

SECURE COMMONWEALTH PANEL MEETING

October 8, 2008

Virginia Port Authority Police Department Headquarters

Attendance: Paula Burnette, Eric Casey, Bob Crouch, Kay Goss, Jim Horton, Algie Howell, Dan Jenkins, Ron Keys, John Knapp, Greg Lucyk, Dario Marquez, Tom Martin, Bob McDonnell/Cathie Hutchins, John O'Bannon, Karen Remley, Norris Royston, Beverly Sherwood, David Smith, Henry Stanley.

Bob Crouch opened the meeting by welcoming the panel to Norfolk and thanking them for their attendance. Bob introduced and thanked our hosts, Ed Merkle, Director of Security for the Port Authority and Chief Andy Engemann, Chief of Police for the Port Authority.

Ed Merkle provided an overview on the Port of Virginia. Please see PowerPoint presentation and video.

Bob Crouch introduced the Attorney General, Bob McDonnell. General McDonnell said a few words to the panel and thanked them for attending.

2008 HURRICANE SEASON UPDATE

Please see the PowerPoint presentations.

Bob Crouch remarked on the following:

- The new Regional Catastrophic Planning Grants in which Hampton Roads was awarded \$4.325 million for the purpose of using this new surge data to address issues such as sheltering and refugees of last resort.
- The Governor was able to budget funding for the completion of the Army Corps of Engineers study in 2007.
- A conference call was held in August between the Hampton Roads Mayors/Board of Supervisors and the Governor regarding this study's data and discussed worst case scenarios.

A question was raised regarding opening local shelters.

- The locality makes the decision on whether to open shelters and asks the state for help only if they require assistance.
- The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) works very closely with the jurisdiction and has used this new data in this study to increase shelter planning.

Ron Keys from the City of Norfolk commented that it's just not identifying a shelter, but identifying the team that works in the shelter. The staff is a big part of the operation and could work 12 hours on and 12 hours off. This includes medical and security personnel. The City works closely with schools and their staffs as well.

A question was raised about special medical needs evacuation.

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) works closely with local hospitals on their preparedness plans and on preparing hospitals for evacuation (i.e. canceling surgeries 30 hours out from a storm and preparing for an evacuation).
- VDH has reviewed nursing homes and hospital's plans to make sure they are adequate by using the FEMA gap analysis tool and de-conflicting any problem areas.
- VDH is working with physicians to engage them in preparedness planning with their patients.
- VDH coordinates with a cross-agency group of state agencies on this preparedness effort such as Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, VDEM, and Department of Social Services (DSS) and also works through local health districts across the Commonwealth.

A discussion ensued about reversing lanes during an evacuation.

- There are no special lane provisions for special medical needs.
- The City of Norfolk will be busing citizens out of Norfolk before the lane reversal is ordered...well before 30 hours out.
- Lane reversal exercises have been conducted by key state agencies involved in a lane reversal evacuation such as VDOT and Virginia State Police two years running, both exercises revealed lessons learned, but were successful.

The panel discussed sheltering. Bob Crouch informed the panel that the State Fair will be moving next year to Caroline County and this will open up the fairgrounds to become a state managed shelter if needed. Funding has been acquired to assist in shelter facility upgrades. A Memorandum of Understanding between the State Fair and the Commonwealth is in place.

Faith based organizations help out with sheltering by using their larger facilities such as campgrounds.

FEMA does pre-position emergency supplies before a storm, i.e. bottled water. If the supplies are not used, they are returned to FEMA, which may pose a problem. FEMA is trying to give away supplies that were organized for the hurricanes this year in the Gulf to voluntary organizations.

The special needs population will be co-located in state managed shelters. Every state managed shelter has a special medical needs area. The state is working with Goodwill to rework equipment and has partnered with pharmacies and the Medical Reserve Corps to assist if shelters are opened.

A lesson learned from Hurricane Ike was the number of sick people who are at home. Plans need to be evolved to address this area. This type of population is not going to be a perfect person for a shelter. There are cracks.

A question was raised on the timeframe of keeping open a shelter.

- A shelter will be open for 30 days. Case Management/Recovery Teams are in shelters to assist in housing needs (Department of Housing Community Development, Housing Authority).
- The federal government does have medical stations consisting of 6 to 25 beds that can be constructed/mobilized around the country. VDH will manage this effort.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT (EMAC) PROCESS

Please see PowerPoint slides.

The state has 13 pods at the Virginia Distribution Center for emergency disaster supplies.

A question was raised on the status of reimbursements from other states in regard to EMAC services the Commonwealth has provided.

- All reimbursements have been paid except Mississippi; VDEM is still waiting for the \$1 million owed to the Commonwealth.
- Reimbursements are usually within the 30 day timeframe. VDEM is responsible for these reimbursements.

On the medical side, most hospitals are not governmentally controlled so there are cracks. VDH dispensed nurses from UVA/VCU during Hurricane Katrina through the EMAC process. The Medical Reserve Corps in Virginia can also be mobilized during disasters through EMAC.

After Hurricane Katrina, there was major tweaking to the EMAC process and legislation was enacted regarding liability.

Norris Royston discussed the option of retired doctors who still want to contribute during a crisis, but liability issues exist. Bob Crouch asked Dr. Royston to work this through his sub panel. Although some retired doctors have not kept up their licenses they are still able to serve in the Medical Reserve Corps as volunteers.

AFTER ACTION REPORT PROCESS

Please see PowerPoint slides.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUB PANEL REPORT

Please see PowerPoint slides and handouts.

FIRST RESPONDER SUB PANEL REPORT

Please see handouts.

Panel members were asked to vote on supporting proposed legislation for the General Assembly Session in 2009 (Please review handouts).

The first legislative proposal was on mutual aid agreements and amending the *Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-1736* to include private university police departments. Colonel

Stanley made a motion for the panel to endorse. Dario Marquez 2nd the motion. The panel voted unanimously on supporting this piece of legislation.

The panel then discussed Colonel Stanley's legislation proposal number two which would amend the *Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-1724* to add private university police departments to the legislation, delete the contiguous jurisdiction limitation, and add full police powers to responding officers. The panel suggested to Colonel Stanley to re-work the wording and bring it back to the panel at the December meeting.

The panel discussed the third proposed legislation prohibiting retailers from the sale or distribution for retail sale or promotion in Virginia on novelty lighters. Eric Casey voiced concerns about endorsing legislation to stop a business from making money. The panel did not rush to embrace this proposed legislation and asked Colonel Stanley to go back and re-work this through his sub panel.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SUB PANEL REPORT

Following Hurricane Isabel, an anti-price gouging act was passed. After Hurricane Ike, a reported 2,300 calls were received by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) regarding price and gas gouging. VDACS processed these calls and consulted with the Office of the Attorney General if needed. There are unmitigated circumstances that occur during a crisis. For instance, during the last hurricane event, gas stations ran out of fuel because they would not buy gas from wholesalers at the high dollar prices. On the other hand, those gas companies who did buy the high dollar gas and then sell the gas to the public at high prices are suspected of price gouging.

The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is looking at a web-based tool to manage donated goods.

The Business and Industry Sub Panel may have proposed legislation for the General Assembly session in 2009 and will ask for the panel's endorsement at the December 10 meeting. The concept is providing relief and liability protection to corporations/business entities that respond to disasters through their assets, like providing backhoes, refrigerated trucks, etc.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION SUB PANEL REPORT

The Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Strategic Plan was approved in May and the implementation process has begun and should be completed in a year, May '09. The most complicated process is the creation of 18 sector specific plans. All 18 sector leads have been identified and the teams are moving forward.

The next steps will be discussed at the November meeting that will include the sub panel members and the 18 sector leads.

John Knapp discussed a trip to Mount Weather last month with the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and the Governor's Cabinet. Mount Weather is located

between the mountains of Loudoun and Clarke Counties. It is operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and functions as a main relocation site for the highest level civilian and military officials. After the events of September 11, there were many lessons learned and plans now are in place and are exercised to get people to this location in a timely manner. It is like a federal express package – you pick up the package and deliver the package. Contracts are in place for transportation of people albeit by air, water, or train. It is important to remember those individuals who are relocated to Mount Weather must have credentials unlike those of the First Responder Authentication Card or the Transportation Workers Identification Credential talked about earlier to allow them access to pick up sites, side checkpoints, and access points. Also, Virginia infrastructure is critical to this process, along with dedicated resources.

OUTREACH SUB PANEL REPORT

Please see PowerPoint slides.

Bob Crouch would like the Outreach sub panel to explore advertising the Ready Virginia website on the websites of the Virginia Associations of Counties (VACO) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML). Paula Burnette was attending the next VACO meeting after the election and will bring this to the board's attention.

VDEM will be presenting "Emergency Management 101" at the next VACO and VML conferences.

The Outreach Sub Panel would like to create a speakers list of those qualified individuals that can be dispensed to community outreach events. The Sub Panel might want to consider using the VDH local health districts as a model.

The Education Working Group would like to modify the popular National Fire Protection Association's Risk Watch Program to incorporate Virginia specific events. For more information on this program, please visit <http://riskwatch.org/>.

The floor was open for discussion on outreach issues.

A concern was heard about paying for emergency management personnel and equipment at major events; however, due to budget cuts agencies need to cut funding for such events.

Bob Crouch thanked the panel members for a good meeting. Bob discussed the format for next year by having three meetings; the first in the March/April timeframe in Winchester hosted by Delegate Sherwood, a summer meeting in Blacksburg, and ending in the fall in Richmond. A calendar will be issued shortly.

The next meeting of the panel is December 10 in Richmond.