

**FINAL REPORT
OF THE
INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON
TERRORISM**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

November, 2002

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A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.

I. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

The Legislative Council directed the Committee to study issues related to terrorism.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met on September 12, 2002, and October 17, 2002.

III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee heard testimony from Clifford Ong, Director of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council, Scott Mellinger, Executive Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, and Patrick Ralston, Director of the State Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Ong testified that 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.

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 (the State Emergency Management Agency) 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.

Indiana has also 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.

Much of the federal grant money can be used to boost salaries, especially for local communities. 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.

Mr. Mellinger explained that the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy offered 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 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 difficult for many law enforcement agencies to find time to send officers for training.

Mr. Ralston testified 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 so far. For dealing with incidents involving hazardous materials, Indiana has been divided into 11 districts, with each district having a core team plus a comprehensive backup to deal with incidents involving hazardous materials. While Indiana has made excellent progress in this area, it is not yet prepared for a terrorist incident, although it is far ahead of other states in preparedness.

IV. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made no findings of fact.

The Committee recommends that the executive director of C-TASC make a presentation to the General Assembly once during session, and provide periodic written updates to the General Assembly. In addition, the Committee recommends that the executive director be available to answer questions from legislators during February and August of each year.

WITNESS LIST

Clifford Ong
Scott Mellinger
Patrick Ralston