



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

June 27, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Companies Outline Efforts to Practice, Preach Cybersecurity

GovExec, June 23, 2003

At a congressional briefing, executives from AIG Cyber Insurance, Nortel Networks, Verizon Communications and Visa all outlined how they are encouraging cybersecurity while also educating lawmakers on the need for the government to urge companies and individuals to invest in cybersecurity.

- **DHS Seeks Help from Vendors**, *Federal Computer Week*, June 23
- **Warning Center for Cyberattack is Online, Officials Say**, *GovExec*, June 25
- **Ridge: Centralized Tech Spending Key to Homeland Security**, *GovExec*, June 26

Planning for the Unthinkable

Washington Post, June 26, 2003

Michael Byrne took on the newly created position of homeland security coordinator for the national capital region in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and has spent hours on the job planning for the unthinkable -- a mass evacuation of Washington.

Critics Say Management Flaws Jeopardize Security at Nuclear Labs

GovExec, June 24, 2003

Management problems at the Energy Department have prevented the agency from effectively ensuring the security of nuclear facilities, according to government watchdog groups and lawmakers.

Ashcroft: Help Disrupt Terror Nets

Federal Computer Week, June 23, 2003

Attorney General John Ashcroft called on the business community today to help dismantle potential terrorist threats facing the United States saying there is a growing need to expand information sharing among the public and private industries.

Security Checks Ground Air Marshals

MSNBC, June 24, 2003

More than 100 federal air marshals have been fired or stripped of their flight status in recent weeks for problems stemming from their security clearance background investigations.

CONGRESS

Senator Questions Security at Nuclear Arms Laboratories

NY Times, June 22, 2003

The Department of Energy has renege on a promise to investigate security problems cited by two investigators at its Sandia National Laboratories says a senator, who also says Sandia's management punished the investigators.

Bill Would Streamline First Responder Grant Programs

GovExec, June 23, 2003

Federal agencies that provide grants to first responders in state and local governments would be required to streamline their application processes for federal aid under [legislation](#) sponsored by Senator Susan Collins.

White House Endorses Homeland Security Spending Bill

GovExec, June 24, 2003

The White House Tuesday released a Statement of Administration Policy supporting passage of the fiscal 2004 Homeland Security appropriations bill as reported out by House committee.

- [House Approves \\$29.4 Billion For Homeland Security Dept.](#), *Washington Post*, June 25
- [House Passes Homeland Funding](#), *Federal Computer Week*, June 25

BILLS RECENTLY INTRODUCED

- **H.RES.293:** Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, *House Rules Committee*, June 23
- **H.R.2570:** To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to reimburse States for direct expenses and losses incurred by State and local government entities during the effective period of a high threat condition (Code Orange) or severe threat condition (Code Red) declared by the Secretary of Homeland Security, that are in excess of normal operating expenses, *House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*, *House Energy and Commerce Committee*, *House Judiciary Committee*, June 24

RECENT HEARINGS

- [Assessment of DHS Initiatives to Secure America's Borders](#), Select Committee on Homeland Security, June 25
- [Overview of the Cyber Problem: A Nation Dependent and Dealing with Risk](#), Select Committee on Homeland Security, June 25
- [Project BioShield Act of 2003](#), Select Committee on Homeland Security, June 26

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Warner Opens First Summit Of Homeland Security Consortium

WAVY TV, June 24, 2003

Gov. Mark R. Warner came to the nation's capital Wednesday to open the first summit of the Virginia Institute for Defense and Homeland Security, which will bridge the research and technology developments of industry and 14 Virginia universities, to meet defense and homeland security goals.

City Awarded Homeland Security Funds

Herald News, June 25, 2003

Fall River landed \$125,000 in federal Homeland Security funds, as Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to receive and distribute \$32.2 million to 37 cities and towns.

Homeland Security Spending Hurts, Cities Say

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, June 24, 2003

Police officers, fire fighters, and other local officials told lawmakers Tuesday that critical services have been cut and important emergency purchases put on hold because of homeland security spending.

Emergency Radio System Gets Boost

Daily Hampshire Gazette, June 25, 2003

Radio communication among area police, fire, and emergency medical services will improve greatly, thanks to a \$1.3 million federal grant to the Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council.

Univ. Plans Disaster Relief Courses

Red and Black, June 26, 2003

University researchers and doctors, in conjunction with colleagues at the Medical College of Georgia, University of Texas Southwestern and the University of Texas at Houston have developed the first training course for doctors on terror response approved by the American Medical Association.

Amateur Radio Group Plans Event

Evening Telegram, June 25, 2003

The Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association Inc. has finalized plans for its annual preparedness exercise weekend Saturday and Sunday in the town of Fairfield in a drill designed to test each operator's ability to set up and operate their radios in the field and under emergency conditions, including the loss of power.

Local Officials Discuss Hazards in Saratoga County

The Saratogian, June 26, 2003

Last February, Saratoga officials conducted a hazard analysis of the city and found that while the city has no high-risk hazards; it did find a handful of moderately high hazards as defined by federal standards with the greatest potential for disaster being hazardous materials transportation.

Citizens Corps Prepares Residents for Disasters

Citizen Times, June 25, 2003

In response to Bush's request that Americans dedicate two years of their lives in ways that could help their community, country or the world, residents and officials in Buncombe County formed the Buncombe County Citizen Corps Council.

Emergency Preparedness Tips for Pet Owners

Waukon Standard, June 25, 2003

Following a few tips from the experts can help pet owners prepare for an emergency when a matter of minutes can make the difference between life and death, according to Anne Culver, director for Disaster Services at The Humane Society of the United States.

Crew Sharpens their Skills for the Real Thing

Orlando Sentinel, June 26, 2003

Central Florida emergency officials practiced Wednesday for a scene they hope never to see -- terrorists attacking downtown Orlando and Walt Disney World in a drill involving a chemical leak and a hostage crisis.

New Office to Coordinate Terror Response Efforts

The Sentinel, June 26, 2003

In an effort to expedite emergency response tactics, Middlesex County officials recently created the Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Planning comprised of Middlesex County department heads and senior county officials who will work to provide a timely emergency response to the county's 25 municipalities in the event of a terrorism-related disaster.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Nuclear Security: DOE Faces Security Challenges in the Post September 11, 2001, Environment](#), GAO-03-896TNI, June 2003
- [Nuclear Security: NNSA Needs to Better Manage Its Safeguards and Security Program](#), GAO-03-471, May 2003
- [Information Security: Continued Efforts Needed to Fully Implement Statutory Requirements](#), GAO-03-852T, June 2003
- [Papers on the Role of the States in Homeland Security](#), The Century Foundation, June 2003

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.