

For those who have had the good fortune to hear Ellis’s presentations before, this will be another great opportunity to experience his legendary, humorous style while gaining a valuable peek into the current legal climate. Those who have not yet heard Ellis speak are in for a real treat.

Understanding FOIA
Later on Thursday afternoon, another general session will give all participants an update on the latest FOIA changes and what they mean for you and your entity. Haider Kazim and Andrew Brege, attorneys with Cummings, McClory, Davis & Acho (CMDA), one of MMRMA’s primary law firms, have led numerous FOIA trainings for MMRMA; they will present a thorough primer on the law and its implications.

Success Secrets
Gordon Graham of Graham Research Consultants has decades of experience in law enforcement and risk management. In the closing session on Thursday evening, his course titled Five Concurrent Themes for Risk Management Success will be of value for everyone in your organization, regardless of position or responsibilities.

Breakout Training
Graham will also lead a track in the morning breakout session, where he will outline a roadmap for ethical decision-making.

In another morning track, MMRMA staff will answer questions and give details on various components of our program, including coverage, RAP Grants, and risk management basics.

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Committee Participation Helps Membership, Builds Connections

by Michael Rhyner
Executive Director

ONE OF THE MANY significant benefits of belonging to MMRMA is that, unlike commercial insurance companies, we are a member-owned and governed organization. Members have the opportunity to participate in the governance of the organization by serving on the Board of Directors, standing committees, and risk control advisory committees.

MMRMA’s committee structure is set forth in a Committee Policy developed by the Board of Directors as part of our Governance Manual. Committee members help shape MMRMA’s direction and contribute generously to its success. Through these avenues, more than 120 individuals actively participate in our governance.

Over the past year, retirements and other departures have created vacancies on these committees. This turnover creates opportunities for those who have not yet served on committees to get involved. We believe it is especially important for individuals from new member entities to learn more about MMRMA and offer their knowledge and experience to the entire membership.

Standing Committees
These are MMRMA’s four standing committees and their primary activities:

- **The Membership Committee** reviews Risk Avoidance Program (RAP) Grants and determines RAP awards.
- **The Finance Committee** oversees and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors about MMRMA’s investment portfolio.
- **The State Pool Committee** addresses the unique issues impacting smaller members.
- **The Events Planning Committee** develops programs and content for MMRMA’s Annual Meeting and Risk Management Workshop.

Risk Control Advisory Committees
MMRMA also has nine risk control advisory committees. Drawing on the expertise of our member employees, these committees identify risk hazards and assist our risk control consultants and other staff in developing risk control resources. These range from publications to training programs, where industry experts provide information to participants in classroom and simulation settings.

The risk control advisory committees are:

- > Law Enforcement–Upper Peninsula
- > Law Enforcement–Lower Peninsula
- > Corrections
- > Health Facilities
- > Administration
- > Fire & EMS
- > Parks & Recreation
- > Public Services
- > 911/Telecommunications

The risk control advisory committees generally meet on a quarterly basis in locations across the state. In addition to addressing risk control issues, these committees allow individuals to network with their peers within and across the MMRMA membership. This has resulted in information sharing and professional collaborations that have lasted for many years.

I strongly encourage those who are new to MMRMA, or those who have not served on a committee, to get involved. I believe you will find it to be a rewarding experience.

We post notices and calls for letters of interest on mmrma.org when vacancies occur on MMRMA’s standing committees. If your area of interest and experience matches one of the risk control advisory committees, please reach out to the risk control department or the committee chairperson to express your interest in being considered when future vacancies occur.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we thank all past and current committee participants for their time and assistance in helping make MMRMA a leader in public entity pooling.
Tactical Encounters Training Moves to State-of-the-Art Venue

by Mike Bertha
Senior Risk Control Consultant

WHEN IT COMES TO USE OF force, reality-based training has become the industry standard for law enforcement agencies. MMRMA has long recognized the benefits of this important platform and has offered our popular and effective Tactical Encounters training to member departments for the last decade.

MMRMA has held this training in conjunction with the Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Group (NMLETG) at Camp Grayling, its home base. Last September, we offered two three-day Tactical Encounters training sessions there.

Realistic Training Venue
What made the September sessions different from years past was that Camp Grayling commanding officers Col. Thomas Perison and Lt. Col. Thomas Green granted MMRMA permission to use the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF).

The CACTF, located about 15 miles northeast of the camp, is an operations training compound developed by the U.S. military to train soldiers for urban warfare. The complex consists of 28 buildings, multiple roadways, a soccer field, and tunneling networks that resemble a modern city.

Every building features video equipment to record entire training episodes for later performance critiques. The buildings are also equipped with sound equipment and smoke generating machines to add to the reality-based training experience.

The CACTF includes nine different residential structures with an array of attics, crawl spaces, and basements. Buildings resemble a school, a church (complete with mock cemetery), a bank, and even an apartment complex.

Reality-Based Training
The advantages of the CACTF in force-on-force training scenarios were immediately apparent. Officers were dispatched to a variety of scenarios modeled after actual incidents faced by many law enforcement agencies.

The CACTF offers an environment that simulates many of the actual cities MMRMA member law enforcement officers work in every day. Trainees experienced situations designed to induce stress, requiring them to make rapid decisions regarding tactics and use of force.

More Tactical Training Opportunities in May
To date, MMRMA has provided this training to approximately 580 member officers. We know of no other governmental pool in the country that hosts such thorough, detailed, and rigorous training for its member law enforcement personnel.

If your law enforcement officers have not yet taken advantage of our Tactical Encounters training, we encourage them to enroll in the upcoming sessions on May 9–11 and May 12–14. The cost for each MMRMA member attendee is just $190, which includes the three-day training, plus lodging and meals.

For enrollment information, contact the Risk Control team or visit the Training section of mmrma.org.

| Two more Tactical Encounters sessions are scheduled in May. |
March Workshop, continued from page 1

Cyber Security
Cyber security is a growing and permanent part of our risk management landscape. The third pre-lunch breakout features Jason Brown, chief information security officer for Merit Network, the nation's longest-running regional research and education network. Brown will explain how to manage your community's virtual space.

Change Management
William M. Mothersell, PhD, associate professor at Grand Valley State University, will discuss leadership in change management. He has studied organizational behavior and development and written extensively on these topics.

Meanwhile, a third track will feature William Micklus, UMCPI, and Jeffrey Range, Resologics. Together they will discuss dispute resolution and mediation skills for law enforcement leadership.

Meet & Greet
There will also be plenty of time to network with colleagues and meet new people. Please check the MMRMA app at the event for networking tips and other essential news and information about the Risk Management Workshop.

We look forward to seeing you at another outstanding event!

Spring Training Schedule, March–May

In addition to the Risk Management Workshop, MMRMA offers many other training opportunities this spring. More information and registration is at mmrma.org/training.

3.22
Michigan Autism Safety Training (MAST)
Scott Schuelke, autism safety specialist with the Autism Alliance of Michigan, teaches municipal employees and emergency responders how to more effectively interact with individuals with autism and their families and care providers.
MMRMA Training Center, Livonia

4.06
Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act; Brady v Maryland; Giglio v U.S.
Addresses the maintenance of personnel files, disclosure, and how these issues are affected by Bullard-Plawecki and related U.S. Supreme Court decisions.
Bay College, Escanaba Campus

4.13
Behavioral Awareness Training for Municipal Employees
Covers awareness of sexual harassment, workplace violence, and cultural diversity.
MMRMA Training Center, Livonia

5.09 and 5.12
Tactical Encounters for Patrol Officers
See article on page 3.
Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Group, Camp Grayling

5.24
Public Labor Law and Effective Grievance Processing for Supervisors
Covers essential elements of effective employee discipline, including specific requirements and considerations when dealing with discipline of contracted employees.
MMRMA Training Center, Livonia