



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- Planning for the Fall 2006 Influenza Exercise Series continues at a fast pace. For details, see page 3.
- The Des Moines Police Department recently unveiled its new bomb response vehicle. See article on page 4.
- Photo highlights of the Governor's Homeland Security conference are on page 5.
- NOAA National Weather Service officials honored Johnson County and St. Patrick's Catholic Church officials for life-saving actions taken when a tornado swept through Iowa City on April 13. See article on page 6.

2006 OGT Allocations Announced

Two clocks started ticking when the Office of Grants and Training (OGT), the funding arm for the federal Department of Homeland Security, made the official award of \$13.48 million to Iowa on June 30, 2006.

The first clock involves reporting back to OGT. Iowa has 60 days to report to OGT on specific uses and scopes of work that will be accomplished with these funds.

To meet that goal, after consulting with the First Responder Advisory Committee and the 15 team leads, estimated allocations were sent to the team leaders who initially developed funding packages. They've been asked to provide detailed budgets and scopes of work for the use of these funds. Those specifics are due back to HLSEM by July 28. "We know this is a tight deadline and thank everyone for their work," stressed Dutch Geisinger, the lead for this grant. "We set this date because we expect requests for more information from the teams before we can firm up the numbers and also because the Internet system used to enter this information to OGT has a track record of being cumbersome and slow."

The second clock is the start of the grant period. The two-year period for the '06 homeland security grants – the State Homeland Security Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, the Metropolitan Medical Response System and the Citizen Corps Program – ends on June 30, 2008.

The homeland security funds will be used to continue regional collaboration, while building and sustaining specialized response teams. Here is a snapshot of some of the larger estimated funding recommendations.

Regional Collaboration: \$3,296,241

Almost \$3.3 million was allocated to Iowa's six homeland security regions to improve efforts in key preparedness areas of planning, training, and exercises. Funds were also allocated for ongoing NIMS compliance, EOC activities and improvements for National Infrastructure Protection and Critical Asset Protection. Each region was allocated \$200,000 that could be used to improve local planning, training, and exercise efforts.

Here are the allocations by Region:

Region 1: \$633,302
Region 2: \$500,224
Region 3: \$516,782
Region 4: \$496,163
Region 5: \$504,343
Region 6: \$645,423

Regional allocations were based on a combination of a base rate, combined with population and the number of critical assets within a region. (Continued on page 2)

2006 OGT Allocations Announced

(Continued from page 1)

Fusion System: \$2,338,383

Funds from the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (will be used to continue building a system to gather, and more importantly, analyze intelligence information. These dollars will be used to fund one state and six regional intelligence centers. A direct state appropriation will help support personnel at the state level.

NIMS/NRP Implementation: \$1,933,240

These dollars will be used to ensure the state remains compliant under the announced National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements and is aligned with the National Response Plan (NRP). Additional NIMS requirements are also expected over the next two years and these funds will support those requirements.

WMD/HazMat Response: \$1,600,000

Iowa's hazardous materials teams will use these dollars to improve their response capabilities for WMD and terrorism incidents. Iowa's hazardous materials task force is heading this effort to build the capabilities of local teams to enable them to respond to a WMD/terrorism event around the state.

Law Enforcement Investigations and Operations: \$1,000,000

These funds will be used to improve capabilities of Iowa's local and state tactical response or SWAT teams.

Animal Health and Emergency Support: \$951,197

Increasing Iowa's ability to prepare for and respond to foreign animal diseases through a Veterinary Rapid Response team will be the focus of these funds.

US&R: \$650,000

These funds will be used to sustain Iowa's heavy search and rescue team through the Sioux City and Cedar Rapids Fire Departments.

A complete listing of the funds will be available when final dollar amounts are obligated to OGT by August 30.

HLSEM to Promote Family Preparedness Week

HLSEM is working on plans for Family Preparedness Week August 28-September 1 in an effort to kick off National Preparedness Month. HLSEM will be partnering with the American Red Cross and the Animal Rescue League.

Tentative plans include press conferences in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City on Aug. 28 and 29. The American Red Cross has donated 10 emergency supply kits and 10 road hazard kits, which will be featured in a drawing on the www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site. The Web site will be updated in the next few weeks; however, the drawing information won't be added until closer to Family Preparedness Week. To help promote the drawing and the www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site, HLSEM will be doing some radio advertising with Radio Iowa statewide. More information on Family Preparedness Week will be available in the next newsletter.

We at HLSEM hope that communities will also consider hosting emergency preparedness events. Register your organization as a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member at www.ready.gov. By registering, you will receive a link for a nifty toolkit that will help you with promotional efforts. Also, local events can be publicized events on the National Citizen Corps web site at www.citizencorps.gov.

OGT Notes HLSEM Best Practices

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training (OGT) conducted a strategic monitoring visit to HLSEM June 27-28. OGT noted best practices for several activities within our grant administration processes:

- Development and implementation of Personal Activity Reports (PARs), a requirement when administering federal grants;
- Development and implementation of the sub-grantee guidance and grant agreements; and
- Conducting training for Regional fiscal agents and the fiscal agent training manual.

Partnerships Will be a Constant Theme

By HLSEM Administrator, David L. Miller



I would like to thank all who attended the Governor's Third Annual Homeland Security conference. As Governor Vilsack pointed out, we've come a long way and it is because of the hard work of all in the greater emergency management family. I'd also like to thank members of my staff that worked to put on the conference, with special recognition to Dave Hempen and Lisa Sexton, under the supervision of Connie Gilbert. Every year they somehow reach back and come up with another outstanding conference and this year was the best so far.

One of the themes that was repeated throughout the conference was the importance of partnerships. Undersecretary George Foresman talked about it in the context of a new era of preparedness; General Dennis Reimer echoed the importance of partnership in his overview; Michael Dorn pointed out its significance in terms of school safety; Jeffrey Phillips explained it in terms of neighbor helping neighbor when he talked about EMAC and Kelly Reinhardt stressed it in terms of addressing special needs populations.

Indeed, their comments were supported when you looked around the room and realized that now our conference attendance includes stronger representation from private corporations, public works, public health and many stakeholders beyond the traditional, pre 9-11 emergency management family of EMA, fire, law enforcement and EMS. We have started down a great path of inclusion; we all understand that we can't do it alone and can only succeed by reaching out as broadly as possible.

While encouraged, I hope you agree with me that we also have a long long way to go. Attending a conference together is a start, while making sure we include partners in all phases of our industry is the end goal.

Thank you for your hard work, especially efforts to reach out to a broad range of community partners. As Governor Vilsack concluded, our work is making a difference and our road is easier when we ask others to help.

Influenza Exercise Update

Planning for the Fall 2006 Influenza Exercise Series continues at a fast pace. Twenty-five members of the Exercise Design Team met on July 12 and laid out key scenario elements. Both the regional tabletop exercises (Jul. 31-Aug. 4) and the functional exercise (Sept. 27) will use similar scenarios based on the following goals:

- Test and improve Strategic National Stockpile operations and coordination
- Test use of incident command under the National Incident Management System
- Test risk communication to the public
- Test Iowa's emergency communications systems/technologies
- Test and improve surge capabilities in healthcare

The regional tabletop exercises are designed to focus on seven key disciplines that may be the most severely tested in a pandemic scenario. The tabletop exercises are also excellent preparation for the September 27 exercise.

At the state level, preparations and training for pandemic influenza continue to tie response elements together. Iowa Department of Public Health's Dr. Patricia Quinlisk and Mary Jones, assisted by Assistant Attorney General Heather Adams, presented on pandemic influenza and quarantine and isolation at the Governor's Homeland Security Conference. Their key message was that new legislation has created more robust quarantine and isolation options, but that voluntary compliance has proved very effective. Extensive training and exercise is also occurring in the public information area. With unprecedented communications needs for a pandemic influenza scenario, IDPH and HLSEM have been enhancing existing Joint Information Center/System (JIC/S) concepts.

DMPD Receives Bomb Response Vehicle

The Des Moines Police Department recently unveiled its new bomb response vehicle. The \$425,000 truck was purchased with federal homeland security grant program funds. Purchase of the truck involved collaboration between the Des Moines Police Department, Polk County Emergency Management and Iowa Homeland Security Region 1.

This vehicle was conceived and developed as part of a coordinated effort between the three agencies to meet the specifications to transport all the equipment and personnel necessary to respond to all human-made and natural disasters or terrorist events involving explosive materials.

The truck was built in Florida by American La-France of Iowa. It allows for the Des Moines Police Department to carry equipment and officers to the scene. Special features include a fiber optics line and the capability to use radio control of the bomb robot from inside the truck, providing for more protection of the officer operating the robot.

The bomb response vehicle will be staffed with officers from the Des Moines Bomb Squad who are a part of Iowa's Bomb Squad Task Force Program and may be called upon to respond to incidents outside of the City of Des Moines.



HLSEM Administrator David Miller and local officials unveil the Des Moines Police Department's new bomb response vehicle. Inside the truck, DMPD's Len Murray gives Miller a tour.

Producers Emergency Response Team Formed

By pooling their Citizen Corps funding, six counties in Northwest Iowa have formed a Producers Emergency Response Team (PERT). The group will address bio-security concerns by providing training and resources to local agriculture producers in their area. Lyon, Osceola, O'Brien, Sioux, Plymouth and Cherokee Counties recently held two training sessions designed to help producers develop a biological risk management plan for their individual farm in the event of an animal infectious disease such as Foot-and-Mouth.

ISU Extension Service, Iowa State University Center for Food Security and Public Health, and the six county emergency managers partnered on the training. Dr. Alex Ramirez with the Iowa State University Center for Food Security and Public Health stated during one of the training sessions that there are 1,176,800,000 head of beef and swine in the six counties mentioned above, which equals 10% of the total of all agriculture production in Iowa. He applauded the group for their planning efforts and said the number of livestock in the area definitely shows the need for a plan.

Producers in the area were given a NOAA Weather Radio that can be used for multi-hazard warning information as well as local emergency information. Questions regarding the program should be referred to Aimee Barritt, Cherokee County Emergency Management Coordinator at 712-225-6721.

Homeland Security Conference Highlights



Clockwise from top left: General Dennis Reimer; HLSEM Administrator David Miller, FEMA Region VII Director Dick Hainje, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary of Preparedness George Foresman, and Major General Ron Dardis; HLSEM Administrator David Miller with Governor Tom Vilsack; Des Moines Police Bomb Squad member Russ Schafnitz; IDPH State Epidemiologist Dr. Patricia Quinlisk with Assistant Attorney General Heather Adams, IDPH's Mary Jones, and DMPD's Len Murray; and IDALS' Mark Shearer. Main session topics ranged from pandemic influenza to lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. Breakout session topics ranged from Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Teams to Iowa's WMD Tactical officers and Bomb Squad Task Force. Photos provided by SPPG's Joesten Zhou and HLSEM's Kara Berg.

Johnson County Officials Honored by NWS

On July 7, NOAA National Weather Service officials honored Johnson County and St. Patrick's Catholic Church officials for life-saving actions taken when a tornado swept through Iowa City on April 13.

Lynn Maximuk, director, National Weather Service Central Region and Steve Kuhl, meteorologist-in-charge, Quad Cities National Weather Service office in Davenport, presented NOAA's StormReady Community Hero Award to Tom Hansen, Johnson County emergency management coordinator; Lori Phillips, Johnson County Communications Center; Rev. Jerome Miller and Rev. Rudolph Juarez, St. Patrick's Catholic Church; Sue Faith, Johnson County assistant emergency management coordinator; and Steve Kuhl, meteorologist-in-charge, Quad Cities National Weather Service.



Lynn Maximuk, director, National Weather Service Central Region; Tom Hansen, Johnson County emergency management coordinator; Lori Phillips, Johnson County Communications Center; Rev. Jerome Miller and Rev. Rudolph Juarez, St. Patrick's Catholic Church; Sue Faith, Johnson County assistant emergency management coordinator; and Steve Kuhl, meteorologist-in-charge, Quad Cities National Weather Service.

Johnson County Communications Center; Rev. Rudolph Juarez and Rev. Jerome Miller, St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Maximuk said, "The actions of officials at Johnson County Communications Center and St. Patrick's Catholic Church saved over 50 lives when the tornado hit. Johnson County Emergency Management officials and dispatchers followed their procedures to perfection to relay advanced warning of the approaching tornado."

Johnson County became StormReady in June 2005. StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program that helps community officials develop plans to handle all types of severe weather.

Governor Appeals Presidential Disaster Denial

On July 7, Governor Tom Vilsack appealed President Bush's decision to deny a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Johnson, Jones, and Muscatine Counties. The original declaration was requested in response to tornadoes and severe weather that struck eastern Iowa on April 13.

"I was extremely disappointed in the Bush Administration's decision to deny our original request for assistance," said Governor Vilsack. "It is my hope that President Bush will give this appeal his full consideration so that Iowans affected by these storms can get the help they need to rebuild their lives and communities."

The Governor's appeal specifically asks for public assistance for Johnson County and statewide hazard mitigation. Approval of the appeal would aid communities affected by the storms in covering expenses incurred for debris removal, emergency response personnel, and damage to buildings.

The Governor's Office and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division continue to work in conjunction with the U. S. Small Business Administration on low-interest federal loans to individuals affected by the storms.

The Governor originally requested federal assistance for storm-affected areas on April 19th, which President Bush rejected last month.

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HLSEM Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Cerro Gordo County EOC Gets Upgrade

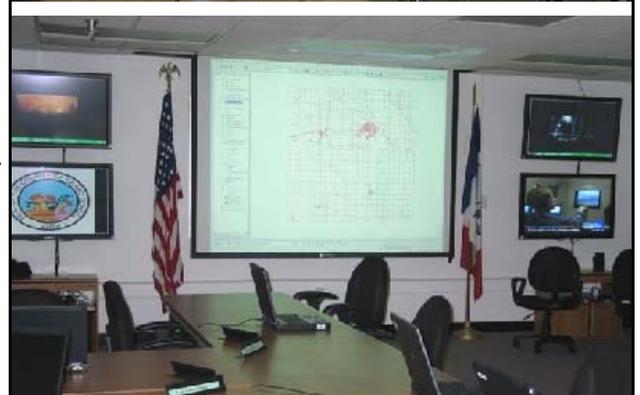
On June 29th, Cerro Gordo County Emergency Management held an open house at their newly updated emergency operations center (EOC). Citizens of Cerro Gordo County were able to view the new technologies and capabilities of the EOC and ask staff questions.

Through the purchase of equipment and training of personnel, the EOC is ready to operate in the 21st century. Just over a year ago, the EOC was a paper heavy operation, relying on paper message systems, flip charts and chalkboards for displaying information. Staff worked through several exercises and a presidential declared incident with only three standard phone lines.

"Using Homeland Security and agency budget funds and some donated equipment we have been able to integrate some of the newest technology and software into our EOC," said Steve O'Neil, Cerro Gordo County emergency management coordinator.

The center now has 15 computer work stations, plasma television displays, video projectors, multiple computer-controlled phone lines, full sound system and video recorder/players, laser printer, fax machines and two way communications including HAM radio. Cerro Gordo Emergency Management has also installed and trained personnel on WebEOC, DMIS (Disaster Emergency Information System) a resource management software, and a GIS system.

The EOC now has its own server and a GIS server that ties into the county system, so if the county ever goes down there will be a backup. Over the past year, staff has received various training including, WebEOC, DMIS, EOC/ICS Interface, EOC Operations, NIMS (100, 200, 700 & 800) and damage assessment. Cerro Gordo Emergency Management is currently developing capabilities for its new joint information center.



Cerro Gordo County EOC before (top) and after.

HLSEM Personnel Highlights

HLSEM will hold a retirement party for HLSEM Exercise, Evaluation and Training Bureau Chief **Connie Gilbert** on July 27th from 1-4 at Joint Forces headquarters in Johnston. Please join us!

Congratulations to **Jon Paoli** of the Communications and Technology Bureau. He and wife Sarah had a baby boy on July 9. Lucas David weighed in at 8.4 pounds and 20 1/2 inches long.