

Reinaldo “Ray” Guasp, a resident of Chester for almost seven years, is a professionally recognized Disaster Response Specialist with several years of experience developing innovative strategies for training and improvements in emergency preparedness, awareness and training. He is adept at coordinating across business lines to bring about continuity and success in goals.

Ray is a combat veteran who joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 18. He served our country on the front lines with Task Force Ripper and assisted in the liberating of Kuwait during Desert Storm . The basic tenants of the Marine Corps, “preparedness and service” have served him well; he continually pulls from his training and maintains a strong sense of situational awareness no matter where he goes.

After his tenure in the Corps, Ray set his love for country and entrepreneurial spirit loose, building a distinguished medical device distributorship. He, his business partner and nearly 20 employees currently service hospitals and orthopedic surgeons throughout New England.

Ray enjoys the opportunity to give back to the community, support other veterans and continue to serve were needed. He self-deployed to assist in hurricane relief efforts in New Jersey and Texas and then set to work on establishing a Connecticut based non-profit Disaster Relief Team called Veterans Response, Inc., a 501(c)3 non profit organization based in Chester, CT. This all-volunteer team is made up of Military Veterans and First Responders.

#### Chronology of R. Guasp/Veterans Response Inc. Outreach Missions

- 2012 Hurricane Sandy – New York
- 2017 Hurricane Harvey - Texas
- 2017 Hurricane Irma – Puerto Rico
- 2017 Hurricane Maria – Puerto Rico
- 2018 Hurricane Florence – North Carolina
- 2019 Hurricane Dorian – Bahamas
- 2020 Earthquake Relief – Puerto Rico
- 2020 Corona Virus Food Bank Relief – Connecticut

Throughout these volunteer missions Ray has had the opportunity to collaborate and work alongside other national and regional NGO and VOAD organizations, such as Samaritan’s Purse, Heart to Hands, Salvation Army as well as FEMA. Veterans Response was based at the FEMA JFO in San Juan, Puerto Rico, post Hurricane Maria. The team served as a recognized NGO Network provided purified water and commodities.

Ray is an effective and efficient leader, able to analyze a community’s needs, develop a pre-crisis plan, and most importantly collaborate and pull together the necessary key players to implement safety for large groups and events.