



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

August 6, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[The 9/11 Commission Report: Sorting Through The Words](#)

Technician, August 4, 2004

Of all the missteps, miscalculations and misinterpretations that lead to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the recently released 9/11 Commission Report's primary findings pointed to America, its leaders and intelligence community failure to imagine the threat posed by terrorists in distant borders and those residing within ours.

[9/11 Panel's Plan Has A Big Price Tag](#)

The Christian Science Monitor, August 3, 2004

New terror alerts are reinforcing the 9/11 commission's "urgent" call to reinforce America's defenses, but they are also a reminder that securing the homeland involves a difficult balancing act of money versus safety and liberty versus lockdown.

[Bush Calls On Congress To Create New Intelligence Adviser Post](#)

GOVEXEC.com, August 2, 2004

Following a key recommendation from the panel investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, President Bush Monday called on Congress to create a position to oversee foreign and domestic intelligence operations.

[Cyberterror Impact, Defense Under Scrutiny](#)

USA Today, August 3, 2004

A terrorist threat is out there and not just against physical structures. A coordinated cyberattack against the USA could topple parts of the Internet, silence communications and commerce, and paralyze federal agencies and businesses, government officials and security experts warn.

[Terror-Alert System: How It's Working](#)

The Christian Science Monitor, August 4, 2004

The newest terror warnings and response by authorities this week have rekindled the long-standing debate over whether the alert system is working, credible, and useful.

[Americans Urged to Stick to Routines Despite Terror Alert](#)

The New York Times, August 2, 2004

Officials in New York, New Jersey and Washington urged people today to go about their normal activities, but to be vigilant in the face of new terror warnings from the Department of Homeland Security.

[Targeted Terror Firms Beef Up Security](#)

Associated Press, August 1, 2004

Police set up metal fences surrounding the headquarters of Prudential Financial, blocked off two streets, and armed themselves with assault rifles Sunday after federal authorities warned of a possible terrorist attack on it and other financial institutions.

[Hospitals Make Terror Plans](#)

The Times, August 4, 2004

With the Republican convention in New York City just weeks away, acute-care hospitals around the state are being asked to ready their plans to cope with large numbers of casualties in the event of a terrorist attack, health officials said this week.

Show of Force: Police Cast Wary Eyes Over County, At Tunnels

The Jersey Journal, August 3, 2004

With Hudson County on code orange alert, local law enforcement officials say they are stepping up security measures countywide. At a press conference held at Jersey City police headquarters, Police Chief Ronald Buonocore said the city is deploying extra officers armed with M-16s, establishing check points around the financial district and sending out bomb-sniffing dogs.

National Emergency Preparedness Week - Planning Pays Off

The Weekly, July 29, 2004

The Emergency Preparedness Educational Institute, an Illinois not-for-profit organization has declared the third annual National Emergency Preparedness Week, September 5-11, 2004.

Community Colleges To Help In Homeland Security Efforts

The Business Journal, August 3, 2004

The Maricopa Community College district has been selected to serve as one of 10 Regional Lead Institutions in the Prepare America Network. The national project supports the U.S. Office of Domestic Preparedness and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in efforts to use the resources of the nation's community and technical colleges in homeland security and emergency preparedness training.

College To Offer Major In Homeland Security

The Washington Times, August 5, 2004

Virginia Commonwealth University officials say they will offer a major in homeland security so students can provide a service and forge a career in helping America combat the constant threat of terrorism.

DHS Awards 103 Fire Prevention & Safety Grants

Fire Chief, August 2, 2004

On Friday, Michael D. Brown, under secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced \$3.8 million for 103 Fire Prevention and Safety grants that are part of the fiscal year 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

Last Chance To Seek Storm Aid Is Monday

Lexington Herald-Leader, August 3, 2004

Monday is the last day to apply for federal aid to help recover from the storms, flooding and tornadoes that caused damage in Kentucky in May and June. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is urging people who think they might qualify to apply.

Homeland Security Head Tours Center

Associated Press, (August 4, 2004)

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge on Wednesday toured the Center for National Response, a training center for police, firefighters and emergency medical teams from across the country.

Homeland Security Cancels Technology Services Contract

GOVEXEC.com, August 2, 2004

The Homeland Security Department on Friday canceled a major technology services contract in pursuit of a fresh acquisition strategy. Department officials announced the cancellation of SPIRIT, the Security Planning and Integrated Resources for Information Technology contract, on FedBizOpps.

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GOVEXEC.com, August 2, 2004

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the Security Planning and Integrated Resources for Information Technology contract, on FedBizOpps.

THE CONGRESS

[9/11 Commission Members Want Recommendations Kept Intact](#)

GovExec.com, August 3, 2004

Two senior members of the 9/11 commission on Tuesday urged members of Congress to keep their recommendations intact while reorganizing the U.S. intelligence community, contending that doing anything less might make the country worse off.

[US Lawmakers Hold More Hearings on 9/11 Commission Recommendations](#)

VOANews.com, August 3, 2004

Two congressional committees hold hearings Tuesday on the recommendations of the independent 9/11 Commission that investigated intelligence and security lapses leading to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States. Members of Congress have been driven by the attention given to the commission's report.

[Bill Requiring Biometric ID Standards To Secure Nation's Airports Introduced In The House](#)

GovTech.net, August 4, 2004

The bipartisan leadership of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and other committee members have introduced legislation to require the DHS to establish biometric identification standards for use at the nation's airports.

[Congress Urged To Hold DHS To Financial Accountability Law](#)

GovExec.com, July 30, 2004

In a new report, the Government Accountability Office calls upon Congress to pass legislation applying a key financial management law to the Homeland Security Department.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Maine Officials: Low-Risk States Need Funds, Too](#)

Portland Press Herald, August 3, 2004

The terrorist warnings directed at financial institutions in New York City, New Jersey and Washington on Monday underscore a major recommendation of the Sept. 11 commission: that emergency preparedness funding be based on risks and vulnerabilities, not politics.

[Joint Terrorism Task Force Under Consideration For Maine](#)

Associated Press, August 4, 2004

FBI Director Robert Mueller has signed off on a proposal that would make Maine the 41st state to get a Joint Terrorism Task Force, Sen. Susan Collins announced Wednesday.

[Senator Clinton Calls For Homeland Security Funds To Be Allocated To New York](#)

Associated Press, August 3, 2004

Standing steps away from a building identified as a potential terrorist target, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday called on President Bush to use his executive order authority to get more homeland security funds to New York.

[Evacuation Plans Due For High Rises In New York City](#)

The New York Times, August 5, 2004

More than 11 years after terrorists first struck at the World Trade Center, the city is still struggling to complete guidelines for evacuating high-rise buildings where thousands of workers would face vital questions of what to do if their skyscraper were to come under attack.

Morristown Office Dispenses Homeland Security Money

WATE 6 (Knoxville), August 2, 2004

Almost a year after East Tennessee opened its Office of Homeland Security in Morristown, everything is beginning to fall into place, including funding so local agencies can start planning how best to fight terrorism.

Mayors Meet About Terrorism Preparedness

News Channel 8, August 4, 2004

Terrorism preparedness is taking center stage for mayors of cities across the state. In the first training of its kind in the tri-state area, leaders are developing plans of action in the case of a possible attack.

Ehrlich, Warner Employ Security Measures

Associated Press, August 2, 2004

Bordering Washington D.C., a specifically named target by terrorists, Maryland and Virginia Govs. Robert Ehrlich and Mark Warner have employed cooperative security measures in wake of the "high" level threat level announced by the federal government.

Virginia To Put Terrorism Preparedness To The Test

Associated Press, August 2, 2004

Amid real threats to key East Coast financial centers, Virginia and California will game out responses to simulated terror attacks this week, Gov. Mark R. Warner said Monday.

Virginia Defense Force Steps Up to Help

The Winchester Star, July 31, 2004

As hurricane season approaches, volunteers seek to fill National Guard's big shoes. Many of Virginia's guardsmen — including the estimated 180 from the Winchester Armory — have been deployed to Afghanistan, in the eye of a completely different type of storm.

County Takes Security Steps

NewsZap.com, August 3, 2004

The Dorchester County Council continues to affirm its ongoing commitment to Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security in Dorchester County, a statement from the county said Tuesday.

Nine Counties Get Millions For Homeland Security: Grants To California In Past Three Years About \$913 Million

San Francisco Chronicle, August 2, 2004

Gas masks, protective suits, a patrol boat, a bomb detonator and hazardous material response vehicles are just some of the items bought by the nine Bay Area counties with more than \$52 million in homeland security grants in the past three years.

700 Professionals Take Part In Vermont Bioterror Drill

The Champlain Channel, August 2, 2004

"Operation Red Clover," a three-day disaster drill, is being held this week in Vermont to help state and local public health workers prepare for large-scale emergencies, such as a bioterrorism attack.

Homeland Security Department Meets With Agriculture Industry

NBC 13, August 4, 2004

In order to protect Alabama's infrastructure, the state's Homeland Security Department is meeting with members of Alabama's agricultural industry.

Bexar County Gets \$72,000 To Establish Homeland Security Program

San Antonio Business Journal, August 3, 2004

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff announced Tuesday afternoon that the county has been awarded a \$72,000 federal grant that will be used to establish a regional Citizen Corps program to support local and national Homeland Security initiatives.

[ChildCareGroup and WorkSource for Dallas County Team Up to Train Early Childhood Educators to be Prepared for Large-Scale Catastrophes](#)

U.S Newswire, August 3, 2004

ChildCareGroup and WorkSource for Dallas County present an Emergency Response Preparedness Training Conference for an anticipated group of more than 300 child care providers in Texas. This one-and-a-half day conference, slated for Friday, August 20 and Saturday, August 21, will offer a positive, proactive approach to helping caregivers react and respond to emergencies while children are in their care.

[New Course To Give High Schoolers Disaster Training](#)

Associated Press, August 2, 2004

A new training course for high school students aims to better prepare local families for acts of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- **[Federal Preparedness Circular 65 \(FPC 65\): Federal Executive Branch Continuity of Operations \(COOP\)](#)**, June 15, 2004
- **[Financial Management: Department of Homeland Security Faces Significant Financial Management Challenges](#)**, July 2004
- **[9/11 Commission Report: Reorganization, Transformation, and Information Sharing](#)**, August 3, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- **[Assistance To Firefighters Grant Program: Grant Recipients By State](#)**, August 5, 2004

OPINION

- **[Don't Make Homeland Security Agency Hesitate](#)**, August 4, 2004
- **[The Use of Directed-Energy Weapons to Protect Critical Infrastructure](#)**, August 2, 2004
- **[A Closer Look At The 9/11 Commission Report: The Role It is Playing In Election Politics, And Its Recommendations For Preventing Future Terrorism](#)**, July 30, 2004

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.