



Office of the Adjutant General Department of Emergency Services

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John Hoeven
Governor
MG David Sprynczynatyk
Adjutant General

To: DES Advisory Committee

From: Greg Wilz

Topic: Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee (DESAC) Meeting Executive Summary – December 4, 2006

Date: December 6, 2006

Adjutant General Remarks

General Sprynczynatyk indicated that to meet the challenges of the upcoming legislative session, the Department would fully engage legislators concerning policy and funding issues as well as re-enforce the mission of DES. He thanked DESAC members for their input and asked them to continue to share thoughts and ideas during the session.

Agenda Review

Greg stated the Maximus research report had not been completed and would be deleted from the agenda. When received, he said members will receive a synopsis or perhaps the entire document.

Homeland Security Update

1. Operations and Planning

- The Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) Working Group met for a second time to discuss criteria used to derive a statewide jurisdictional funding formula. Members are considering criteria such as population, base amount, tiered response levels, critical infrastructure, staffing, response organizations, funding history, disaster history, and tax base. When finished, the plan will implement a phased approach to assist jurisdictions adjust to new levels of funding.

The FY 2006 allocation is \$ 1,703,584, an increase of \$143,527.

- Greg reported he and Russ visited Oliver, Mercer, Dunn, McKenzie, McLean Counties and Three Affiliated Tribes. Dialogue with emergency managers and local and tribal officials concerning Homeland Security and State Radio issues were very productive.
- The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) has been asked to become much more involved and members will begin attending Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC) meetings to familiarize themselves about the hazardous chemical/material policies existing in local emergency operations plans throughout the state. Three members from industry have been added and approval for permanent membership will be sought from the Governor.

- The Department will re-issue the survey conducted in 2005 by the Auditors Office; it will contain a few additional questions. The survey process will continue to procure enough data points to adequately track performance.
- Upon comprehensive review, the League of cities was asked to continue its management of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.
- DES staff met with Health Department personnel to begin planning development of online WebEOC training in January to expedite use by local and state agencies.
- The Base Plan is in final draft; the completion date for all annexes in the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) is July 1, 2007.
- A meeting was held with lead agency personnel from the National Guard, Highway Patrol and Department of Transportation to review winter storm response capabilities. A Winter Storm Alert Notification was issued to all state lead and support agencies detailing readiness posture and “be prepared to” missions.
- The State Emergency Operations Center remodeling has been finished except for some electrical work.

2. Disaster Recovery

- North Dakota is one of three states in the nation that maintains a “managing state” status which means DES assumes disaster program management responsibilities instead of the FEMA. However, coordination with FEMA concerning disaster issues is an on-going process.
- DES and FEMA personnel conducted a Managing State Audit of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program November 27-28, 2006. The major outcome revealed environmental stewardship required improvement. It was decided to reassign that portion of the program to FEMA.

Tim Wiedrich indicated discussion with the State Department of Health staff about available environmental resources may produce an alternative.

- The Ward County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted to FEMA Region VIII for approval.

State Radio Update

Digital migration is in the final stages of completion and Department of Transportation staff members are performing inspections to ensure all work has been performed according to specifications.

Once the project has been completed, propagation mapping will occur to ascertain communication dead zone data. Locations will be assessed for tower placement to improve coverage and help solve paging issues.

Russ stated Maximus will submit its report Thursday, December 7.

Interoperable Communications

Gary Kostelecky explained the inability to maintain interoperable communication was a major finding in the combined Morton/Stark Exercise. He indicated a statewide plan using a specific frequency/channel bank for interoperable communications presents a solution for all users in part because it will not require an entire system change.

Extensive discussion ensued and revealed the following:

- Plan acceptance must be derived from a bottom up approach and achieve consensus from local law enforcement, Highway Patrol, emergency medical services, 911 Association and emergency management.
- Interoperability must extend to surrounding states and Canada
- The plan accomplishes interoperability in more catastrophic events but does not necessarily solve all problems.
- The system must be National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) compatible.
- Sixty-five thousand dollars in FY 2006 has been allocated to develop the plan.
- DES does not know if the \$450,000 requested in the next biennium for interoperable communications plan implementation will be included in the Governor's budget request.
- Adhering to the principals of the ICS command structure by local disciplines establishes interoperability.
- Extensive training and exercising the plan is vital to achieving true interoperability.

Pandemic Influenza

Tim Wiedrich provided a Powerpoint presentation about the status of Pandemic Influenza. Topics included characteristics of the virus, anti-viral drugs, vaccine production, historical overview of spread or distribution, lethality statistics, Avian Flu, planning assumptions and components, vaccine and drug distribution, quarantine and travel related risks.

In terms of thresholds, members learned the Health Department controls policy concerning release of vaccine or viral drugs in its reserve and therefore, maintains an ability to formulate decisions independent of actions at the federal level.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

The North Dakota League of Cities administers the CERT program. Connie Sprynczynatyk, Director of the League and Nicole Peske, Citizen Corp Coordinator, provided members pertinent program information. CERT members receive 16-20 hours of training in fire safety, sheltering in place, basic first aid and search and rescue. The training prepares individuals to help themselves, family members, others who are not in life threatening situations during a disaster. The program is designed to lessen the burden of first responders who must concentrate efforts helping those with critical or severe injuries.

The League of Cities initiated its development plan using the underlying premise that a local jurisdiction must first establish a Citizen Corp Council to guide policy implementation prior to the formation of a CERT program. This model has been adopted by other states and is nationally recognized as a best practice. Seventy-two percent of the state's population is represented by the 27 Citizen Corps Councils. There are total of 68 CERT teams totaling 1,180 citizens; the program currently has 95 trained instructors.

Through a video conference, local coordinators, Ed Ludwig, Connie Jensen and Kristi Crawford representing Williams County, Wahpeton, and Cass County respectively, described aspects of their individual programs. Common factors in successful programs appeared to be inclusion of CERT into the local emergency operation plan, using CERT as a key component in exercising, and by activating the team in real disasters as well as public functions attended by large numbers of the public.

Homeland Security Grant

Wayne Baron provided the following federal draft guidance for 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program.

- States will be afforded an opportunity to have investments screened prior to submission.
- The grant performance period was expanded to 36 months.
- Programs will be provided a recommended funding cap that limits application amounts.
- Program evaluations are now eligible planning costs.
- States are required to conduct annual Training and Exercise Workshops and submit a multi-year plan to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Establishing a baseline capability level within all Fusion Centers is the primary emphasis of Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant Funds.
- National Preparedness Reporting requires an assessment of the States Preparedness for all hazards including an estimate of expenditures required to attain preparedness by 10-04-07.

He also detailed the strategy for FY 2007 grant funding submission including current 2006 initiatives to be sustained and the new initiatives listed below to be utilized in the FY 2007 funding application. Committee members concurred with the initiatives.

Grant Administration & Program Oversight

- Meet Office of Domestic Preparedness financial status requirements.
- Enhance Program Monitoring in meeting DHS "Measuring Progress in Achieving the Goal" requirements in terms of specific, concrete, measurable, capabilities-based outcomes and milestones.

Regional Collaboration

- Create regional multi-discipline planning groups.
- Advance a regional funding distribution model in North Dakota.
- Facilitate a series of regional exercises.

Citizen Corps

- Expand the number of schools that train faculty and staff in CERT.
- Explore establishment of Volunteers in Police Service Program.
- Explore with Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) ways to jointly publicize opportunities to register as a MRC volunteer and actively promote the MRC program in CERT training events.
- Further the message of preparedness on a continual basis.
- Explore regular training opportunities with Minnesota and South Dakota.
- Continue to expand the annual CERT Strategies for Success event for trainers and coordinators.

Interoperable Communications

- Begin acquisition of a statewide Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system.
- Identify and prioritize additional tower needs throughout North Dakota.
- Construct one additional communication tower.

Strengthen CBRNE Detection and WMD/HazMat Response

- Develop a minimum of four regional response areas in North Dakota.
- Conduct four table top exercises to identify scenario based equipment for regional response.
- Distribute equipment funding to jurisdictions based upon equipment identified in exercises.

NIMS/National Response Plan (NRP)

Planning

- Develop a system for disseminating preparedness information.
- Conduct a pilot study that examines the feasibility of tying each jurisdiction's plans into a regional plan, thereby allowing each geographic area to maximize its resources.

Catastrophic Planning

- Develop a voluntary emergency response registry for people with functional needs due to age or disability.
- Develop a state registry of shelters.
- Develop mutual aid prototypes for issues specifically related to evacuation, mass care, and sheltering.
- Conduct a plan assessment of critical catastrophic planning elements to determine other areas that need refinement.
- Expand evacuation planning to more fully address pet evacuation.
- Develop a Disaster Recovery Annex to the SEOP, LEOPs, and TEOPs that includes short and long-term issues related to recovery.

Training

- Conduct Lead/Support Agency ICS training.
- Create a comprehensive multi-year training plan with increased levels of complexity which includes all state, local, and tribal training.
- Conduct a training plan workshop.
- Provide training to ensure accurate typing of resources.

Exercises

- Conduct a State Agency Tabletop Exercise (discussion-based).
- Conduct a State Agency Functional Exercise (operations-based).
- Create a comprehensive multi-year exercise plan with increased levels of complexity which includes all state, local, and tribal exercises.
- Conduct an exercise plan workshop.

Information Sharing & Law Enforcement Operations

- Develop a joint Fusion Center Proposal for funding regional efforts.
- Adopt and pursue an all crimes approach to Fusion Center activities.
- Pursue Fusion Center evaluation by DHS.
- Pursue DHS/FBI representation in Fusion Center.
- Strengthen private enterprise communication and involvement.

Critical Infrastructure

- Identify critical infrastructure/key resources (CI/KR) protection roles and responsibilities.
- Build partnerships for information sharing.
- Implement security procedures to protect resources that may be targets of terrorism.
- Establish priorities based upon risk assessments.
- Measure effectiveness of the CI program.
- Integrate other federal CI/KR protection activities.
- Implement an education, training, and partnership campaign with private and public key asset owners.
- Create six Buffer Zone Protection Plans.
- Conduct eight site assessments visits.
- Identify additional assets or resources that meet criteria for inclusion into the North Dakota and National Asset Database.
- Leverage ongoing emergency preparedness activities for critical CI/KR protection.

Open Discussion

- When asked about the Audit Review Subcommittee, Greg indicated meetings had been placed on hold until results from the Maximus could be reviewed but meetings would be scheduled to obtain member input concerning 911 costs and response to the audit report.
- Because a month of legislative business will have transpired by the next meeting, Greg was asked if a plan was in place to update DESAC members about issues affecting DES. He responded that once the Governor's budget request was unveiled, talking points will be developed and sent to members in order for them to actively engage local legislators to support the Department's position. He explained members will be kept apprised about legislative progress.
- Russ reported the State Radio operational costs may dramatically impact the 22 counties it serves. Charges to defray costs of service provided to several agencies, such as the Highway Patrol, could also significantly rise. This may cause a drop in the number of users and impede progress implementing interoperable statewide communications.
- There was note of caution not too seek additional revenue by increasing the one dollar fee on cell phones for 911 services.
- Colonel Klipfel indicated he would keep the Peace Officer's Legislative Committee informed concerning issues requiring support.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/Hospital Resource Services and Administration (HRSA)/Pandemic Influenza Grants Discussion

Members reached consensus to form a subcommittee to vet linkage of the CDC, HRSA, and Pandemic Influenza grant applications to the emergency management process.

Future Meeting Date

Time

Location

February 1

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Association of Counties Building