



## Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

June 13, 2003

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **Homeland Security Unveils New Cybersecurity Division, Seeks Chief**

*GovExec, June 6, 2003*

The Homeland Security Department on Friday officially unveiled its cybersecurity division to focus on securing the nation's computer networks, and Assistant Homeland Security Secretary for Infrastructure Protection Robert Liscouski said his goal is to name a director within the next 30 days.

- [Former Officials Assess Security Needs on Cyber Front](#), *GovExec*, June 11
- [Homeland Security to Oversee Cybersecurity](#), *PC World*, June 9

#### **Border Agencies Looking to Share Services**

*Federal Computer Week, June 10, 2003*

Officials from the Homeland Security Department's two border agencies are looking for ways to leverage similar systems to share costs and integrate their duties.

- [New Money for Port Security](#), *MSNBC*, June 12
- [Admin Boosts Port Security](#), *GovExec*, June 12

#### **Officials Fear Terrorist Attack on U.S. Food Supply**

*GovExec, June 10, 2003*

According to government officials, a significant part of Al Qaeda's training manual is reportedly devoted to agricultural terrorism—the destruction of crops, livestock and food processing operations.

#### **Energy Uses Tech Tools to Protect Radioactive Shipments**

*GovExec, June 10, 2003*

In response to the war on terrorism, the Energy Department's online tools and communications systems for facilitating global and domestic shipments of radioactive materials have expanded over the past couple of years to protect those shipments from potential threats.

#### **Entry/Exit System Plans Criticized**

*Federal Computer Week, June 9, 2003*

Immigration officials have not disclosed critical details about the capabilities, timeline and cost of their newly proposed entry/exit system, nor have they developed a system security plan and assessed the system's impact on people's privacy according to a [GAO report](#) released this week.

#### **CDC Marshals its Forces for SARS**

*USA Today, June 12, 2003*

The CDC, and much of the government, models its emergency response efforts on the "incident response" system developed in California to fight wildfires, whether dealing with SARS or TOPOFF 2, the simulated terrorist attack involving a "dirty bomb" attack in Seattle and a plague outbreak in Chicago.

- [Monkeypox Outbreak Tests Bioterrorism Response Systems](#), *GovExec*, June 12

## CONGRESS

### [Lawmaker Decries 'Disconnect' Between Intelligence, Security](#)

*GovExec*, June 9, 2003

House Homeland Security ranking member Jim Turner is planning to send a letter to President Bush Monday to decry what he sees as significant inadequacies in the intelligence branch of the Homeland Security Department after learning that department has only one individual designated to assess the threat of bioterrorism and 26 working in its information analysis wing.

### [A House Panel Clears Homeland Security Funding](#)

*Reuters*, June 12, 2003

A House of Representatives subcommittee on Thursday approved a \$29.4 billion bill to fund the new U.S. Department of Homeland Security next year which will group 22 federal agencies, including the Coast Guard, Customs Service, Transportation Security Administration and Secret Service, and has around 180,000 employees.

- [Homeland Spending Bill Approved in Closed Session](#), *GovExec*, June 12

## BILLS RECENTLY INTRODUCED

- **S.1212:** A bill to identify certain sites as key resources for protection by the Directorate for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, *Senate Intelligence Committee*, June 9
- **S.1230:** A bill to provide for additional responsibilities for the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security relating to geospatial information, *Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs*, June 11

## RECENT HEARINGS

- [The Spectrum Needs of Our Nation's First Responders](#), House Energy and Commerce Committee, June 11
- [Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Markup](#), House Appropriations Committee, June 12

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### [Mayor Seeks More Homeland Security Aid](#)

*Washington Post*, June 9, 2003

Frustrated and angry over delays, a coalition of the nation's mayors asked federal officials today to bypass state governments and give them the money they need to beef up homeland security.

### **County to Receive \$280,000 for Emergency Preparedness**

*Gloucester County Times, June 11, 2003*

Gloucester County will receive more than \$280,000 in grant money to help local police, fire and emergency medical services agencies buy domestic preparedness equipment.

- [State Gives County \\$100,000 to Fund 'First Responder' Agencies, Today's Sunbeam, June 11](#)

### **Region's Security Boosted by \$75 Million**

*Washington Post, June 6, 2003*

The federal government announced today that Virginia, Maryland and the District would receive nearly \$75 million to help train and equip firefighters and other first responders as part of a \$1.5 billion program of national assistance on homeland security costs.

- [Security Becomes Local Priority, Washington Post, June 12](#)

### **New Lab Assigned to Bioterror Fight**

*Washington Post, June 10, 2003*

Virginia today became a key part of the nation's defense against bioterrorism and deadly epidemics, opening a \$60 million laboratory that state and federal officials said is rivaled in sophistication only by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a handful of military labs.

### **Homeland Security Drill Tests Emergency Readiness**

*abc 13, June 10, 2003*

A two-day Homeland Security drill called "Lifesaver 2003" is testing the preparedness of emergency medical workers by overwhelming military and civilian hospitals with "wartime" casualties.

- [Drill Checks How Ready Centers are for Disasters, Pensacola News Journal, June 11](#)

### **FEMA Brings Tip Tables to Stores**

*Jackson Sun, June 11, 2003*

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency are handing out information at Home Depot and Lowe's Department stores throughout Tennessee about how to take precautions against major storms, showing people models of safe rooms, and providing literature on disaster preparedness.

### **Hagy Moves Forward in Planning for Disaster Attack**

*The Gazette, June 12, 2003*

Residents can rest assured that even though the United States has not had a terrorist attack since Sept. 11, 2001, preparations in Frederick County for a possible assault using weapons of mass destruction are well under way.

### **Deaconess Prepares for Disaster**

*Fox 7 News, June 11, 2003*

With the threat of everything from bio-terrorism to SARS, emergency rooms need to be prepared for anything, and Deaconess Hospital put its emergency staff to the test with special preparedness drills several times a year.

### **Newton County Eligible for FEMA Disaster Funds**

*Newton County Times, June 11, 2003*

Michael D. Brown, FEMA director and under secretary for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, a part of the Department of Homeland Security, said President Bush authorized aid for Newton County under a major disaster declaration issued Friday following a review of FEMA's analysis of the state's request for federal relief.

### **Annual Hurricane Conference Stresses Threat Preparedness**

*Tampa Bay Online, June 12, 2003*

The same steps Floridians take to prepare for hurricanes will help them be ready for dangers such as terrorist attacks, the undersecretary of homeland security told emergency management workers.

### **College will Give Teens Training in Disaster**

*Tallahassee Democrat, June 12, 2003*

The Capitol Area Youth Disaster College will allow students from ages 14 through 18 to take field trips to see the hazardous materials team of the Tallahassee Fire Department, the state's Emergency Operations Center, the Tallahassee office of the National Weather Service and other disaster-management installations.

### **\$3M for County Security**

*Arizona Daily Star, June 12, 2003*

A total of more than \$28 million is expected to come to Arizona next month from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's state grant program with a portion of the grant being utilized for a number of state homeland security measures, such as the establishment of a \$3.5 million round-the-clock intelligence center.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [Information Technology: Homeland Security Needs to Improve Entry Exit System Expenditure Planning](#), GAO-03-563, June 2003
- [U.S. Attorneys: Controls Over Grant-Related Activities Should Be Enhanced](#), GAO-03-733, June 2003
- [Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program](#), Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness, March 2003

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The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of National Preparedness.