



## Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 24, 2003

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **Ridge Sees No End to Homeland Security Fight**

*Associated Press, October, 22, 2003*

For the foreseeable future, the United States will face some enemy eager to terrorize Americans where they live according to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge who also believes that permanently restructuring the government is necessary in order to deal with the threat of global terrorism.

#### **TSA Orders Search of All Planes; no Changes to Screening Procedures**

*GovExec, October 17, 2003*

The Transportation Security Administration on Friday ordered all U.S. commercial aircraft to be searched within 24 hours after suspicious bags were found on two planes, but the agency has not ordered changes in how passengers and baggage are screened at airports.

- [Lawmakers Launch 'Extensive Review' of Transportation Security](#), *GovExec*, October 20

#### **Expert: Homeland Security Reorganization Hurt Terror Financing Chase**

*Fox News, October 22, 2003*

Dislocations within the executive branch and poor coordination with financial institutions have complicated efforts to track down how terrorists move their money, a former anti-terror official in the Clinton and Bush administrations said Wednesday.

#### **DHS Wants Public Safety Communications Tech**

*Federal Computer Week, October 23, 2003*

The Homeland Security Department seeks ideas to develop technology that will allow more than 44,000 public safety agencies nationwide communicate with each other in an emergency.

- [Responders Need Better Info Sharing](#), *Federal Computer Week*, October 20

#### **FBI Seeks Management Makeover to Meet Antiterror Mission**

*GovExec, October 17, 2003*

The FBI is changing its top-heavy management structure and trying to collaborate more with state and local authorities to prevent another terrorist attack on U.S. soil according to a bureau director.

## Think Tank Debates Focus on Counterterrorism Tools

*GovExec, October 21, 2003*

Information technology can be used to help fight terrorism because it places huge amounts of searching information at the fingertips of law enforcement, but the creation of the Terrorist Threat Integration Center and a Sept. 16 presidential directive has some people concerned about the impact that such initiatives may have on civil rights.

## CONGRESS

### House Chair blasts Homeland Security for Refusing to Brief on Border Merger

*GovExec, October 17, 2003*

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, charged Thursday that the Homeland Security Department has refused to brief the panel on a border security initiative that merges personnel from three federal agencies to create a single team of customs and border protection officers.

### Senators See Momentum to Limit Anti-Terrorism Powers

*GovExec, October 21, 2003*

Momentum is building in the Senate for revisions to a law enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that enhanced the government's surveillance powers dubbed the USA PATRIOT Act.

### Senate Panel OKs Security Bills, Agency File-Sharing Crackdown

*GovExec, October 22, 2003*

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on Wednesday unanimously approved several bills that would address homeland security and technology issues including one [bill](#) that would create a new office within the Homeland Security Department to provide local and state "first responders" to emergencies with counter-terrorism technology.

## RECENT LEGISLATION

- **H.R.3345** : To enhance the public safety by rendering aliens ineligible to receive visas and ineligible for admission to the United States if their entry poses a danger to national security, and for other purposes, *House Judiciary Committee*, October 20, 2003
- **H.R.3370** : To establish a permanent grant program to improve public safety communications and the interoperability of emergency communications equipment, *House Energy and Commerce Committee*, October 21, 2003

## RECENT HEARINGS

- [H.R. 3266: Faster and Smarter Funding For First Responders](#), House Select Committee on Homeland Security, October 21
- [US Senate Panel Probe Terror Funding](#), Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, October 22

- [The Post-9/11 Visa Reforms and New Technology: Achieving the Necessary Security Improvements in a Global Environment](#), Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, October 23

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### [Citizen's Corps in the Works](#)

*Caledonian Record, October 20, 2004*

Aided with \$20,000 in federal funds, the emergency planning committee is reaching out to Orleans residents to create a citizen's corps, men and women from across the county who will get enough basic training to work with skilled crews during major disasters in Vermont.

### [North Pole Recipient of Homeland Security Grant](#)

*Fairbanks Daily News, October 20, 2003*

The North Pole might not appear to be a likely terrorist target, but the Interior town is considered vulnerable enough to warrant a \$557,400 grant from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security.

### [State Guards are Helping Make our Homeland Security Stronger](#)

*Tullahoma News, October 20, 2003*

Increased responsibilities for Homeland Security initiatives/duties, coupled with the deployment of our National Guard forces in various theaters of the war on terrorism, has raised the need for improving the states' ability to provide support and reserve forces for the National Guard.

- [Guardsmen Return from Homeland Security Mission](#), *News Enterprise*, October 20

### [Harvard to Train U.S. Officials](#)

*Harvard Crimson, October 21, 2003*

On Friday, the Center for Disease Control announced a \$250,000 grant to fund planning and start-up costs of the National Preparedness Leadership Academy, a joint venture of two Harvard schools through which government officials will take classes with a focus on terror threats—specifically bioterrorism—as well as general emergency preparedness.

### [Officials Urge Disaster Preparation](#)

*Sun News, October 22, 2003*

Cooperation and preparedness were two main topics of discussion Monday at a meeting of federal, state and local emergency managers in Myrtle Beach led by Michael Brown, the first undersecretary of emergency preparedness and response for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

### [Hospitals Set Plans for Catastrophes](#)

*News-Chronicle, October 23, 2003*

About 100 medical representatives from nine counties around Northeast Wisconsin met in a simulated "table top" exercise designed to create a unified emergency response plan for disaster situations from bioterrorism to SARS.

### **Kernan Introduces Indiana Disaster 'Ready Card'**

*Louisville Channel, October 23, 2003*

To better prepare Indiana residents in case of a disaster, Gov. Joe Kernan on Wednesday presented a state-produced card that lists a person's emergency information such as emergency contact numbers, basic medical information and a simple contingency plan which can fit easily into a wallet or purse.

### **Mrs. Clinton Says Antiterror Aid Has Been Stalled at the State Level**

*NY Times, October 24, 2003*

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton accused Gov. George E. Pataki on Thursday of failing to give local governments in New York State the money they need to defend themselves against terrorist attacks.

### **Regional Emergency Training Center Proposed**

*Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier, October 22, 2003*

Black Hawk County officials are in Washington, D.C., today presenting a proposal to locate all local training for law enforcement, fire, hazardous materials and emergency response at one training site.

### **Health Officials From Across the Region Stage Bioterrorism Training Drill**

*Roanoke Times, October 23, 2003*

The first statewide bioterrorism drill in Virginia, which began Sunday with a made-up bioweapon attack in Blacksburg, was designed to demonstrate how the state can become better prepared for a mass casualty incident caused by terrorists, an accident or natural disaster.

### **Report Cites Security Flaws at Plum Island**

*NY Times, October 19, 2003*

Officials at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center have failed to safeguard pathogens that could be adapted to become weapons of germ warfare, including an agent potentially "as threatening as smallpox," a [federal report](#) says.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [Aviation Safety: Advancements Being Pursued to Improve Airliner Cabin Occupant Safety and Health](#), GAO-04-33, October 2003
- [Combating Bioterrorism: Actions Needed to Improve Security at Plum Island Animal Disease Center](#), GAO-04-847, September 2003

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