



Staff Sgt. Robert Baker talks to visitors about the history and process of the Expert Radar Signature Solutions Program.

NGIC Hosts Open Houses for Community Leaders and Emergency Services

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More than a thousand Soldiers and civilian employees of the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) reside in the communities surrounding the Charlottesville, Va., facility. Recently, Colonel Dalton Jones, NGIC commander, took the first step to improve the relationship between the center and its 10-county neighborhood by hosting two open houses and metaphorically, unlocking the organization's doors to local community leaders.

The Community Leader Open House, Jan. 14, explained the role NGIC plays in America's defense, as well as the contributions NGIC employees

make to the local region. Invitees included county administrators, mayors and their staff, school superintendents, school board members, chiefs of community development, and the marketing director for the local airport. The Law Enforcement/Emergency Services Open House, Feb. 26, was tailored to meet the unique interests of the law enforcement and emergency service communities, and hosted leaders and personnel representing sheriffs, Virginia State Police, university police, airport police, fire departments, emergency communications centers, and emergency management offices.

"I gained a much greater knowledge of your purpose and learned so much about the strategies of our national defense," said Terrie Dean, a regional airport marketing coordinator.

At both events, guests began the day with an overview of the NGIC mission and the ways NGIC employees contribute to the local region through volunteer and financial support to youth, environmental protection, emergency response, community service, medical research, religious, and veteran organizations. Attendees received briefings on combat equipment such as small weapons, body armor and night vision devices. NGIC specialists explained the workings of improvised explosive devices to the audience, providing an insiders' look at a hazard frequently encountered by Soldiers in Iraq. Community leaders got a look at the tools of the intelligence trade: database management capabilities, modeling/simulation programs, consequence assessment tools, radar signatures, satellite imagery, and an intelligence operations center.

Following the briefings, attendees and key NGIC staff participated in an open discussion, asking and answering questions and providing guests the opportunity to raise issues of mutual interest.

Participants agreed they benefited from the event. Ruth Campopiano, a Fluvanna County school board member, said she feels she now knows what the unit contributes to the community.

The NGIC is the Defense Center of Excellence for ground force production. It provides scientific and technical intelligence and general military intelligence on foreign ground forces to warfighting commanders, force and material developers, and Army, Defense Department, and National-level decision-makers. The NGIC also manages the Army's Foreign Materiel Exploitation Program and foreign materiel acquisition requirements and constitutes a single authoritative source for comprehensive ground forces threat to the Army and other services.