

STATEMENT TO SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

September 2, 2015



pennsylvania

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
HOMELAND SECURITY**

Good morning Chairman Vulakovich, Chairman Costa, and members of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. I am Ronald Stanko, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.

We appreciate your offer to be here today. Our office, much like the PA State Police, is also very concerned with the issues of public safety, although our mission is more specifically related to the prevention and protection of the citizens and the critical infrastructure in the Commonwealth in the face of terrorist threats. We routinely coordinate our efforts with PSP and PEMA to maximize our efficiency.

The specific responsibilities are specifically identified for GOHS pursuant to EXO2012-13 to include the following:

- Secure the Commonwealth from acts of terrorism.
- Reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and key resources to terrorist attacks.
- Partner with the US Dept. of Homeland Security and other federal, state and local agencies in matters related to homeland security.
- Work with the primary state fusion center to develop the process of information fusion for the gathering, processing, analyzing and disseminating of information related to homeland security.
- Cooperate with the PA Emergency Management Agency in matters relating to emergency management planning, preparedness and response.
- Participate, in concert with the private sector and other federal, state and local agencies, in a coordinated effort to prepare for, prevent, respond and recover from acts of terrorism.

Over the course of the past few years GOHS implemented a plan to accomplish its mission. That plan includes programs that better prepare the citizens and critical infrastructure by identifying vulnerabilities and improving capabilities to address the threat of terrorism.

SCHOOL SAFETY

The office has conducted six School Safety programs in the Commonwealth (see appendix). In each of these programs we have had audiences of no fewer than 400 attendees. The featured speakers include keynote addresses from Virginia Tech; the Office of the Dale County Sheriff in Alabama who spoke on the child taken hostage when the School bus driver was murdered; and the Lancaster County massacre of the Amish children at Nickel Mines. These presentations were followed by presentations from Center for Safe Schools; PEMA on the All-hazards School Safety Planning Tool Kit developed for the Commonwealth; a psychologist speaking on the mindset of the perpetrators and what school assessment teams should look for in their schools; the United States Secret Service on the development of assessment teams across the US; the FBI on the response by law enforcement to a school shooting and medical professionals to deal with the "aftermath" including psychological counseling and reuniting families; and the DHS programs available online for schools to use within their districts for self-teaching. In each event a CD is provided offering each attendee a take-away with an extensive presentation of more detail in each of these areas.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We have had two human trafficking seminars thus far and plan more for the upcoming year. Our program follows the DHS plan to highlight the ever increasing threat of human trafficking beyond the customary area of prostitution into labor trafficking. Both of these areas have become innovative methods for terrorist organizations to infiltrate the economies of the host countries ultimately providing needed hard currency to fuel their radical agendas.

Speakers for these programs include the FBI, US Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO'S), local police departments, Salvation Army, and US Department of Defense teaching personnel.

AGRICULTURE

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture GOHS has provided speakers focusing on the collaborative efforts across the many related areas of agriculture, particularly in food defense and the resources available to assist in responding to possible threats.

GOHS is working closely with the Department of Agriculture in preparation for the possible threat posed by the *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)* outbreak.

CYBER SECURITY

GOHS sponsors a quarterly webinar available to agency and private sector personnel dealing with the ever present cyber threat. These programs are available for rebroadcast and begin at the basic cyber threat level and gradually increasing in complexity and basis of information designed for utilities and other private sector operations. Keynote speakers are enlisted for the one-hour programs with reputations designed to attract a diverse population base from individuals, agencies, to corporations.

Presently GOHS is in the midst of completing, with the assistance of the Office of Administration (OA), Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), a *Cyber Incident Response Annex*. When completed this document will be a statewide blueprint for the response of law enforcement and emergency management to public and private sector intrusions terror and non-terrorist based. This document will speak to the law enforcement role as well as the consequence management role of state agencies inside and outside governmental operations.

STATEWIDE GUIDANCE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IDENTIFICATION

The *National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)* (updated December 2013), brings together various protection efforts and recovery plans into a single national program. The NIPP requires states to develop and implement a *Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan (CIPP)* as a component of the overarching Homeland Security program. Pennsylvania, through the implementation of the above efforts, has a robust critical infrastructure/key resource (CI/KR) program with meaningful outreach into all 16 critical infrastructure sectors (i.e., agriculture, energy, health). The CIPP serves as the basis for the GOHS' CI/KR program. The aim of this project is to identify all CI/KR that is critical to the Commonwealth. This project combined with additional future initiatives will result in enhanced public safety planning and response efforts. Our GIS program now has 25,000+ sites in the ArcGIS platform and we will be working closely with the state and county emergency managers/homeland security officials using this new tool.

GOHS, along with the Commonwealth's primary Fusion Center (PaCIC), prepares a monthly CI/KR newsletter, which goes out to all CI/KR partners throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

EXERCISES

A major area of concentration for our personnel is to develop and conduct of Table Top Exercises (see appendix). These programs have been conducted regularly over the past three years in all areas of the Commonwealth. Briefly, they are provided upon request from organizations and facilities that conduct events that are national in scope. The purpose of each exercise is to present various possible terrorist or public disruption based scenarios. Over six hours of discussion these scenarios and follow-up injects are discussed by invited "players." Agencies from federal, state, local and law enforcement as well as emergency management agency personnel provide the backdrop in every exercise. In addition, local management of the venue, private security and private sector corporate participation relevant to the event are also included.

These exercises have been hugely successful as they provide insight for the event or venue on the extent of preparations for the event. Presently we are coming off one of our most successful exercises in preparation for the Papal visit in Philadelphia. That table top exercise hosted over 160 players at Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA.

A list of our Exercises in the Appendix is illustrative of the reach of our GOHS operation as well as the overwhelming success of this program.

GOHS is proud of its efforts within the Commonwealth. We are always willing to entertain new ideas and to respond to opportunities to conduct symposia and exercises. In fact, over the next several months we will be conducting two events in the Pittsburgh area.

10/19-22 Control System Cyber Security Training - Westinghouse/Carnegie Mellon
11/10 "Confronting the Global Threat" Bioterrorism Agents/Diseases Symposium

Once again, I would like to thank the committee for inviting us here to speak on this matter. To the extent there are questions I will be happy to attempt to answer any enquiries.