



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

May 23, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Homeland Security to Create Regional Offices

GovExec, May 20, 2003

Testifying before the House Homeland Security Committee, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge outlined a plan to create regional offices that would channel the national message from Washington and provide a "direct point of contact" for governors and mayors.

Bioterrorism Experts Calls for Unified Anthrax Response Plan

GovExec, May 19, 2003

The Homeland Security Department should take the lead in developing national environmental testing guidelines in case of another anthrax attack as well as working with the Postal Service and other relevant agencies to determine if 280 mail processing facilities should be retested for possible anthrax contamination according to biohazard experts.

FEMA Training Project Managers

Federal Computer Week, May 20, 2003

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is starting to address the lack of project management skills within both its own organization and the larger incident response group within the Homeland Security Department.

Pentagon Agency Defends Anti-Terror Data Mining Initiative

GovExec, May 20, 2003

The Defense Department Tuesday submitted a [lengthy report to Congress](#) defending its work on the Total Information Awareness project, a controversial research initiative that envisions using technology to detect terrorist attacks before they happen.

Security Cutbacks Worry Airport Officials

NY Times, May 22, 2003

Issues surrounding airport security took on renewed urgency this week, as the government raised the nationwide terror alert level to orange on Tuesday following deadly bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco and the interception of "chatter" regarding potential domestic attacks.

➤ [Ridge Vows to Finish Screening the Screeners](#), *Washington Post*, May 21

CONGRESS

Decision on Homeland Security Centers Draws Interest on Hill

GovExec, May 21, 2003

Members of Congress have not failed to see the opportunities inherent for their districts in the mandate the Homeland Security Department has to create "centers of excellence" for security.

Democrats Critical of Ridge's Remarks, Claims

The Hill, May 22, 2003

Democrats charged that Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge cited an executive order that doesn't exist as he justified the controversial Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC) Tuesday in his first appearance before the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Panel Presses Ridge on Cybersecurity, Information Analysis

GovExec, May 22, 2003

Members of the House Homeland Security Committee pressed Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge on cybersecurity plans and the department's relationship with the new Terrorist Threat Information Center housed at the CIA.

BILLS RECENTLY INTRODUCED

- **H.R.2193:** To provide funding for port security enhancements, and for other purposes, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Ways and Means, May 21

RECENT HEARINGS

- **Narco-Terrorism: International Drug Trafficking and Terrorism- A Dangerous Mix,** Senate Judiciary Committee, May 20
- **Public Health Emergencies- Examining the Federal, State and Local Response to the SARS Outbreak,** Governmental Affairs, May 21

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Department of Homeland Security Funding for States and Cities

Department of Homeland Security, May 21, 2003

Since Congress passed the FY '03 Budget in February and the FY '03 Supplemental Budget in April, the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness has made a significant amount of money available to states and cities to prevent, prepare and respond to terrorism.

Special Terror Drill in Philadelphia

CBS 3, May 17, 2003

Police, firefighters and medical first responders have been conducting special terror drills throughout the region to prepare for potential terrorist attacks and enhance hospital preparedness with the most recent exercise including 150 players with simulated injuries.

Monroe Emergency Responders Team Up Following 'Disaster'

KeysNews, May 21, 2003

On May 21, South Florida's terrorism safety net will be put to the test when agencies ranging from the Key West police department to the Federal Bureau of Investigation will respond to a mock attack on Pro Player Stadium.

Office of Emergency Management Holds Mock Disaster Drill in Brooklyn

abc7, May 18, 2003

The first of a series of mock disaster drills, designed to test the effectiveness of New York City's emergency response, took place in Brooklyn on Sunday and included hundreds of first responders

Counterterrorism Planner Says Area has Many Targets

Helena Independent Record, May 19, 2003

Helena's newly hired counterterrorism planner, former U.S. Army counterintelligence expert Brett Lloyd, will make an exhaustive security review of more than 300 potential area targets as one of the area's numerous homeland security initiatives.

Praise the 'Everyday Heroes' Who Answer Emergencies

Free Lance-Star, May 20, 2003

Fredericksburg will be celebrating National Emergency Medical Services Week, May 18-24, a celebration to honor some 750,000 EMS providers nationwide who deliver lifesaving emergency care, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Districts Putting Together Anti-Terror Plans

Kait8, May 19, 2003

For Arkansas students, learning how to respond to terrorism may become as common as a fire drill thanks to a new law requiring schools to develop terrorism preparedness plans.

States Beefing Up Security as Local Vigilance Sharpens

Democrat and Chronicle, May 21, 2003

As the nation tightens security after the terrorism alert was raised to high, Gov. George Pataki on Tuesday activated National Guard troops and State Police to guard subways, bridges and other transportation facilities as well as other potential targets.

NYC Agencies Respond to Bioterror Drill

Washington Post, May 19, 2003

Police, local hospitals and other agencies held a five hour field exercise titled Operations Winter Sun that tested their readiness to respond to a weapons of mass destruction attack on New York.

County Ramps Up Biohazard Preparedness

WorldLink.com, May 21, 2003

More than 20 county, state, and federal public and private agencies were involved in a biohazard drill with a simulation room located at Southwestern Oregon Community

College, a media center established in the basement of the Coos County jail, and actual "patients" and responses by the Coos County Health Department and emergency response personnel.

Civil Defense Spearheads Government's Response/Preparation Efforts for Coming Storm

Kuam 8, May 21, 2003

On the very same day Super typhoon Pamela ravaged Guam 27 years ago, this afternoon a briefing was held at the Office of Civil Defense to profile Tropical Storm Chan-Hom with a contingent of more than 50 response activity coordinators and public sector department heads stressing the importance of preparedness efforts for government agencies, organizations throughout the island, and for the public in general.

Ambulances Prepared for Worst

Post Independent, May 22, 2003

Ambulance services from Parachute to Carbondale this week got a big boost in connecting with each other during emergencies, when they received Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) bags as part of a three-step emergency preparedness program.

Coalition Maritime Terrorism

The Oregonian, May 16, 2003

When it comes to battling maritime terrorism, the Columbia River region is developing a special weapon: a coalition providing information and experts to federal officials.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Tracking of Emergency Response Funds for the War on Terrorism](#), GAO-03-346, April 2003
- [U.S. Postal Service: Issues Associated with Anthrax Testing at the Wallingford Facility](#), GAO-03-787T, May 2003
- [Report to Congress Regarding the Total Information Awareness Program](#), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, May 2003

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [U.S. Department of Education-Emergency Planning](#), U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige has unveiled this new web resource to help schools and communities across the U.S. prepare and develop plans for responding to potential emergency situations.

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.