

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: October 17, 2002
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 130
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Linda Lawson, Chairperson; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Rep. William Ruppel; Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Becky Skillman; Sen. Brandt Hershman; Sen. Allie Craycraft.

Members Absent: Rep. Scott Reske; Rep. Robert Alderman; Rep. Michael Murphy; Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Sen. Richard Young.

Rep. Lawson called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Rep. Lawson introduced Mr. Scott Mellinger to the committee. Mr. Mellinger is the executive director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, which is the institution responsible for training police officers in Indiana.

Mr. Mellinger explained that the ILEA offers a 12 week training program for police officers. Part of this training includes a two-hour block on terrorism response, taught by two FBI agents. In May of 2003, the training program will be increased to 15 weeks, and the

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terrorism response training will be increased to an eight-hour block. This training will primarily focus on the responsibility of the line officer in responding to possible terrorist incidents, such as the discovery of an unidentified white powder.

Many out of state groups also offer terrorism response training aimed at law enforcement officers. Louisiana State University is the national leader in terrorism training, and its programs are very popular, despite the fact that it is hard for many law enforcement agencies to find time to send officers for training.

Sen. Hershman noted that a local employer in his district had discovered a white powder at the workplace and sent the employees home, but was unable to reopen for a considerable period of time because of a backlog at the state laboratory. Mr. Mellinger responded that while some police departments had entered into agreements with private labs to address this situation, this practice was not widespread.

In response to a question from Sen. Hershman concerning the availability of distance learning, Mr. Mellinger testified that students can receive 40 hours of pre-basic training via interactive video conferencing, and that there is a plan to institute a 40 to 80 hour program of more advanced training using the internet. The internet training would be useful for both basic training and for inservice training.

In response to a question from Sen. Wyss about whether Purdue University's Homeland Security Division had made its computer wargaming system available to the ILEA, Mr. Mellinger testified that Purdue had not made this program available, but that the program was not directly relevant to what the ILEA needs.

Rep. Lawson next introduced Patrick Ralston, the director of the State Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Ralston explained that SEMA had received \$10 million to train first responders, such as police, emergency medical technicians, and fire and health personnel. Mr. Ralston noted that Indiana had 60,000 first responders, but only 20,000 had received training in terrorism response.

In response to a question from Sen. Skillman concerning training for dealing with hazardous materials, Mr. Ralston testified that Indiana was divided into 11 districts, with each district having a core team plus a comprehensive backup to deal with incidents involving hazardous materials. However, while Indiana is making progress in this area, it is not yet prepared for a terrorist incident.

Sen. Wyss noted that Indiana was far ahead of other states in preparing for a terrorist incident.

The committee unanimously adopted the draft of the final report. Rep. Lawson adjourned the committee at 3:30 p.m.