



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

October 2008

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center

Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; regional, state and local officials; and public safety and transportation representatives gathered at the Fairfax County West Ox Complex on Friday, Oct. 10, to cut the ribbon for the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) and the Fairfax County Bus Operations Center. The event was attended by more than 300 people. The West Ox Complex is a unique partnership among Fairfax County, the commonwealth of Virginia and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.



Earlier this year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to name the facility the “McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center” in honor of former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell (Springfield District). The board called McConnell a “champion in the field of public safety and transportation.”

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2008/228.htm>

### Emergency Operations Plan Template Available

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management’s Preparedness Division has drafted a new, user-friendly Emergency Operations Plan template for colleges and universities to help them develop and maintain an EOP. The template offers a complete EOP outline with instructions and examples of items that may or may not be applicable to each institution. This template is designed to assist schools with the planning process, and all items should be reviewed and modified to fit the specific needs of each institution of higher education. The template also highlights National Incident Management System elements to help institutions of higher education develop a plan that can easily coordinate with local government EOPs. VDEM collaborated with a work group of emergency planners and coordinators from community colleges and state and private four-year institutions throughout the state to develop the template, available at [http://www.vaemergency.com/library/plans/higher\\_ed.cfm](http://www.vaemergency.com/library/plans/higher_ed.cfm).

### Twenty-two States Unable or Unwilling to Provide an Emergency Operations Plan When Requested

Seven years after Sept. 11, and in the wake of many major natural disasters such as forest fires, hurricanes and flooding, nearly half of U.S. states either have no state-level emergency plan or do not provide it readily to the public, reveals a new study by George Mason University Communication Professor Carl Botan.

Despite federal laws that require a state emergency operations plan (EOP) as a prerequisite to some federal funding, 22 states were unable to provide Botan with an EOP, withheld the plan on security grounds or made it difficult for even trained researchers to gain access.

Residents of these states, Botan says, may question their state’s preparedness because they are unable to find out how the highest authorities in their state coordinate responses to major disasters or how to have a say in those plans. The study, “Using Sense-Making and Co-orientation to Rank Strategic Public Communication in State Emergency Operations Plans,” graded and ranked the state emergency operations plans of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia on their communication components. Botan analyzed the accessible state EOPs for three criteria –if the plans had a two-way communication component, if they addressed the communication needs of vulnerable populations and if they treated public communication as important enough to specifically address it in the plan. He found that the 29 jurisdictions



that do have plans available make provisions for public communication -- including news releases and public broadcasts, but only 16 of them make explicit or implicit provisions for two-way public communication such as community forums and focus groups. Botan feels that two-way public communication is essential in the plans, for that will allow the state to understand what its residents feel they need in emergency situations. Of the 29 plans obtained, only two – Washington, D.C. [which is treated as a state-level entity for this purpose] and New Mexico – received a perfect score of eight for communication. In addition, while 16 states mentioned vulnerable publics, only 13 of these discussed specific communication strategies for these vulnerable publics in their plans. For example, California mentions specific strategies such as dispatching special teams targeting vulnerable populations like the aged and the disabled, while Arizona simply mentions that emergency managers must pay attention to people with special needs, like residents of nursing homes and the hearing impaired, but does not outline specific strategies to communicate with them.

<http://tinyurl.com/686q2t>

<http://www.gmu.edu/>

### **Incident Management Teams Return from Texas and Louisiana**

On Friday, Sept. 26, a National Capital Region - Incident Management Team (NCR-IMT) deployed to manage two base camps, several distribution points for ice/water, and a resource staging area in Galveston, Texas, in response to Hurricane Ike. The mission was processed through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in response to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request. The 15-member team returned on Oct. 9. Meanwhile, Paul Lynch of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) returned from Cameron Parish, La., to Fairfax County on Sunday, Oct. 19. Lynch was deployed to Cameron Parish, on Oct. 3, to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in response to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). Lynch was Fairfax County's only member on a second Incident Management Team, primarily based out of southwestern Virginia that provided support for emergency operation center operations in east and west Cameron Parish, including operational support and relief for city personnel. The first team deployment included Fairfax County's Dan Williams, DPWES, and Michael Guditus, Office of Emergency Management.

### **Nonprofit Disaster Preparedness Guide Published**

Deloitte LLP and the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington have released "The Roadmap to Preparedness: A Strategic Plan to Address Unmet Needs in Nonprofit Emergency Preparedness for the National Capital Region." The Roadmap is one of the United States' first completed comprehensive plans to implement a regional metropolitan strategy for emergency preparedness in the nonprofit community. Representatives from Greater Washington nonprofit organizations, joined by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), FEMA and DHS officials, as well as disaster preparedness specialists from Deloitte, unveiled the plan, which is the result of a two-year initiative. Utilizing a "regional gap assessment" process that included surveys, stakeholder interviews, focus groups and a series of emergency preparedness training events, the plan addresses shortfalls in preparation efforts between area nonprofits, which serve a vital role as the proverbial "third leg of the disaster preparedness stool," working alongside government and the business community during a disaster. The roadmap will help the nonprofit community build plans to operate more effectively and efficiently during a time of regional crisis. It addresses such areas as: integrated planning and training; strengthened partnerships between nonprofits, government and the private sector; improved coordination and communication networks; and sustained capacity to respond to all-hazard events, emphasizing long-term recovery capabilities.

The guide: <http://tinyurl.com/5esdxh>

### **TSA to Assume Watch List Vetting with Secure Flight Program**

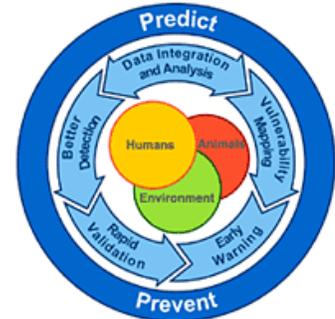
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced the issuance of the Secure Flight Final Rule, which shifts pre-departure watch list matching responsibilities from individual aircraft operators to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and carries out a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. By bringing watch list matching responsibilities in-house, TSA can better remedy possible misidentifications when a traveler's name is similar to one found on a watch list. Airlines will be required under Secure Flight to collect a passenger's full name, date of birth, and gender when making an airline reservation. This additional information is expected to prevent most

inconveniences at the airport, and will be particularly important for those individuals with names similar to those on the watch list. TSA will receive limited information for each passenger, as well as for certain non-traveling individuals, such as those escorting a minor or disabled passenger to the gate. TSA will determine if their information matches the No Fly or Selectee lists and will transmit results back to airlines. Data retention for the vast majority of individuals will be no more than seven days.

Read the Secure Flight Final Rule (PDF - 10.27 MB) – [http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/secureflight\\_final\\_rule.pdf](http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/secureflight_final_rule.pdf)  
[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1224686539438.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1224686539438.shtm)

### **Google Initiative Aims to Detect Epidemics Before They Start**

Rapid ecological and social changes are increasing the risk of emerging threats, from infectious diseases to drought and other environmental disasters. This initiative will use information and technology to empower communities to predict and prevent emerging threats before they become local, regional, or global crises. Google.org's initial focus is on emerging infectious diseases, which are on the rise worldwide. Climate change, deforestation, and rising international travel and trade all contribute to this threat. Moreover, humans and animals are coming into closer contact because of environmental degradation and increased demand for animal products. Nearly three out of four new diseases spread from animals to humans. While everyone faces increasing risk from emerging infectious diseases, the world's poor – who have minimal or no access to health care and may live with and depend on animals for their livelihood – are exceptionally vulnerable and stand to suffer the most. Today, emerging diseases are generally detected once they are already entrenched in the human population, and response systems are often slow and uneven. This initiative supports the move from a reactive to a proactive response to emerging threats.



<http://www.google.org/predict.html>

### **Virginia Volunteerism Statistics Online**

On average, Virginia's 1.6 million volunteers dedicated 233.2 million hours of service each year between 2005 and 2007. USA Freedom Corps and the Corporation for National Community Service have created a Web site that offers volunteering statistics and information about volunteer trends in the nation, regions, states and major cities. The site also offers customizable reports and training links at <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov>.

*Reprinted from the Oct. 8 edition of EM Update, published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.*

### **Secretary Chertoff Hosts Blogger Roundtable on Cybersecurity**

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff hosted a blogger's roundtable to talk about cybersecurity. Chertoff noted that earlier this year the President approved the cyber strategy, "which I think is a recognition of the fact that this is perhaps an area of vulnerability we have that remains the greatest challenge for us in terms of addressing."

[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1223557627643.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1223557627643.shtm)

### **Donations For Disaster Victims Made Easy**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is urging people who want to help disaster victims to make donations through voluntary organizations that are active in ongoing disaster operations. For those who don't know who to reach, there is an easy way to provide financial support, donate time and skills or donate needed products. The National Donations Management Network is a Web-based system where individuals and the private sector can offer their support online to the voluntary organizations that are actively engaged in the ongoing disaster. FEMA works in partnership with the affected states, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), the Aidmatrix Foundation and the private sector to direct donation offers to voluntary agencies in need as they support the thousands of displaced people. FEMA and Aidmatrix entered into a cooperative agreement, in 2006, to develop this donations management network. The Aidmatrix Foundation offers an online way to connect private sector or individuals wanting to offer support to the leading organizations in humanitarian relief. The National Donations Management Network is located at [www.fema.gov/donations](http://www.fema.gov/donations). Visitors to this site have the option to direct their

donation to national level voluntary agencies or directly to the affected states who are managing their own state aid portals. For information on the voluntary agencies that play a vital role in disaster recovery, visit the NVOAD site at [www.NVOAD.org](http://www.NVOAD.org).  
<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=46287>

### Army Launches Preparedness Campaign

The U.S. Army last month launched the Ready Army campaign, designed to prepare Army soldiers, civilians and their families at installations around the world, including the seven active duty Army bases and the Pentagon in Virginia. Ready Army is aligned with DHS' national all-hazard Ready campaign and provides an implementation guide, public service announcements, briefings, brochures, posters, emergency management kit information and readiness checklists, family emergency management planning templates, an electronic media kit, children's activities, a parent/teacher resource guide, and Web-based tools. More information is available at the Ready Army Web site, [http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/ra\\_about.htm](http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/ra_about.htm).

*Reprinted from the Oct. 22 edition of EM Update, published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.*

## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

### Current Threat Level

- The United States government's national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.
- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.
- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/Copy\\_of\\_press\\_release\\_0046.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm)

<http://vaemergency.com/>

### DHS' Fifth Annual National Preparedness Month Yields Highest Level of Support to Date

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign joined with more than 3,200 National Preparedness Month coalition members in the month of September to educate individuals, families and communities on the importance of emergency preparedness. This year's coalition of national, regional, state, and local organizations was the largest in the five year history of National Preparedness Month, and represents a 4,000 percent increase in participation to date. National Preparedness Month began in September 2004 with 80 coalition members. Participation has grown steadily each year, to include roughly 1,400 coalition members joining in 2007. The largest

area of growth has been from nonprofit organizations, followed by military, faith-based and health organizations. This year, National Preparedness Month coalition members coordinated more than 420 events and activities across the country, ranging from seminars and fairs, to community outreach events, workshops, webinars, and training.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1222973545857.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1222973545857.shtm)

### **National Cyber Security Awareness Month**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Cyber Security Division sponsored the fifth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month in October, designed to educate the public on the shared responsibility of protecting cyberspace. The department will recognize this important initiative through a series of events aimed at raising awareness of the ways in which citizens and businesses can better safeguard themselves in cyberspace.

Everyone can practice good cyber security in their homes and offices. Installing virus detection software and updating it as necessary, creating strong passwords and frequently changing them, backing up important files, and ignoring suspicious e-mails or websites can help protect you, your family and your business. Additional tips are available at <http://www.staysafeonline.info/>.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1222952298056.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1222952298056.shtm)

[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1222891846689.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1222891846689.shtm)

### **Treasury Releases Report on Terrorism**

The United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control released the "Calendar Year 2007 Annual Report on Assets in the United States of Terrorist Countries and International Terrorism Program Designees" on Oct. 9.

<http://treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/reports/tar2007.pdf>

### **HHS Announces New Steps in Anthrax Preparedness**

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced on Oct. 1 two new actions in the department's ongoing activities to bolster the nation's preparedness for a potential outdoor anthrax attack. In development since March of this year, the steps being implemented build upon more than a decade of preparedness efforts across HHS and other agencies of the federal government. The first of the actions focuses on United States Postal Service letter carriers who volunteer to deliver medicines directly to residences in their communities during an emergency. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and HHS Secretary Leavitt have invoked their authority under section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to make the determination and declaration of emergency required by law in order for HHS' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to consider issuing an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) allowing eligible letter carriers to receive kits containing small quantities of antibiotics for future use by them and other members of their households during an anthrax emergency. These antibiotics would help protect volunteers against contracting anthrax if, following an outdoor anthrax attack, the Postal Service was called upon to deliver the same life-saving antibiotics directly to homes across their community where people may have been exposed to the bacterium that causes anthrax. Although no imminent threat currently exists, these legal actions would enable FDA to issue a EUA. In a related action, Secretary Leavitt also issued a declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) that provides liability protection for activities related to developing, manufacturing, distributing, prescribing, dispensing, administering and using anthrax countermeasures in preparation for, and in response to, a potential anthrax attack. This includes entities, such as large "big-box" retail stores, retail pharmacies, and other private sector businesses, that help to deliver and distribute medicines. Providing liability protection to all involved in such efforts will help ensure their full participation and bolster response efforts.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/10/20081001a.html>

## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **Feds to Publish Fusion Center Guidelines**

The government is scheduled to publish guidance this week for state and local intelligence fusion centers on how to achieve the baseline capabilities necessary to share terrorism and law enforcement data as part of the federal information-sharing environment. The Justice Department is set to publish the "Baseline Capabilities for State and Major Urban Area Fusion Centers," created by a federal advisory committee that also wrote the original guidelines

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.

for those centers. The guidance, which will be published as an addendum to the original document, was created with input from multiple federal agencies and state and local authorities. The document obtained by Federal Computer Week will give fusion centers – the focus of the government’s strategy for sharing terrorism-related information with state and local authorities – guidance on how to share terrorism-related intelligence and handle suspicious activity reporting in ways that meet federal standards.

[http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1\\_1/33792-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/33792-1.html)

### **Metro to Begin Bag Searches**

The Metro Transit Police Department will begin conducting random bag searches and peek into riders’ bags for explosive devices and other illegal items. Inspections will take place at random Metro stations and bus stops at various times of the day. In light of the upcoming election and presidential inauguration, Metro police said they will be upping such security efforts throughout the transit system. On Monday, Oct. 27, large red and white signs outlining the security initiative were posted at Metro station entrances. Randomly-picked passengers will undergo inspection before entering a rail station or getting on a bus. Before launching the inspection program, Metro police met with Transportation Security Administration officials and transit agencies in New York, Boston and New Jersey where police inspect passengers’ belongings. Belongings up for inspection include briefcases, backpacks, boxes, gym bags, shopping bags, suitcases and purses.

[www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2008/10/27/daily12.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2008/10/27/daily12.html)

### **National Retail Federation Prepares Retailers for Emergencies**

The D.C.-based trade group’s loss prevention team has partnered with the International Council of Shopping Centers and the Department of Homeland Security to create emergency response protocols for retailers to react, respond and recover from incidents of in-store violence. The guidelines were distributed to attendees of the NRF’s Loss Prevention Summit in Dallas on October 14 and 15. Incidents involving gun violence at shopping centers during the last two months in Tyler, Texas and Knoxville, Tennessee left one man dead and at least one other man injured. There are more than 1.6 million retail establishments in the U.S., employing 24 million people – about one in five workers in the country – and that number increases during the holidays.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2008/10/20/daily15.html>

### **DHS Rule Could Make IT Items Harder to Import**

Computers, software and related devices could become more expensive and more difficult to bring into the United States under a rule proposed by the Homeland Security Department, according to makers and shippers of such equipment. U.S. Customs and Border Protection is expected to issue a final version of its so-called “10+2” rule by year’s end. It would require importers and carriers to file additional information about shipments electronically before they arrive in the United States. The initial proposal was released in January. Information technology, communications companies and trade groups say the rule, while providing some benefits, could slow innovation and make their products more costly.

[http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1\\_1/33784-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/33784-1.html)

### **Reorganizing U.S. Domestic Intelligence: Assessing the Options**

One of the questions in the fight against terrorism is whether the United States needs a dedicated domestic intelligence agency separate from law enforcement, on the model of many comparable democracies. To examine this issue, Congress directed that the Department of Homeland Security perform an independent study on the feasibility of creating a counterterrorism intelligence agency and the department turned to the RAND Corporation for this analysis but asked it specifically not to make a recommendation. This volume lays out the relevant considerations for creating such an agency.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG767.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG767.pdf)

### **Mass Notifications from Alert Systems Cause Problems**

Here’s an interesting article from Governing.com about the use of local emergency alert systems and “TMI” – too much information. The article specifically cites Arlington County, Va. and Washington, D.C. “... mass-notification systems also can pose problems. Irritated residents who feel like their local government is spamming them may be

tempted to unsubscribe. And that would only make a true emergency more dangerous.”

<http://www.governing.com/articles/0810glimpse.htm>

### **New Zealand Exporters Taking Business Continuity Seriously**

The New Zealand Herald has published the results of a DHL survey that looked at the business continuity practices of New Zealand exporters. 67 percent of 485 exporters surveyed by DHL have a business continuity plan and, of these, 73 percent have tested their plan. According to The New Zealand Herald, “technical failure, such as with IT infrastructure, telecoms or manufacturing equipment, was cited as the main cause of business interruption, affecting 59 percent of respondents. This was followed by power outages, at 38 percent.” 58 percent of respondents have experienced an outage lasting half a day or less in the last 12 months and 13 percent have experienced major downtime lasting more than half a day.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=10532165](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=10532165)

### **Staffing and Budget Troubles Hurt DHS IT Management**

The Homeland Security Department has significantly improved oversight of its information technology investments, but staffing shortages and inconsistent budget and management practices at the department's individual agencies thwart more coordination, according to a report the DHS inspector general released in late September. Comment on this article in The Forum, The IG credited the department with better defining the chief information officer's responsibilities and authority and strengthening the management structure and reporting relationships the department CIO has with the chief information officers at DHS' 22 component agencies. But the department still has yet to hire enough staff needed to properly manage the IT infrastructure and oversee projects, the IG reported. In December 2007, the DHS Office of the CIO had authority to hire 111 employees to support more than 208,000 employees, but the office filled only 71 of those positions, or 64 percent. In addition, the office has had a difficult time retaining the IT staff it does hire, the IG said. The turnover rate for the past two years has been about 47 percent.

[http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20080930\\_4803.php?zone=itsecurity](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20080930_4803.php?zone=itsecurity)

### **DHS Awards Contract to National Interest Security Company for Infrastructure Protection**

An \$8.2 million contract to assist the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in protecting the nation's critical infrastructure, information technology, and communications infrastructure has been awarded to Technology & Management Services Inc. (TMS), a portfolio company of National Interest Security Company LLC (NISC), Fairfax, Va., a technology, information management and management technology consulting services/solutions company.

[http://hstoday.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=5478&Itemid=187](http://hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5478&Itemid=187)

### **Congress Puts Hold on DHS Projects**

Concerned about the management of major programs, Congress placed a temporary hold on hundreds of millions of dollars allocated for several large projects at the Homeland Security Department until certain conditions for improvements are met. Congress' detailed instructions were included in the continuing resolution signed by President Bush that included fiscal 2009 appropriations for DHS. For example, of the \$1 billion approved for the Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater Systems ship replacement program, \$550 million is being withheld pending submission of an expenditure plan, among other items. Similarly, of \$775 million approved for the Secure Border Initiative, which includes the SBInet high-tech surveillance system along with physical fencing and vehicle barriers, \$400 million is to be withheld pending submission of detailed progress report and plans. In addition, \$75 million is being held back from the \$300 million allotted for the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology that collects fingerprints from foreign visitors.

[http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1\\_1/33675-1.html?topic=homeland&CMP=OTC-RSS](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/33675-1.html?topic=homeland&CMP=OTC-RSS)

### **Private Sector Can Control Risks of Cyberattack**

Companies can “mitigate the economic impact of cyberattacks,” reports Government Executive, citing a new report by the American National Standards Institute and the Internet Security Alliance. And “if industry fails to team with the federal government to address national cyber concerns, consumer trust could deteriorate, bringing dire consequences like the recent fallout in the financial market, said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff.”

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=41227&dcn=e\\_hsw](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41227&dcn=e_hsw)

### **Maryland Put 53 Nonviolent Protestors on Terror List**

The Washington Post reported that the Maryland State Police classified 53 nonviolent activists as terrorists and entered their names and personal information into state and federal databases that track terrorism suspects.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/07/AR2008100703245.html>

### **Data-Mining for Terrorists Not Feasible DHS Study Finds**

The government should not be building predictive data-mining programs systems that attempt to figure out who among millions is a terrorist, a privacy and terrorism commission funded by Homeland Security reported. The commission found that the technology would not work and the inevitable mistakes would be un-American. The committee, created by the National Research Council in 2005, also expressed doubts about the effectiveness of technology designed to decide from afar whether a person had terrorist intents, saying false positives could quickly lead to privacy invasions.

<http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/10/data-mining-for.html>

### **Next-Gen Homeland Security Information Network Is at Risk, Says GAO**

The Homeland Security Department halted further improvements on the existing Homeland Security Information Network a year ago and has continued to operate and maintain it while a replacement—Homeland Security Information Network Next Gen—is being planned and acquired, reports the Government Accountability Office. However, unless management of the Next Gen project is improved, it “will be at increased risk of operating in an ad hoc and chaotic manner—potentially resulting in increased project costs, delayed schedules, and performance shortfalls.”

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-40>

### **The Department of Defense Activates the Defense Media Activity (DMA)**

Borne out of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission’s 2005 conclusions, the DMA places internal information programs – the Army Broadcasting Service, Soldiers Radio/TV, the Soldiers Media Center, the Naval Media Center, the Air Force News Agency, Marine Corps internal information assets and the Army/Air Force Hometown News Service – with the American Forces Information Service into one activity which will be located at Ft. Meade, Md., in 2011. DMA will work under the direction of the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

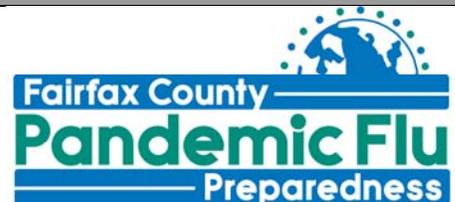
<http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=12295>

## PANDEMIC FLU

### **Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness**

Be sure to visit the county’s pandemic flu Web page for information on upcoming events and other preparedness news.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/>



### **FDA Clears New CDC Test to Detect Human Influenza**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared a new test developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to diagnose human influenza infections and the highly pathogenic influenza A (H5N1) viruses. The device, called the Human Influenza Virus Real-Time RT-PCR Detection and Characterization Panel (rRT-PCR Flu Panel), uses a molecular biology technique to detect flu virus and differentiate between seasonal and novel influenza. The device is used to isolate and amplify viral genetic material present in secretions taken from a patient’s nose or throat. The viral genetic material is labeled with fluorescent molecules, which are then detected and analyzed by a diagnostic instrument called the Applied Biosystems 7500 Fast Dx, also cleared today by the FDA for diagnostic use simultaneously with the CDC’s rRT-PCR Flu Panel. The test panel and diagnostic system can detect and identify commonly circulating human influenza viruses as well as influenza A (H5N1) viruses. Results can be available within four hours and the system can test multiple samples at once.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/09/20080930a.html>

### **UN-World Bank Releases Global Progress Report on Pandemic Influenza Readiness**

The 2008 UN-World Bank Global progress reports on responses to highly pathogenic avian influenza and the state of pandemic influenza readiness is now available. The United Nations System Influenza Coordinator (UNSCIC) and the World Bank agreed to produce this a Fourth Global Progress Report on Responses to Avian Influenza and State of Pandemic Readiness in response to requests from participants at the New Delhi International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza which took place during December 2007. The report focuses on progress with responses to avian influenza and with pandemic preparedness between June 2007 and June 2008. Where data allow, the report looks back over the last three years. It also i) describes international financial assistance provided to date; ii) assesses national capacities to respond to HPAI and prepare for the next influenza pandemic; iii) analyzes implications of this progress for animal and human health and iv) recommends some key next steps.

<http://www.un-influenza.org/node/2340>

Summary of the report: <http://un-influenza.org/files/081006-Synopsis2008.pdf>

### **Worry That Avian Flu Could be Made Into a Bio-Weapon is not at all an Irrational Worry**

When Indonesia's Health Minister, Siti Fadilah Supari, raised concerns earlier this month that a U.S. lab could use avian flu viruses from birds in her country to make bio-weapons, it provoked a storm of protest among legitimate bird flu researchers and howls from some U.S. officials, like Defense Secretary and former CIA Director Robert Gates. But it also reminded some counterterror intelligence authorities of a potential bio-threat that's been of concern to them and others. What Supari was actually referring to was a U.S. export regulation that prohibits vaccines for avian bird flu and dozens of other viruses from being sent to five countries designated as "state sponsors of terrorism" without special licensing. HSToday discussed this and other export concerns involving lethal viruses and other pathogens in the March 2007 report, "Viral Visions." That avian flu could be made into a bio-weapon is not at all an irrational worry, as the HSToday report pointed out, and as CT intelligence officials continue to closely monitor.

[http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=5703&Itemid=149](http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5703&Itemid=149)

### **Lloyds Publishes Report on Pandemic Impacts**

The Emerging Risks Team at Lloyd's has issued a new report on the threat posed by a global pandemic. Its report "Pandemic - Potential Insurance Impacts" focuses on the threat to the global business community and, in particular, the insurance markets of a global pandemic. Trevor Maynard, manager, Emerging Risks, at Lloyd's and the report's author says, "The significant message is that society should not optimize to one particular scenario as a worst case. Much has been said of the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic, which is said to have killed up to 100 million people worldwide. While Avian Flu is seen as the most likely next pandemic, we have to ensure we are prepared for other types of pandemics that may require different responses and pose different challenges — some of which may well have higher rates of mortality than flu." The report explores the threat of pandemic in terms of insured losses, with Maynard saying the economic impact could be significant depending on the scenario.

<http://tinyurl.com/6dzn98>

### **GAO: HHS Needs to Continue Its Actions and Finalize Guidance for Pharmaceutical Interventions**

The Department of Health and Human Services plans a national stockpile of 75 million treatment courses of antivirals primarily to treat "individuals sick with influenza," reports the Government Accountability Office. The department also "intends to oversee the distribution and administration of pre-pandemic vaccine to" 20 million "individuals identified as members of the critical workforce." This would "keep society functioning until ... a vaccine specific to the pandemic-causing strain [is] widely available"—which could take 20 to 23 weeks. HHS is working on guidance for priority vaccination and would also depend on state and local "nonpharmaceutical interventions, such as isolation" and quarantine.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-671>

## **TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES**

### **Risk and Crisis Communication in the 21st Century—Are We Ready?**

Nov. 3; Washington, D.C.

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This forum will examine changes and progress in risk and crisis communications, looming opportunities and threats to watch for, and practical applications for policy and practice. Through expert perspectives and small group interaction, it will address top trends, best practices, and “futures-framework.”

<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Crisis-Communication-21st-Century.html>

### **7th International Bird Flu Summit**

Nov. 13-14; Las Vegas, Nev.

Attendees will draw on firsthand best practices to create the solid business continuity plans that their companies and organizations need in order to prepare for, respond to, and survive a pandemic.

<http://www.new-fields.com/birdflu7/>

### **How to Deal With New WMD Scenarios**

Nov. 13-14; Arlington, Va.

Featuring lessons learned from an actual event involving weapons of mass destruction, the workshop will detail crisis response, site management, decontamination and remediation, and site release so that attendees can include this information in their disaster response plans and exercises.

<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Deal-With-New-WMD-Scenarios.html>

### **Emergency Preparedness for Facilities**

Nov. 17-18; Arlington, Va.

This workshop offers basic preparedness training for corporate headquarters, public, commercial, educational, health care, manufacturing, banking, hospitality, airport, and other business sectors, providing strategic knowledge and tactical resources to prepare for, and recover from, an emergency or disaster.

[http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Emergency-Preparedness\\_Nov08.html](http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Emergency-Preparedness_Nov08.html)

### **National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134)

### **Virginia Emergency Management Courses**

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

### **FEMA Independent Study Courses**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

### **American Red Cross Disaster Services Training**

[http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)

## LINKS

### **Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources**

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - <http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

### **DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, “S&T Snapshots,” featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)**

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based “Daily OSIR,” which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title “Current Report.” This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title “DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report.” This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at: [http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### **Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page**

The county’s emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

### **Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)



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Emergency Information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county’s outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county’s ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to [jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov) and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at [merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Thanks for your partnership with Fairfax County. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you.

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