

NEMA Homeland Security Committee Meeting Report
2010 Annual Conference
October 18, 2010

Opening Comments

Chairman Wainscott welcomed state directors from the audience to join the Committee table, provided a brief overview of the agenda for the day, and immediately introduced the first presenter. Roll was taken and the following members were present:

Joe Wainscott, IN	Tom Sands, MI	John Madden, AK
Dave Maxwell, AR	Millicent West, DC	Charley English, GA
Dave Miller, IA	Joe Klinger, IL	Jerome Hatfield, NJ
Nancy Dragani, OH	Dave Smith, RI	Keith Squires, UT
Jim Mullen, WA	Ed Kaminski, Private Sector	
Stan McKinney & Glen Woodbury, Past Presidents		

Update on Fusion Center Priorities at DHS Intelligence and Analysis

DHS Undersecretary Bart Johnson provided an update to the Committee from the Intelligence and Analysis Directorate. The first part of the presentation included a brief update on some threats in the past couple years. According to Johnson, these threats demonstrate the need for the nation's 72 fusion centers. As fusion center doctrine continues to evolve, DHS is trying to encourage local law enforcement to "ask the next question" when making a routine stop. Such questioning will evolve the current pattern of recognizing, reporting, and sending such information to a fusion center.

Some of the current initiatives outlined by Johnson included a fusion center leadership course they are developing with the Center for Homeland Defense and Security. DHS has 68 personnel in the nation's fusion centers. By placing these personnel across the country, I&A feels they are continuing to make sure infrastructure protection and critical infrastructure and key resource components are talking to one another. The Department is also approximately 90 days from rolling-out an expedited clearance process. In the coming months, Johnson hopes to continue moving toward better private enterprise integrations primarily by trying to build better relationships.

As Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) at the Department of Homeland Security, Johnson the second-ranking official in the office charged with providing the Secretary, her senior leadership, DHS components, and state, local, tribal and private sector partners with the homeland security intelligence and information they need to keep the country safe. I&A is also a member of and DHS liaison to the national Intelligence Community. Prior to his appointment, Johnson served as the Director of Homeland Security and Law Enforcement in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Before joining the federal government, Mr. Johnson served as a Colonel with the New York State Police. He has more than 31 years of law enforcement experience, 24 of them with the New York State Police.

Programs and Upcoming Priorities for the DHS Science and Technology Directorate

First and foremost, Grove impressed upon the Committee the desire of S&T to strengthen resilience through the use of innovative solutions. The major challenges for them, however, are the life cycle of technology versus the speed of government and the financial constraints of state and local governments.

Members of the Committee impressed upon Grove that costs lie not just in acquisition, but also equipment maintenance.

Moving forward, the Department continues to try and better integrate the private sector into developing new solutions. They are developing two technologies specific to the emergency management community.

- An automated alert system tied to social media outlets, and;
- A system which allows servers to be filtered to determine who should receive specific pieces of information.

In the coming years, Grove hopes to work directly with NEMA membership to determine the best partners within the state in order to help move technologies from the development and testing stages and into implementation.

Jim Grove coordinates DHS' Science & Technology activities with other federal, state, local, tribal, academia, non-profit, and first responder organizations and agencies in the Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Regions. He integrates among the various organizations across all threats to identify and facilitate S&T projects and engagement within the regions. He has a broad range of experience in first responder organizations and emergency management. Grove served as an Army Medical Service Corps officer in the Maryland National Guard from October 1979 until his retirement as a Colonel in January 2008. He served in various staff positions in personnel, logistics and operations. During the last ten years of his career he served as the state's Deputy for Army Operations, Director of Military Support to Civilian Authorities and Joint Chief of Staff.

National Homeland Security Consortium Member Priorities and White Paper Overview

The Chairman offered for consideration a one-page handout outlining the top 5 priorities for the coming year as presented at the last NHSC meeting by each member association. More than a topic of discussion, the handout was meant to inform Committee members of priorities in partner organizations.

Glen Woodbury of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security provided an update on the most recent NHSC meeting and the update of the Consortium's white paper. The process of the white paper began in the Spring of 2010 to update the 2008 white paper. At the same time, the Consortium felt an update and expansion of the new and emerging issues were in order. Woodbury then went through the paper briefly. The only issue raised during the Committee meeting was the Consortium priority of immigration reform. Some on the Committee felt immigration was too volatile an issue, but Woodbury explained the denotation of the issues was more to spark conversation than suggest specific outcomes.

Review of Executive Education Programs at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Stan McKinney, Director of Executive Education Programs at CHDS provided an update on efforts of the Mobile Education Teams throughout 2010 and upcoming priorities for 2011. McKinney explained the original intent of the program as a crisis management education experience and a means by which leaders can discuss how information is received, processed, and moved forward at the state or local government. Overall, the program has impacted more than 7,000 officials and over 200 jurisdictions. The program will become increasingly important in 2011 given the election of numerous Governors. The current challenge for the program is helping jurisdictions balance natural hazards and terrorism, cyber security, managing CBRNE events, intelligence and information sharing, and examining vulnerabilities.

Governor's Homeland Security Advisors Council – Year in Review

Charley English of Georgia offered an assessment of past and current GHSAC activities. The primary focus for the GHSAC this coming year will be the transition of many gubernatorial seats. Beyond the political practicalities, Council members remain concerned about the current and evolving threats. Overall, the three major priorities for the GHSAC include the Council of Governors and interaction with DoD, the allocation of the D-Block radio spectrum to public safety, and the transition of Governors.

Conclusion

The Chairman ended the meeting with a brief discussion of “next steps” and those topics of discussion for the Mid-Year Committee Meeting. The Committee agreed to offer the following topics for the next conference:

- Panel of 3 fusion center directors from different regions of the country to discuss current challenges
- Homegrown radicalization and how it impacts the current terrorist threat
- Further discuss the CHDS priorities offered on the NHSC Top 5 Priorities handout specifically the definition of “all hazards”