



Office of the Adjutant General Department of Emergency Services

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Governor
Maj. Gen. Michael J. Haugen
Adjutant General

To: DES Advisory Committee

From: Greg Wilz

Topic: DESAC Meeting Executive Summary for March 6, 2006

Date: March 10, 2006

General Haugen briefed members about a meeting which Admiral Keating, Commander of Northcom, attended. He said Keating understood the Incident Command System (ICS) and was very open to incident control by emergency management using the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to coordinate national resources including the military. General Haugen drew a parallel to state coordination of National Guard manpower and equipment resources through DES. Admiral Keating did comment that in event of special situations, such as a nuclear event, the military or Department of Energy (DOE) may be uniquely qualified and could take operational control.

Operational updates for Homeland Security and State Radio

1. During the Southeast Regional Emergency Manager's Association meeting held February 16, Greg answered questions and discussed Homeland Security funding, the strategic plan and the direction in which he will be leading the Division of Homeland Security.
2. On February 24, General Haugen, Greg and Russ updated the North Dakota Firefighter's Association concerning the organization of DES as well as its strategic plan and activities occurring within the Divisions of Homeland Security and State Radio to resolve issues of concern including the complexity of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant application and progress in migrating from analog to a statewide digital communications system.
- Lt. Colonel Shireley updated the association about the purpose and function of the newly formed Civil Support Team (CST).
3. On March 2, Greg and Russ conducted a briefing and tour of State Radio and the State Operations Center for members of the Legislative Budget Committee on Healthcare. One member expressed concern the process to allocate Homeland Security dollars did not meet the intent of House Bill 1016, Section 7. Greg responded indicating he would provide follow-up information detailing the process.
4. Preparedness Directorate Information Bulletin Number 197, issued by DHS dictated a review and self assessment of state, local and tribal evacuation, mass care and sheltering plans, as well as mutual aid agreements and recent exercise data. Personnel from the N.D. Department of Human Services and N.D. Department of Health, responsible for the Individual and Family Assistance and the Health and Medical Annexes respectively, collaborated with the Division of Homeland Security to conduct the self-assessment.

A team from DHS will review the plans March 27-28 to identify, prioritize and correct critical deficiencies. Staff is currently preparing responses to the detailed checklists provided by the DHS team.

5. Web EOC demonstrations were delivered to State Radio personnel and to NDSU students in the Emergency Management program on March 3. Web EOC training will occur on March 28 for emergency managers from the four local pilot jurisdictions. Two members from Ops and Planning will attend a Web EOC National Users Conference in Baton Rouge, LA April 18-19.
6. Greg will be seeking ICS certification in course levels 100-400 beginning March 4. He will also attend an Agro-Terrorism training course in Cavalier provided by Louisiana State University March 21-23.
7. A meeting was held with the National Guard Facility Officer to discuss reconfiguration of the EOC. The middle section will be removed and a series of large meeting tables inserted to provide optimal contact among decision makers. Key state agencies involved in response will be able to establish permanent locations and afforded the opportunity to permanently equip the area as deemed necessary.
8. The State Operations Plan is not compatible with the National Response Plan and will be completely revamped into a series of concise flowcharts and checklists. To date, it has not yet been determined if it will parallel the federal ESF system, a hazard/ incident specific model or the current 10 functional annexes. The decision will be reached in the near future and a trial section of the plan will be prepared and presented to the DESAC for approval before proceeding with the entire rewrite.
9. Greg will serve as a panel member for the Pandemic Influenza Summit conducted by the Health Department March 9 from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavit will be the featured speaker. Information will be oriented toward the business and academic communities as well as elected officials and the general public.

He will also attend the Grand Forks Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise March 14-15.

10. Pam Sharp, OMB Director, was formally requested to conduct a thorough financial accounting review to specifically determine if PeopleSoft is capable of dealing with the complexity of the DES grant process.
11. Russ announced that ultimate decision makers from Motorola met with the Mobile Communications Committee March 23 and promised to resolve points of contention through the following actions:
 - An office will be established in Bismarck.
 - The user website will be improved.
 - Recognize encryption of any type was not part of the RFP and rescind the improper \$18,000 bill.
 - Reimburse State Radio the \$68,000 paid to the Department of Transportation for its work in assisting Motorola with installation of replacements for faulty power amplifiers.
 - Reconfigure combiners to provide better coverage than the current analog system and cancel its request for additional payment to perform the work.

Russ estimated the statewide digital conversion will be completed in January or February 2007.

Russ also expressed thanks for the unanimous support from the Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, 911 Association, APCO, and Emergency Manager's Association demonstrated. He believed the united front played an integral role in Motorola's decision to correct previous errors in billing and management decisions.

12. A candidate selected for one of the two State Radio Communication Specialist positions declined and the other is undecided. A third applicant will be offered a position and if necessary, the unfilled position will be re-advertised.
13. Morton and Stark Counties will execute a communications tabletop exercise March 16. The results garnered in the after action report may serve to form a template for a statewide interoperable communications plan.

Strategic Plan Update

Bill reviewed the hand out describing current progress in completing action plans for the Strategic Plan objectives.

2006 Homeland Security Update

Wayne stated the Homeland Security Grant application for more than \$17 million had been electronically delivered to DHS February 28. He added that the total federal 2006 allocation of \$3.2 billion was surpassed by application requests from New York, California and Texas. A DHS official indicated "sustainment" of current programs will be a key component in funding decisions. Wayne used that specific language as part of the justification for each investment. In Washington DC from April 2-8, he will participate in the national review process designed to assist in determining individual state allocations.

The application stipulates approximately \$7 million for interoperable communications, \$6 million for Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) detection, response and training and \$2 million for National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and implementation. If DES receives the entire grant amount, approximately \$12 million must be distributed to local jurisdictions in those categories. Wayne pointed out that between now and June 1, a committee approved methodology of distribution needs to be developed. The criteria for past allocations no longer apply due to the new federal guidelines. Allocations must be keyed to the three categories of investments mentioned above and will be tackled on three fronts.

1. Develop a survey to ascertain existing voice communication equipment in local jurisdictions and determine existing needs in order to create a gap analysis. The survey will be vetted with the 911 Association.
2. A gap analysis to determine needs for NIMS training and implementation will be developed by reviewing the 75 point NIMCAST document completed by local jurisdictions.
3. The Anchor Capability Workgroup will develop the CBRNE gap analysis to develop a methodology to disperse funds.

During the June meeting, DESAC members will deal with the possibility of a lower budget based upon reduced federal funding. The ramifications mean not only disbursement to local jurisdictions but the issue of staff and program maintenance must also be examined.

Communications Encryption

Lengthy discussion ensued concerning encryption. There was definite concern that use of encryption, especially during this early stage of statewide digital communications implementation, could seriously erode interoperability. Examples were cited. When asked if funding guidelines could be written to exclude expenditures of Homeland Security dollars for encryption, Wayne answered in the affirmative. A cautionary response about inserting that type of stipulation quickly followed.

Discussion also focused upon the need to convince entities that were encrypting to choose generic over proprietary.

Wayne was asked to include questions designed to find what agencies throughout the state currently use encryption in the survey vetted by the 911 Association.

There was agreement that the 911 Association as well as all first responder organizations need to thoroughly discuss the issue.

It was recommended that J.P. Moszer present information about counties which are developing mutual aid channels.

Encryption will be factored into the Morton/Stark tabletop exercise and recommendations concerning its use may result.

Disaster Recovery

Lonnie Hoffer, Disaster Recovery Chief, delivered a presentation explaining programs within the section including the Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre Disaster Grant Program, Individual and Household Assistance Program, and Fire Management Assistance Program.

Legislative Issues

Greg and Russ provided information concerning DES legislative initiatives.

1. HazChem Fee
 - Legislation has not been updated since 1991.
2. State Radio Special Funds including 911
3. Changes in emergency management responsibilities contained within NDCC 37-17.1-6
 - Since September 11, 2001, the DES mission has dramatically changed and with the current staffing is unable to comply with several mandates.
4. Missing and Exploited Children
 - Since BCI has agreed and is currently fulfilling the responsibilities for this program, language needs to be codified to reflect the current situation.
5. Mutual aid legislation needs to comply with the Stafford Act.
6. An amendment is necessary to clarify the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Vice President selection.
7. EMAC
 - Language is necessary to set the process for private resources to become state emergency contractors.
8. Disaster Act of 1985
 - Terminology needs to meet federal/common definition.

Budget Review

Ross provided an explanation of information contained within the budget handout. Greg, Russ and Ross review the budget on a monthly basis. Greg explained it is much tighter than he and Russ would like. Measures including all potential travel and conferences/meetings are being reviewed to determine operational priority level and financial feasibility.

DES Audit Review Sub-Committee

General Haugen advised DESAC members to consider expanding the base of the committee in order to approach legislators with buy-in from more diverse constituencies.

Extended discussion focused on the role of the DES Audit Review Sub-Committee in developing legislation regarding 911 audit recommendations. It was decided to request the 911 Association's Legislative Committee to include all 911 issues contained within the DES Audit Report in developing its comprehensive 911 legislation. The 911 Legislative Committee will be asked to submit proposed language regarding recommendations to the DESAC for review and input. Developing timelines and benchmarks was deemed extremely important.

The DESAC was in complete agreement to engage legislators early to expedite the process. However, developing a plan to accomplish the task was delayed until the April meeting.

Membership on the DES Audit Review Sub-Committee was changed and includes Mark Johnson, Gary Kostelecky, Bryan Klipfel or Dave Kleppe, Dean Pearson, Paul Hendrickson, Greg Wilz, Russ Timmreck and representatives yet to be selected from Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Stakeholder Issues

The DESAC asked that Annex A - Policy 1 concerning expanded stakeholder input exclude specific time requirements for group presentations.

Hot Wash

As per suggestion, electronic versions of handouts will be emailed along with the executive summary.

Future

<u>Meetings Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 3	10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
May 8	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
May 9	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Association of Counties
June 5	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
June 6	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Association of Counties