

Team Rubicon
Region VII Director Howard Sypher

Team Rubicon is an organization born in the wake of a disaster, one that strives to help those who are most in need. Its ranks are filled with veterans, medical professionals and civilian supporters. Many of our Veterans have recently returned from war and strive to be apart of something that repurposes those skills for the greater good.

Team Rubicon was founded by two Marines; one a graduate of the University of Kansas. Together they gathered a small group of medical professionals, veterans and emergency responders and headed in the direction of Port au Prince, Haiti in the wake of the devastating earthquake of 09'. Together they created a new dynamic in disaster relief. Team Rubicon repurposes veteran's ability to work in chaotic situations to help those affected by natural disaster, civil strife and conflict in all regions of the world. However, we now find ourselves back home.

Just as Veterans find themselves back home, so does Team Rubicon as it deploys to ten regional offices across the United States. The first such office and pilot program, for the entire nation, has been based out of Kansas City since last fall. With an initial partnership raised with Douglas County Department of Emergency Operations and outreach spanning four states (Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri), university campuses and local communities, Team Rubicon continues to grow.

Kansas City (Region VII) was an easy choice when the national directorship panned the country for locations. Our fluctuating temperatures, access to major interstates, veterans demographical data and history of violent storm systems were enough to drive that choice. However, the market segmentation and openness of the Midwest made it a preferred choice.

In 2011 the Region VII office responded to the system that ripped through Joplin, MO, helped plan and support a deployment to Van, Turkey and supported the recent Team Rubicon deployment to Clay, AL. By utilizing social media and a dedicated nationwide network of volunteers, Team Rubicon is able to deploy quickly with the right type of vetted personal anywhere in the world.

We now look to grow at home and to be more specific we look to grow here within Region VII. We will do this by targeting our outreach by utilizing student veterans, community leader and continued partnerships with local EMS, like that in Douglas Co. Our corporate sponsorship will continue to grow into the new year and we thank those who have supported us here within Region VII through our launch phase (Hallmark, BNIM, Helzberg, VML and many others). Throughout the year Team Rubicon in Region VII will conduct outreach, prepare to respond, conduct community service projects and act as the 21st century model for Veterans reintegration.

Veteran/Military/Homeland Security Comm.

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By engaging returning veterans overwhelming desire to continue to serve, Team Rubicon not only acts as a model for reintegration, but also mimics structural characteristics of the military. Partnerships such as those with Operations Stand-down, the Mission Continues and National partnerships with Habitat for Humanity will serve to support multiple service projects in 2012 as well as a chance for Team Rubicon Volunteers to work side by side. These projects not only help to build the communities that these vets are returning too, but act as a great way for the vets to work alongside one another before they are called to react to an event.