



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

May 30, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Cybersecurity Post to be in Ridge's Department

Associated Press, May 27, 2003

The Bush administration plans to appoint a new cybersecurity chief for the government inside the Department of Homeland Security, replacing a position once held by a special adviser to the president.

- [U.S. Government to Get Cybersecurity Chief](#), *AP Technology*, May 24

Report Details Homeland Security Contracting Opportunities

GovExec, May 28, 2003

The Washington, D.C.-based homeland security investment firm O'Gara Company, on Wednesday, [unveiled a guide](#) for determining where federal dollars will be spent and where the likely growth areas in the homeland security sector are.

- [Public-Private Partnership Weighs Homeland Security Technology Ideas](#), *GovExec*, May 29

Agencies Show Security Progress

Federal Computer Week, May 27, 2003

In the fiscal 2002 [report](#) on their information security status and practices, agencies for the first time showed measurable progress on government wide security needs and agency-by-agency efforts.

Homeland Security Weighs Airliner Anti-Missile System

GovExec, May 28, 2003

At the urging of some members of Congress, the Homeland Security Department is considering a \$10 billion project to protect the nation's commercial jet fleet from shoulder-fired missiles, but with the administration already cutting back on some security measures to save money, it is not clear whether the effort will survive the budgeting process.

Changes Proposed for Alert System

Associated Press, May 28, 2003

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told an advisory committee formed by the Federal Communications Commission that it is a priority to protect "the means by which we communicate timely and accurate information to the public during periods of crisis."

- [Ridge Endorses Upgraded Public Warning System](#), *GCN*, May 28

Defense, Justice Report on Surveillance Activities

GovExec, May 28, 2003

As evidence that it is being both aggressive in using its surveillance powers to combat terrorism and determined in its protection of privacy, the Department of Justice presented 60 pages of [answers](#) to aggressively worded questions about the 2001 [anti-terrorism law](#) known as the USA PATRIOT Act.

US Trauma System Said Unprepared for Terror Attack

Reuters, May 28, 2003

The United States is dangerously unprepared for a mass attack, bioterrorist or otherwise, because most states lack an organized system of trauma care according to the American College of Surgeons.

- [Medical Experts Renew Call to Freeze Smallpox Vaccinations](#), *GovExec*, May 27

CONGRESS

Lawmakers Wary of New Terrorist Threat Center

GovExec, May 23, 2003

Several key lawmakers have warned an independent commission assembled to study the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that the CIA should not oversee a new anti-terrorism center designed to integrate domestic and foreign intelligence data.

Lawmakers see Cyberterror Vulnerability

The Hill, May 28, 2003

Lawmakers are charging that government agencies and industry are not doing enough to protect the country's power plants, industries and financial institutions from the threat of cyberterrorism attacks.

BILLS RECENTLY INTRODUCED

- **S.1147:** A bill to protect United States ports, and for other purposes, *Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee*, May 23
- **S.1152:** A bill to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes, *Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee*, May 23

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

FEMA Awards Grants to States

Washington Daily News, May 29, 2003

The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced that North Carolina is among the first 12 states to receive grants through the agency's Pre-disaster Mitigation Program to help state, local and tribal governments protect lives and property by developing multi-hazard mitigation plans.

Homeland Security Funds Help Responders

Associated Press, May 26, 2003

A new high-tech rescue trailer, paid for with a \$58,000 grant from the federal Department of Homeland Security, impresses emergency workers in Colchester Vermont.

Homeland Security Buys N.M. Town for Training

Reuters, May 23, 2003

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has bought a 1,840-acre town about 40 miles north of the Mexican border and will transform it into a terrorist response training center to provide training for U.S. Marines in urban warfare and a first responders program that includes testing responses to various terrorist bombing possibilities.

9/11 Raises Security for Oil Tankers on the Delaware River

Philadelphia Inquirer, May 25, 2003

This month, the homeland security department kicked in another \$75 million for "high threat" ports, with \$6.4 million promised to Philadelphia for Coast Guard operations as well as grants to the maritime trade

Bugs, Weeds, Houseplants Could Join the War on Terror

USA Today, May 28, 2003

Armed with a half million-dollar grant from the Pentagon, a plant biologist at Colorado State University is trying to genetically engineer Arabidopsis plants to change color rapidly if they sense a biological or chemical agent.

Anti-Terror Workload a Worry; Other Missions Feared Neglected

Seattle Times, May 26, 2003

Coast Guard officials say homeland security now shares the top priority with search-and-rescue operations while other missions, such as fisheries, drugs, and oil-spill response, have been relegated to a second-tier worrying Northwest fisherman.

Mock Disaster Tests Preparedness

Times Record News, May 29, 2003

Wichita Falls County, Sheppard Air Force Base, the local Red Cross, area hospitals and other emergency response and relief crews participated in a mock terrorist attack at the Northside Wastewater Plant.

Project Safeside Urges Preparedness for 2003 Hurricane Season

DisasterRelief.org, May 29, 2003

To help coastal communities prepare for the 2003 Atlantic hurricane season, the American Red Cross and The Weather Channel are once again teaming up to equip communities with lifesaving disaster safety measures through a joint national campaign called "Project Safeside".

Group Will Prepare for Disasters

Kentucky Post, May 29, 2003

Boone County has established a new citizens group to raise public awareness about emergency preparedness and to recruit volunteers to help the county better prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Emergency Training Offered to Civilians

Atlanta Journal Constitution, May 29, 2003

With a grant from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Cherokee's Fire and Emergency Services Agency is setting up classes for Community Emergency Response Teams.

Citizens' Fleet Proposed for Emergency Planning

Independent, May 28, 2003

Dr. Michael Weinstein, president of The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC), has proposed the development of a Citizens' Fleet comprised of volunteers whose private vessels would transport people, equipment, and supplies to and from Manhattan in case of an extreme emergency.

Bill Would Dock Extra Security Near S.C.'s Ports

Herald Online, May 28, 2003

A bill close to clearing the general assembly in South Carolina would authorize the creation of a volunteer force comprised of retired Navy officers and Merchant Marines to assist the Coast Guard in monitoring the waters around the ports for suspicious activities, particularly during heightened security alerts.

Senator Pushes for More Funding

American News, May 28, 2003

With more money available for homeland security, Senator Tim Johnson visited with about 20 local emergency responders and other officials in South Dakota to discuss how rural America can fund its security operations.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Rail Safety and Security: Some Actions Already Taken to Enhance Rail Security, but Risk-Based Plan Needed](#), GAO-03-435, April 2003
 - [Article: Despite Agency Efforts, Rail Shipments Remain Vulnerable to Attack](#), *GovExec*, May 29
- [Combating Terrorism: Interagency Framework and Agency Programs to Address Overseas Threat](#), GAO-03-165, May 2003
- [If Disaster Strikes Today- Are You Ready to Lead? A Governor's Primer on All Hazards Emergency Management](#), NEMA, May 2003
- [FY02 Report to Congress on Federal Government Information Security Reform](#), Office of Management and Budget, May 2003

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.