

Members

Rep. Linda Lawson, Chairperson
Rep. Scott Reske
Rep. Dan Stevenson
Rep. Robert Alderman
Rep. Michael Murphy
Rep. William Ruppel
Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Becky Skillman
Sen. Brandt Hershman
Sen. Rose Ann Antich
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Richard Young



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM

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Authority: HEA 1001-2002

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 12, 2002
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 130
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Linda Lawson, Chairperson; Rep. Scott Reske; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Rep. Robert Alderman; Rep. Michael Murphy; Rep. William Ruppel; Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Becky Skillman; Sen. Brandt Hershman; Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Richard Young.

Members Absent: None.

Rep. Lawson called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m. Rep. Lawson introduced Clifford Ong to the committee. Mr. Ong is the director of the state's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (C-TASC), which is the organization responsible for coordinating Indiana's response to terrorism.

Mr. Ong explained that C-TASC's work had gone through three phases. The first phase involved working with airport security, the National Guard, and the State Emergency

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Management Agency (SEMA) on issues relating to airport security and the threat of anthrax. The second phase involved recommending legislation for the 2002 legislative session. The third phase, which is ongoing, includes statewide planning and coordination on a more general level. C-TASC has had five meetings with the federal Office of Homeland Security, and participates in bi-weekly conference calls with the Office of Homeland Security. C-TASC has also been developing a critical infrastructure project to protect Indiana's critical infrastructure (highways, communications, industry) against potential threats from terrorists.

C-TASC is involved in three anti-terrorism task forces: (1) the agricultural task force, which deals with possible threats to agriculture and the food supply; (2) the heavy industry task force, which is designed to deal with threats to industry in Indiana; and (3) the public facility task force, which is tasked with protecting courts and other public buildings from potential terrorist threats.

All 92 counties in Indiana have created response plans to deal with a terrorist threat; 41 of Indiana's counties have conducted training exercises.

The state has received \$20.5 million from the federal government for dealing with bioterrorism; Indiana was one of 25 states that received its full allotment. In addition, one battalion of the National Guard has received training for handling weapons of mass destruction; two more battalions will be trained in the near future. The criminal justice institute's plan for an automated fingerprint system has also been accelerated.

In response to a question from Rep. Murphy concerning recent changes to BMV's driver's license application procedure, Mr. Ong noted that C-TASC had no statutory authority to affect BMV. Sen. Wyss observed that Indiana was one of the three easiest states in which to obtain illegal identification, which is why BMV moved so quickly. Mr. Ong also noted that BMV had removed its more comprehensive driver's license identification requirements for individuals who already have a driver's license and who have not changed addresses.

In response to a question from Sen. Skillman, Mr. Ong described the work of the public facility task force. This task force is cataloging resources available to local officials and describing "best practices" for dealing with specific threats. Since many local communities don't have the resources to deal with certain types of threats, the task force is attempting to provide assistance: for example, SEMA received a \$4 million grant which it used to purchase 16,000 hazmat suits for distribution to local communities.

Next year, Indiana is scheduled to receive \$10.5 million from the Department of Justice, part of a nationwide \$200 million grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and another bill may provide Indiana with an additional \$70 million grant.

Mr. Ong also explained that Indiana had entered into mutual aid agreements with other states, covering joint training and protocols for dealing with terrorist incidents; some federal money was available to facilitate these types of agreements. Interstate tactical cooperation is quite good, but coordination at greater levels was problematic, with the possible exception of cooperation between Lake County and Cook County. States have worked on standardizing equipment and terminology, but there are certain practical obstacles to this, such as the fact that 80% of firemen are volunteers; consequently, it is difficult to arrange training for them because of their other commitments. C-TASC was looking at the possibility of providing scholarships to help volunteer fire departments afford training; often new equipment is available at no cost, but only to units which have received specific training.

Sen. Wyss noted that Indiana had been recognized as one of the very top states in terms of terrorism preparedness.

Rep. Lawson observed that it was difficult to be well prepared when the salaries of police and firefighters were so low. Mr. Ong agreed, and noted that much of the federal grants could be used to boost salaries. The \$200 million national grant had no matching requirement, for example, while a separate \$3.5 million grant only had a 25% match requirement. In addition, 75% of this grant would pass through to local communities.

Rep. Lawson adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m.