

**National Homeland Security Consortium
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Lexington, Kentucky**

Meeting Summary

Countering Violent Extremism in the U.S.

Ehsan Zaffar, Senior Advisor at the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

- Recruitment to violent extremism is a problem in the United States, but the response has been lacking.
- We face a wide range of violent extremist threats, such as Islamic, right-wing, and environmental extremists.
- It is difficult to construct profile because the individuals are often confused and threat is so wide-ranging.
- Syria has emerged as a particularly attractive theater for U.S. violent extremists. Approximately 200 Americans have gone there.
- Women traveling overseas is a recent trend.
- DHS has developed a holistic approach to this threat: it conducts outreach to religious leaders and law enforcement, and it is developing cultural competency.
- DHS provides financial support to communities and holds roundtables in communities affected by extremism.

Sheriff Richard Stanek, Hennepin County, Minnesota/National Sheriffs' Association

- Community engagement is a front-line strategy for CVE in Hennepin County.
- We conduct targeted outreach to diverse communities and focus on culturally sensitive law enforcement for all residents
- Outreach efforts include the Somalis One Day Citizens Academy and the Somali Women's Roundtable, which is held approximately once a week.
- We also have a Community Advisory Board to law enforcement. It includes 30 to 40 people from the county.

Chavela Hampton, Deputy Chief , Arlington, Texas Police Department/Major City Chiefs Association

- It is crucial to be community-oriented when dealing with CVE, which is what Arlington County tries to do.
- Arlington County also relies heavily on the SARS program.
- Public schools can play a role in preventing and identifying problems.
- An opportunity exists for connections between the intelligence community and schools system. This could include disseminating intelligence and other information.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Public Agencies—Capt. Chris Kelenske, Deputy Director, Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

- An Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) typically has three components: the vehicle, payload, and ground control.
- With regard to public safety, UAS are used for a number of purposes, such as: search and rescue, incident reconnaissance, natural disasters/damage assessments, hazmat incidents, accident and crime scene photography, and critical infrastructure/key resources assessments.
- A number of restrictions are placed on UAS use: they can fly no higher than 400 feet above the ground, they must not fly within five miles of an airport, and they must be visible to the spotter at all times.
- The FAA requires law enforcement to have a certificate of authorization (COA) to use a UAS.
- The Michigan State Police worked with the ACLU when putting together its UAS Policy. Highlights of the policy:
 - Strict operational guidelines have been established.
 - Missions must be approved by the director or division commander.
 - All flights must be documented.
- There are some constraints when using Air National Guard assets:
 - Aircraft availability
 - Cost
 - Safety
 - Policy constraints, such as posse comitatus, imagery collection, Secretary of Defense approval, and interagency coordination

Electrical Grid Failure: Planning Considerations for Energy Assurance and Infrastructure Resilience—April Salas, Chief, Planning Section, Energy Response Organization, U.S. Dept. of Energy

- Power outages can have a number of causes, such as animals, faulty equipment, vehicle accidents, weather, and tree damage.
- There are other threats as well, including cyber and physical attacks, flooding, wildfires, and geomagnetic storms.
- In the last four years, there have been 44 weather and climate disasters costing over \$1 billion.
- The Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) drives electric grid modernization and resiliency in U.S. energy infrastructure. It also serves as the Energy Sector Specific lead for the Federal emergency response when activated by DHS/FEMA.
- OE's approach to encouraging resiliency includes a resiliency best practices campaign, responding faster and rebuilding stronger, leveraging advanced technologies, and conducting cross-coordination planning with federal, state, tribal, and industry stakeholders.

- Nearly all states, some territories, and 43 local governments have energy assurance plans.
- These plans help to respond to energy supply disruptions, assure the continued operations of essential public services, and mitigate or reduce risks to critical energy infrastructure.
- Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators are also important. They serve as points of contact for states, DOE, and industry in event of an energy emergency; provide assessment, notification, news and updates on actions taken; and serve as primary and secondary contact for each sector (petroleum, electricity, natural gas) from each state
- It is important to be aware of the interdependencies that exist, as they can cause cascading failures with significant public health and safety, economic, environmental and national security impacts. This can impede emergency response and recovery.

FEMA Update—Kathleen Fox, Acting Assistant Administrator, National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA

- FEMA is working on its “refresh” of the National Preparedness Goal. This will include adding a firefighting core capability and changing some terminology used in the documents.
- FEMA recently published the 2015 National Preparedness Report. The report used information collected from the states to identify capabilities the nation needs to strengthen.
- FEMA recently announced the notice of funding opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security National Training Program/Continuing Training Grants Program. CVE will be one of the areas of focus.
- FEMA is updating its NIMS doctrine. Part of the motivation for this is to standardize EOCs.

Lessons Learned to date from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5 Viruses – Panel Discussion—Major Gen. Don Dunbar, Adjutant General, Wisconsin; Dave Maxwell, Director and Homeland Security Advisor, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management; and Dr. John Dreyzehner, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Health

- H5N2 is an Avian influenza (AI) virus that infects domestic poultry and wild birds, particularly waterfowl. The virus can be carried by manure, tools, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates, clothing and shoes.
- There are two groups of Avian flu: HPAI (highly pathogenic), which spreads rapidly by bird-to-bird contact and has high death rate; and LPAI (low pathogenic), which causes minor illness and occurs naturally in migratory waterfowl.
- There are no apparent human health concerns. No person in the U.S. has become ill from this strain. It is safe to eat properly prepared poultry products, including meat and eggs.
- The USDA identifies five response steps to Avian flu:
 - Quarantine: restrict movement of poultry and equipment into and out of control area

- Eradicate: Humanely euthanizing the affected flock(s)
- Monitor region: testing wild and domestic birds in a broad area around the quarantine area
- Disinfect: kills the virus in the affected flock locations
- Test: confirming the poultry farm is HPAI virus-free
- In Wisconsin, there were a number of key lessons learned from its experience with Avian flu, such as:
 - The need to request resources early, and appropriately, through USDA and state channels (additional personnel, equipment and supplies)
 - The need to update standard operating procedures (SOPs) for depopulation, disposal, cleaning and disinfection; also SOPs for documentation of these procedures.
 - The need to have SOPs developed with USDA for timely sign off on appraisal and indemnification
 - Using the Incident Command System more effectively to manage personnel, communications, and resources.
 - The need to train with Wisconsin Incident Management Teams to develop expertise in ICS.
 - Medical fit testing and clearance of responders to wear respirators was a limiting factor for personnel
 - Early stand up of Incident Management Team was crucial.
 - Mandatory premises registration in Wisconsin assisted the capability to rapidly respond to the outbreak. They were able to identify and contact premises surrounding the outbreak in a timely manner.
- In Arkansas, agriculture is an important part of the state's economy. The Arkansas poultry industry includes the production of chickens, turkeys and eggs. More than 5,800 farms in the state produce some type of poultry.
- The first case of HPAI in Arkansas occurred in March, 2015 in a turkey flock near Zinc, Arkansas. Only one poultry house was infected, and the 40,000 bird flock was depopulated by the poultry company.
- The Livestock and Poultry Commission deployed 13 inspectors and 4 state office personnel to the area for 12 days. Their primary duty was to physically check every home and farm within a 6 mile radius of the infected flock and test any poultry found. Commission personnel traveled 22,462 miles and worked 2,048 hours during the 12 day deployment.
- While the Commission handled the outbreak efficiently and effectively and their efforts were praised by USDA officials, the incident reaffirmed that the agency does not have adequate resources to handle multiple outbreaks in non-overlapping areas.
- USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is stressing the need to plan for more commercial outbreaks this fall and wants plans in place to deal with at least 500 outbreaks.

Action Items

- Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)
 - Identify lead agency for CVE at the federal level and review national CVE strategy – what is its status and when will it be updated?
 - Identify research that serves as basis for CVE programs and develop a bibliography of CVE writing/research. Contact the Naval Postgraduate School to ask if students may be willing to do this.
 - Look into the idea of linking “school safety centers” to fusion centers.
- Re-engage the National Association of State Agricultural Officials.
- Identify states with “One Health” task forces.
- Next NHSC meeting likely to be in December or January.