



## Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 17, 2003

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **Agencies Urged to set Homeland Security Standards**

*GovExec, October 14, 2003*

Lawmakers are now targeting their standardization efforts at emergency workers while various entities of the Homeland Security Department are likewise grappling with the creation of an assortment of responder standards.

#### **DHS Plans Network to Link its Agencies**

*Government Computer News, October 16, 2003*

The Homeland Security Department plans to issue a contract by the end of the year for creating and operating a network for transmitting classified data across its agencies, according to department officials and contractors.

#### **HHS Issues New Food Security Regulations**

*GovExec, October 10, 2003*

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department Thursday issued two new regulations designed to better protect the U.S. food supply against terrorist attack.

#### **TSA will Move Aggressively to Provide Screener Guidance**

*GovExec, October 15, 2003*

The Transportation Security Administration will conduct a "comprehensive" evaluation of how security screeners are operating at airports, and then move aggressively to give airport directors recommendations on whether they should use private or government workers.

➤ [Homeland Security Says Aircraft Remain Terror Target](#), *CNN*, October 16

#### **Q&A: Institute for Defense and Homeland Security**

*Washington Post, October 14, 2003*

In February, Virginia Gov. Mark Warner announced the formation of the Institute for Defense and Homeland Security, a consortium that brings together university, industry and federal research and development efforts.

### CONGRESS

#### **Cox Proposes Faster Funding for First Responders**

*Federal Computer Week, October 14, 2003*

Rep. Christopher Cox, chairman of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, last week introduced a [bill](#) that would streamline and expedite what critics describe as a cumbersome process for getting homeland security funds to first responders.

## **Lawmakers Cite Continuing Gaps in Airline Security**

*CNN, October 16, 2003*

The Bush administration said on Thursday the potential threat to airliners posed by passengers will remain the focus of U.S. aviation security for the foreseeable future as key lawmakers noted that weapons and explosives can still be smuggled onto planes.

## **Cybersecurity Experts Question US Gov't Effort**

*Infoworld, October 16, 2003*

The U.S. government isn't doing enough to encourage cybersecurity efforts outside of government and it still needs to get its own cybersecurity house in order, according to security experts who testified before a U.S. House committee Thursday.

## **9/11 Panel Subpoenas FAA**

*CBS, October 16, 2003*

The independent commission studying the Sept. 11 attacks has voted to subpoena the Federal Aviation Administration, ordering the agency to hand over documents for the investigation.

## **RECENT LEGISLATION**

- **HR 3266:** To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to first responders, and for other purposes, *House Select Committee on Homeland Security*, October 8

## **RECENT HEARINGS**

- [The TSA's Perspective on Aviation Security](#), House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 16
- [Implementing the SAFETY Act: Advancing New Technologies for Homeland Security](#), House Committee on Government Reform, October 17

## **STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Emergency Teams Converge on Airport for Drill**

*Durango Herald Online, October 12, 2003*

A simulated mid-air collision involving a small commercial jetliner and a private plane at Durango-La Plata County Airport on Saturday morning provided plenty of opportunity for area emergency teams to hone their skills.

### **In an Emergency, 911 Calls You**

*The Times and Democrat, October 13, 2003*

Thanks to new technology Orangeburg County purchased last month for its emergency services department, county residents in a disaster's path will automatically receive a telephone call with an automated message alerting them to the possible danger.

### **Homeland Security Helps 1st Responders**

*WCAX, October 14, 2003*

Vermont will soon receive an additional \$16 million in Homeland Security money from the federal government which brings the total of funding received to \$38 million since the Sept 11th terror attacks two years ago.

### **Public Forum to Address Emergency Preparedness**

*Portsmouth Herald, October 14, 2003*

The Partnership for a Safe New Hampshire will host a public information session on local emergency preparedness which will cover topics such as terrorism, homeland security and public safety, with a special emphasis on local needs.

### **Agents Find Boston Airport Security Lapses**

*Associated Press, October 16, 2003*

Five Homeland Security agents posing as passengers succeeded in sneaking weapons through security checkpoints at Logan International Airport last week as part of a federal investigation at about 15 major airports around the country.

### **Fire Dept. Drill on Bioterror is Set for Today**

*NY Times, October 15, 2003*

The Fire Department will simulate its response to a bioterror attack today on Staten Island, conducting practice smallpox vaccine inoculations on every firefighter and emergency service worker in the borough.

### **County Receives \$148K in Homeland Security Funds**

*ThisWeek, October 16, 2003*

Franklin County Commissioners, earlier this year, accepted \$3-million on behalf of the various cities, villages and townships for use to guard against terrorist attacks, specifically for the Urban Search and Rescue team within the county who would get to a terrorist attack site even before traditional first responders arrived.

### **States Combine to Fight Terrorism**

*KCAU, October 16, 2003*

Two weeks ago the federal government gave Woodbury County a \$6million dollar grant to develop a communication system where agencies from three adjoining states can talk on the same radio in an effort to improve response capabilities against potential terrorist attacks.

➤ [Officials Mull Paying for a Statewide Radio System](#), *Fremont Tribune*, October 16

### **Local Emergency Responders Hit the Books**

*Selma Times Journal, October 16, 2003*

A number of Selma and Dallas County police officers, fire fighters and EMTs participated in a class from Oct. 7 - 9 dealing with handling weapons of mass destruction incidents.

### **Terrorism Grants Help Area Agencies**

*Marshfield News Herald, October 16, 2003*

Big government grants for terrorism preparedness and firefighting equipment are finding their way to central Wisconsin, doubling some departments' budgets and buoying emergency responders' enthusiasm.

### **Emergency Prevention Needs Funds**

*Arizona Daily Wildcat, October 16, 2003*

A university committee, charged with developing emergency response plans, recommended yesterday setting aside central funds every year for emergency response expenses, clarifying procedures dealing with the recently adopted campus-wide Incident Command System, and establishing available funds for mass clinics if they are needed in the event of a bio-terrorism attack.

### **State Says Share Tools in Terror War**

*Huntsville Times, October 15, 2003*

Alabama Homeland Security Director Jim Walker told a group of law enforcement officials that local governments need to adopt a regional approach and pool their resources and new technology bought with federal money so it can be used in several counties.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [Bioterrorism: Public Health Response to Anthrax Incidents of 2001](#), GAO-04-152, October 2003
- [Homeland Security: Overstay Tracking Is a Key Component of a Layered Defense](#), GAO-04-170T, October 2003

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