



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY



Testimony Submitted by:
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Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Peter Boynton and I am Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET:

Under Governor Malloy's current budget proposal, DEMHS would be consolidated into the Department of Public Safety.

DEMHS FUNCTIONS: The work of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, or DEMHS, can be divided into four main functions:

1. Sustain and enhance federal grant and disaster assistance funding, particularly funding for municipalities and first responders;
2. Continue collaboration, coordination and integration with municipalities and other partners;
3. Emergency Management, particularly continued enhancement of emergency management in support of local municipalities; and
4. Homeland Security, particularly addressing the evolving terrorist threat.

FEDERAL FUNDING: This DEMHS function is to sustain and enhance federal grant and disaster assistance funding. Grant responsibilities have grown since the agency's inception in 2005 from four major programs to twelve as of July 2010 (these 12 major programs consist of 20 individual active grants.) DEMHS is designated as the 'State Administrative Agency' to coordinate federal funding related to homeland security and emergency management. DEMHS federal funding activity since 2005 has resulted in over \$215 million in federal funds for local and state emergency management and homeland security programs. For every general fund dollar spent on DEMHS, there is a return of \$7 to \$8 in federal funds. These funds include federal disaster aid for individuals and towns worth over \$18 million that was successfully sought and received in 2010 alone.

Another key to success in obtaining federal grants has been the development of a measurable state-wide strategic plan that was created with input from local, state, federal and non-governmental partners in Connecticut.

Federal funds are used to fill gaps in programs and services, and to make enhancements to proven emergency management and homeland security initiatives across all first responder disciplines. Between 70-80% of federal grant funds go to local communities for these purposes.

CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH MUNICIPALITIES: DEMHS was formed by the General Assembly in order to improve collaboration between municipalities and state agencies in the areas of emergency management and homeland security.

One of the major reasons for the state's success in obtaining federal emergency management and homeland security funding is the emphasis that DEMHS and its partners have put on regionalization of planning with local towns. Working with local municipalities, DEMHS established a Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) in each of 5 DEMHS regions around the state. The REPTs include representatives from each town in the region and from relevant disciplines (e.g. fire, police, public works, public health and emergency management). Each team works collaboratively through their respective municipal Chief Executive Officers to identify and support regional projects. Resource sharing and cost effective programs are hallmarks of the regionalization initiative which builds on Connecticut's strong mutual aid tradition.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: This function includes the coordination of a comprehensive state disaster response to all hazards, integrated across all disciplines and all levels of government. The Emergency Management Division includes the following units: Operations, Radiological Emergency Preparedness, Communications, and Urban Search and Rescue. In 2010, the Governor activated the State Emergency Operations Center for numerous incidents including: the Kleen Energy Plant explosion in Middletown and the March severe flooding and wind events across the State. Presidential major disaster declaration requests and appeals in 2010 have resulted in over \$18 million in federal disaster assistance to local and state governments and Connecticut businesses and residents. 2011 has already proven to be a busy year for DEMHS, with seven winter storm activations of the State Emergency Operations Center in 7 weeks. DEMHS has prepared a request for Governor Malloy to submit for a Presidential major disaster declaration for Snow Assistance.

As described above, DEMHS coordinates responses to emergency events through the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Over the last year, DEMHS has improved the procedures for coordinating responses and supporting municipalities by developing a State Response Framework (SRF). The procedures in the SRF will continue to be strengthened over the next year. Exercises such as the state-wide Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), testing the ability of over 70 state agencies to function in a degrading environment, have also helped improve our resiliency. A two year effort to establish large-scale debris management contracts and procedures necessary in the event of a major hurricane has been completed and will be continued.

DEMHS, with its local partners, have established 5 Regional Emergency Planning Teams, one in each DEMHS Region, made up of local municipal and subject matter leaders, and described in more detail above, to plan and work together. The DEMHS Emergency Management Division operates five Regional Offices which serve as direct points of contact to local jurisdictions to provide, among other things:

- Distribution of warning and emergency information to local jurisdictions;
- Collection, verification and consolidation of local emergency situation reports and requests for assistance;
- Assistance to local jurisdictions in regional budget development and funding requests;
- Assistance to local governments in requesting training and exercise development assistance;
- Guidance and assistance to local governments in Emergency Support Plan development, review, and revision.

HOMELAND SECURITY: The federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the FBI have advised over the last year that the U.S. faces a persistent, generalized threat due to homegrown and foreign-based extremism. Further, they advise that the terrorist threat has diversified in terms of sources of the threat, methods used, and targets. Over the last 18 months, more than a dozen publicly acknowledged attacks or attempted attacks have occurred within the United States.

The profile of attacks has changed to being carried out by small groups or individuals, increasingly by U.S. born or U.S. raised individuals without a criminal or violent history or apparent connection to violent extremist groups. Recent attempted attacks have been on a smaller scale and proceeded quickly, with less extensive pre-operational planning than previous attempts and with fewer linkages to international terrorist organizations. Smaller scale attacks require less planning and fewer preoperational steps and therefore present fewer opportunities for detection prior to the attack.

Connecticut's proximity to New York City is a special challenge, as demonstrated by the Times Square bomber, Faisal Shahzad, who launched his attempted attack from his Connecticut home.

DEMHS uses resources within state government, in coordination with local, tribal, federal and private sector partners, to develop unified safety and security measures to deter, prevent, mitigate and manage criminal and/or terrorist incidents threatening the quality of life of the citizens of Connecticut. DEMHS has established an Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT), which is composed of three main elements:

- **CONNECTICUT INTELLIGENCE CENTER**, or CTIC, is one of 72 fusion centers around the country, serves as the state's fusion center, and is comprised of state, local and federal partners. The CTIC serves to collect, analyze and disseminate sensitive criminal and terrorism related intelligence to authorized agencies, including appropriate partners within the first responder and private sector communities. The role of CTIC is to serve as the conduit for sharing information between state and local agencies, including law

enforcement, private and public sectors, as well as between the CTIC and our Federal partners. This year, DEMHS, working with state and federal partners, created a Privacy, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Protection Policy that is designed to, among other things, promote CTIC agency and user conduct that complies with applicable law and assists CTIC and its users in protecting individual privacy, civil rights, civil liberties, and other protected interests.

Close collaboration with municipal Police Departments is a critical element in addressing the evolution of the threat. This is being done in part in collaboration with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association through the full-time assignment of 5 local police officers to CTIC (this is recognized nationally as a 'best practice'). These Regional Intelligence Liaison Officers (RILOs) operate as liaisons with the municipalities. At present the RILO's have developed over 175 ILO's, representing municipal and state law enforcement.

CTIC analysts are responsible for vetting Suspicious Activity Reports from the public, law enforcement and private sectors. Credible criminal incidents, including CTIC analytic assessments, are forwarded to the applicable law enforcement agency; credible terrorism threats are forwarded to the New Haven FBI/JTTF.

- JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE (JTTF) – The Joint Terrorism Task Force is an FBI task force, composed of local, state and federal investigators who are dedicated to combating terrorist activities within the state.
- CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION UNIT -Critical infrastructure sites in Connecticut include those public and private entities (both physical and cyber-based systems) that are essential to maintaining minimal operational capabilities of government, and are necessary to the well being of the economy. The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit within DEMHS identifies these key assets; assesses their vulnerability; participates in multi-agency deterrence and protection activities in and around high use/highly visible public assets, and develops a mitigation strategy designed to improve security at those sites.