



SECURE COMMONWEALTH PANEL

April 27, 2011 Meeting Summary

I. ATTENDEES

Attendees: Terrie Suit, Bill Bolling, Paul Conway, Marla Decker, Joseph Bouchard, Carrie Cantrell, Paul Conway, Creigh Deeds, Keith Hare, Cathie Hutchins, Kelly Hobbs, Jim Horton, Algie Howell, Joe Inge, Karen Jackson, Edward Macon, Dario Marquez, Bert Mizusawa, John O'Bannon, Jim Redick, David Tyeryar, Margaret Vanderhye, David Waldman, John Watkins, Barclay Winn

II. MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Time: April 27, 2011 1300-1500

Location: State Capitol

III. MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting commenced at 1300

Terrie Suit, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order, and provided opening remarks and introductions

Joe Inge nominated Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling for vice chair of the Secure Commonwealth Panel. The motion was seconded and put to a vote, which passed unanimously.

Sub Panel Update

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Mike McAllister provided an update on the activities of the First Responder, Sheltering/Evacuation, Business Industry sub panel as well as the Critical Infrastructure, Information Sharing, and Outreach sub panel.

Steve Harrison, Virginia Department of Health, provided an update on the Health and Human Resources sub panel. The sub panel met on April 8 during which the FEMA Deputy Administrator, discussed FEMA's role during a declared emergency. A holistic approach to emergency preparedness with increased community involvement was stressed along with the need to promote the development of facility specific emergency plans

The State Managed Shelter (SMS) plan was discussed and Mr. Harrison noted that the Virginia Department of Health has developed a Public Health and Medical Shelter annex to address the special needs component of SMS. Discussion amongst the panel centered on the requirement for all medical facilities to provide all services. It was mentioned that the state facilities were only one portion of the emergency medical resources and that local facilities and organizations may be liable if not fully

equipped to provide all services. A question was raised regarding the state's "Good Samaritan" legislation

The panel inquired into the state's methods for notifying the public in the event of an emergency. Several websites that provide information were identified and it was noted that public address announcements are in place to guide citizens during emergency situations. It was determined that the state did indeed have that type of legislation; however, it has not been used in an American with Disabilities Act case. Cathie Hutchins from the Attorney General's Office volunteered to look into the issue and add it to the next meeting agenda.

The panel raised questions about the Commonwealth's actions following the emergency situation in Japan. A comprehensive review of training procedures and communication between the state and its citizens has been initiated. The Virginia Department of Health has also begun to develop new procedures for radiation testing and screening.

The effects of the tornadoes that struck Virginia were discussed and the response at all levels was lauded by the panel members. A representative from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management pointed out that the recovery role is ongoing and that debris continues to be a problem for localities.

National Terrorism Alert System (NTAS) Update

Chuck Marino, Law Enforcement Advisor to Secretary Napolitano, briefed the panel on the new National Terrorism Alert System. The new system seeks to include more participation at the state level especially with those most affected by an alert message. The stakeholders will receive more detailed information than the general public. With the arrival of the new alert system, it was determined that the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group needs to develop new SOPs for the NTAS system.

Presentation

John Guandolo, Vice President of Strategic Engagement, gave an independent presentation on terrorist threat related topics.

IV. MEETING ADJOURNED

Chairwoman Suit provided closing comments and thanked everyone for their time. The meeting officially adjourned at 1503.