

NATIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY CONSORTIUM SUMMARY

July 23, 2014 ♦ Chicago, Illinois

Opening Comments

- Jan Odesloo, Deputy Regional Administrator, FEMA Region V; Chris Walsh, APWA; Gil Orrantia, GHSAC; Nancy Dragani, NEMA
- Member Introductions

Presentation of Cross-Cutting Priority Issues

Facilitator, Stan McKinney, Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Prior to the meeting, members associations identified priority issues in homeland security. These issues were compiled and commonalities noted. The facilitated discussion provided an opportunity for each organization to provide additional context and background for these issues in order to gain a comprehensive picture across the public health and safety community. A copy of the individual priorities is attached, but additional comments provided by each association are included below:

- AGAUS (not in priority order):
 - Cyber; many states setting-up Cyber Defense Teams. Still awaiting clarity from DoD
 - Critical Infrastructure (CI) Resilience; WI has reached out to utilities and other nodes of CI so the state can work with them on planning concerns. Guard is in support role to local law enforcement and meant to augment capabilities.
 - Border Security; Seen as a location-specific issue and currently being utilized under Title 32.
 - Technology Proliferation; As criminals and terrorists become more adept at utilizing technology, government has a hard time keeping-up due to not having access to the same technologies.
 - Criminal Enterprise; The Guard predominately used in support of local law enforcement.
- APWA (not in priority order):
 - Lack of understanding complicated by each public works agency operating differently.
 - Insufficient funding is primarily due to public works being responsible for recovery in most jurisdictions, but often not included in the planning efforts.
- APCO (not in priority order):
 - Cyber; must educate, prepare, and mitigate with partners to ensure locals know how to respond. Cyber-attacks occur daily on 911 systems and can easily overwhelm
 - Applications are becoming the wave of the future, but sometimes move information too quickly. They must be well thought through and all angles considered.
- ASTHO
 - Looking for more support of public health to off-set gaps in federal infrastructure through Mission Ready Packages. Current grant programs (DHS, CDC, and HHS) are not aligned to maximize effort
 - Turnover starting to become an issue in terms of maintaining preparedness education.

- The Affordable Care Act is making a lot of federal agencies reconsider preparedness grants for public health agencies.
- GHSAC
 - Part of fusion center sustainability includes participation with public health (a big priority).
 - Energy Assurance and managing the vulnerability of the power grid
- IAEM
 - Utilizing funding for critical infrastructure protection and collaboration
- IAFC
 - Information sharing needed for situational awareness and increased collaboration
 - Understanding of NIMS needs to extend beyond just law enforcement and fire and include non-traditional partners
- ICMA:
 - Transportation Infrastructure extends beyond buildings (ie, the railroad system is over 100 years old, and carries highly toxic/explosive materials)
 - Wants to see an integrated policy on immigration
- MCC:
 - Cyber must include the protection of intellectual property
 - Trans-national organized criminal networks also ties into the immigration/border security issue due to human smuggling and drug trafficking
 - Believes al Qaeda does still warrant a high profile, but is only part of the larger international terrorism threat.
- NACCHO
 - Priorities all work together and include engagement with fusion centers and ability to communicate threat to local elected and public safety officials.
- NAEMSO
 - Working on an EMS compact to allow for the sharing of EMS resources
- NCSL
 - States must commit to the issue of emergency communications and dedicate the appropriate funds whether federal grant funds are available or not
 - A significant amount of Guard material has been utilized in recent wars without the capability to replenish the supplies in the states
- NEMA
 - Cyber is the symptom – must examine the consequences and how best to manage
 - HVE used to be simply “domestic terrorism” but now includes those who have been radicalized abroad or in prisons
- NLC
 - Added NFIP and the uncertainty of rate increases

- NSA
 - The legalization of marijuana creates a vacuum in the drug market thereby increasing sales of other drugs

At the conclusion of all the priorities, McKinney lead a conversation about the recent changes in border security and how the threat is different than the last time the Consortium met. The issue has evolved over time, but spiked just recently. The unaccompanied minors are just a small piece of the overall problem which has also involved drugs, smuggling, and human trafficking. The issue is now simply becoming overwhelming to state and local officials and touches a broad range of disciplines. Phil McNamara from DHS also outlined efforts at the federal level and coordination being done with state and local officials. The crux of the problem from the federal standpoint is that HHS is given primary responsibility for the unaccompanied minors, but the department is simply unprepared for the flood of personnel.

As the discussion progressed, some participants noted how the current situation has merged the issues of “border security” and “immigration” when in reality they are really quite different. While officials outlined strong coordination between federal, state, and local governments, some participants said coordination with HHS is not as strong as some of the other agencies involved.

DHS/FEMA Grants Update

Brian Kamoie, Assistant Administrator of Grants Programs at FEMA and Kurt Reuther, Principal Deputy Under Secretary (Acting) for Intelligence & Analysis at DHS came to provide updates from FEMA and DHS programmatic offices.

Kamoie announced the allocations for FY 2014 will be announced later this week, but no major changes are expected. EMPG has been separated out from the other grant award packages since there were few changes and relatively stable. The intent was to move EMPG funding more swiftly with an earlier release and 30-day application period. They have also tried to accelerate the other grants as well. The FY 2015 announcements are also being drafted in preparation for the appropriations process and will follow-up with stakeholder calls as in years past. FEMA will be maintaining a focus on core capabilities with the goal toward keeping the guidance constant. The issue of unspent balances has improved in recent years, but remains a concern within OMB and on Capitol Hill. Kamoie indicated this could facilitate a discussion about the period of performance, but not this year.

During some Q&A, the following issues were discussed:

- Sequestration did impact grant awards slightly, but the greater effect was on GPD’s ability to conduct outreach to stakeholders.
- The relationships between “consolidation” and “alignment” are quite different. Consolidation is meant to create more flexibility to grantees while alignment addresses the external issues of coordinating with other agencies. Some coordination has occurred, such as last year when DHS provided HHS the risk ranking of UASI cities for some of their health preparedness grants.
- NPPD is starting to take a close look at interdependencies and consequences especially as they relate to critical infrastructure.

Reuther outlined how I&A would like to provide more clarity to department leadership on the overall risk formula utilized. Aviation security, foreign travel, countering violent extremism, border security, and cybersecurity are the main issues being examined by I&A this year. Admittedly, some of the threat matrixes utilized are somewhat outdated, so I&A is attempting to ensure decisions are made with the most credible information. The overall goal is to align grants with emerging threats without requiring lunges from one issue to another.