



NCORP Southeastern Regional Meeting

'National Blueprint for Secure Communities'

Gaillard Hall

Charleston, South Carolina

November 30, 2006, 8 am - 4 pm

McQueeney Please be seated. Thank you very much. My name is Tommy McQueeney and I'm a local. Born and raised here. I'm here to introduce our program today. For those of you who traveled from afar to come to Charleston, I just want to let you know it never gets too hot or too cold in Charleston. It's like this every day. We have nothing but 5-star restaurants. All our shops have fifty percent discounts every day. And our police play music because there is no crime. Now, I may have exaggerated a little bit. But I do want to let you know that this is important that you are here today. It's not only important for this community, but for every community in America.

Seventeen years ago Charleston was struck by the largest named storm in United States history, Hurricane Hugo. Our Mayor, Joseph P. Riley, became the face of our community's determination, selflessness and resolve. It has been Charleston's great fortune to be led for 31 years by a man of unquestionable integrity, legendary energy and vision, along with his principal stewardship of our fine city. The mayor is a graduate of the Citadel and the University of South Carolina School of Law. I am personally convinced that we walk in the times of a great man. I give you Mayor Joseph P. Riley.

Riley Thank you very much, Tom, Dr. Simkovich, Governor Gilmore, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great honor to be with you today and an honor for our city to have this very important meeting here. When Hurricane Hugo approached us, in 1989, the weather patterns were pretty firmly set. The high pressure system pretty solidly off the mid-Atlantic and a low pressure coming across the country created a kind of funnel. So a few days out it was reasonably clear that, yes, this huge storm that had been a killer in the Caribbean was coming our way. And I called our wonderful staff together.

We'd been working, but it was as though we knew this was going to be our time. And I told them that this was a wonderful opportunity; not an opportunity that we wanted, but an opportunity for service. Because we as a local government, work hard for our citizens and we ask much of them. We have to for taxes or for rules and regulations and ordinances and parking tickets. And of course, parks and playgrounds and wonderful things we provide.

But this would be the time when they needed us the most. We had the opportunity when their lives were at risk, when their property, when their future, when their hopes and aspirations were in the balance.

We had the wonderful chance to serve them when they needed us the most. So I said, let's take advantage of this and let's do the best job any community has ever done in helping its citizens prepare for this kind of natural disaster.

We worked very hard on evacuation. And it all came back. It's really hard to evacuate. And if you just say, "You've got to go," they're not going to go. You've got to raise the pitch of your voice. You've got to thread the needle between fear and panic. You've got to get the people out because rising water is a killer in hurricanes. You don't have any time once it hits to get out of the way. We evacuated our people. We had one death in the city of Charleston. One is one too many.

We got people out of our low lying areas and out of public housing where the water would have been six feet inside the residences. And then when the eye came over city hall, it took the roof off. That was our command center.

I got our wonderful people together. And the police had given us reports from the eye, that we had 30 minutes, so things were going okay. We'd evacuate the people.

I said, "okay, now, we have the opportunity to do a better job any city has ever done in rebuilding after disaster". And we sought to do that. I just say that in terms of this overall challenge. And it's earthquakes. It's hurricanes. It's earthquakes. We're going to Emmetsburg, Maryland in January for that. It's terrorism. It's dirty bombs. Challenges with port security. And so much more.

But it's important that we all see it not as, "Oh, my gosh. Isn't this terrible. It's something we have to do." But rather an opportunity to serve our people. It's a challenge of the time. More people living on the coast. So a challenge of a hurricane's far different than it was 100 years ago. Or earthquakes. Or terrorism. Far different.

We have the opportunity to serve our people. We use the power of our citizens. I spoke with the Governor before we came in. It's not the governments that have to do everything. It's that we do it together. Now 99 neighborhood councils are key elements in our disaster preparedness preparation. They will be recognized today. They're with us. We communicate, we bring them together. E-mail and phone calls. They're out with the citizens. They make sure no one, no one is unattended. We don't want any elderly person without somebody looking after them. We want to make sure everybody knows how to get out and how to evacuate and how to help them. We use the power of the people. And it's everyone's responsibility. It's the city's responsibility. It's the neighborhood's responsibility. It's the citizens' responsibility. It's the state and federal responsibility. No one's off the hook. And no one's alone. It's a wonderful opportunity together.

I know we will talk today about a wonderful example of that with Seahawk. People working together and working together so well. So I just want to communicate that this city understands the importance of this work. And the essentiality of local government accepting its responsibility and its role. And the local citizens working together as a part of a wonderful team. So that when these things happen, that we do provide them opportunities to serve. And what I told our people that day, a long time ago, was that if we do this well, if we seize this opportunity and help our people get through this better than anyone has ever done, then the dividends that will flow from that in community pride, in community self-confidence.

And we found out in community togetherness that giving and sharing will be extraordinary. We take these events and recognize they can propel us to greater heights. Or if we handle them poorly they can put us on the skids. The value of what the Governor is doing and what all of you are doing, this meeting here, is to help us and all communities. When these events happen we respond to them in such a way that we not only protect our citizens, but we make our future better. Thank you very much.

McQueeney Thank you, Mr. Mayor. There are several dignitaries that are here this morning. Along with representatives of some of our corporations and our sponsors for this event. And neighborhood associations. And if you will indulge me, I would like to read off these attendees. Our four honorary co-hosts represented by Mayor Riley are the City of Charleston, Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Co-hosts include the City and our Fire Chief, Rusty Thomas, with the City of Charleston; our new Police Chief, Gregory Mullen, of the City of Charleston along with Lieutenant Jim Doyle. Other co-hosts include Cathy Haynes, Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division; Dr. Michael Schmidt, Special Programs & Wayne Brannan, Director of Risk Management at the Medical University of South Carolina; Dr. John Simkovich, who we'll hear from later, with Tri-County Region 7 Public Health, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control. The City of Charleston Neighborhood Council Presidents. Nearly 40 of the 99 are in attendance today. Thank you so much for coming.

Corporate representation is here today from Orbis, Blackbaud, Roper Hospital, SAIC, MeadWestvaco and Navigational Sciences. Faith based representation from the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy. Relief based representation, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and the Citizen Corp. The public sector, the US Coast Guard, and of course, representatives from Senator Jim DeMint's office.

Resource experts from public and private sectors are 14 Charlestonians and six other visiting folks that decided to join us today. Corporate sponsors include State Farm and Contingency Planning and Outsourcing, Inc.

There are other notables here, folks who are here today from Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, just to mention a few. Volunteers from MUSC thank you very much. And Ann Sports from DHEC is also here today.

I thank all of you who made this occasion possible by both your attendance and your support.

Former Virginia Governor James Gilmore has devoted much of his life to the service of others. To that end, he currently serves as the Chairman of NCORP. Perhaps no one understands the concepts of preparedness and response better than Governor Gilmore. Governor Gilmore would like to open this portion of our program with his view about securing America one community at a time. I give you Governor James Gilmore.

Gilmore

That'd be fine. Thank you. Thank you. Well, good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Jim Gilmore, the former Governor of Virginia, Chairman of the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness, a 501(c)3, devoted strictly to community service. The goal is to help this country be prepared in the event of a terrorist attack. And of course, that also helps us, as the Mayor has pointed out, to be also ready for natural disasters, as well.

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much for co-hosting us here and greeting us so warmly here in this lovely city of Charleston. I've been here twice now in the past 10 days. And I must say this is an impressive place. It's a lovely place. Very enjoyable. Very well kept. And a very hospitable and welcoming type of place. Which I guess that we would expect. Tom McQueeney, thank you very much for being here today and for State Farm's support of this operation. Good Dr. Simkovich, thank you very much. We look forward to hearing from you, as well. And I appreciate each and every one of you who represents so many parts of the responder sector and the leadership within the community here in Charleston for being here today and being a part of this.

Now, I've got about ten minutes to talk to you a little about what we're doing. Let me see if I can do this within just a few minutes. Number one, I want to say to you how I got involved with this. In 1999, I was the Governor of Virginia and was approached by the Clinton administration and asked whether I would chair a national commission that had been established by law by the United States Congress on the issue of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. I agreed to do that as Governor.

The people who went onto this commission were not some of these wiseheads that sometimes you see. They were, in fact, real people that really had to deal with these issues and therefore, were probably more expert than some of these folks that sometimes you see. Police, fire, rescue, emergency services, healthcare providers, epidemiologists. Some retired general officers. Some retired intelligence people.

In the year 1999, we assessed the threat and concluded that a conventional attack on this homeland of the United States was very likely and that there needed to be a national strategy. In the year 2000, the second year of the three-year commission, we reported that there still wasn't a national strategy but that we would suggest some ways to create one. The sense that a complete partnership of federal, state and local people would be necessary in order to meet a potential threat and to be in a position to deal with it and recover from it. In the third year, 2001, we actually concluded a little early. But we also reported there still wasn't a national strategy for terrorism response. And that there needed to be one. And that we needed to focus on the issue of state and local responders, health care, particularly the public health system in case of a bio attack. The issues of border control. The issues of cyber terrorism, and how and whether to use the military in the homeland. These we considered to be the key issues and we were done.

And sent our report to the printer first week of September 2001. And of course, a week later we had the 9-11 attack. And I was Governor at the time, of Virginia. I turned on the TV just like all of you did and saw the

World Trade Center in flames. I took the decisive action to notify the guard, the state police, to put the emergency operations center that so many of you are familiar with here in Charleston, into place when I then discovered that the second state of attack that day was Virginia. Because the Pentagon is in Virginia.

Well, Congress extended the commission two more years and we did additional work on intelligence sharing and how to do that. And then as we were going out of the door in 2003 finally, we talked about what the country really would look like in this age of terrorism and how we could preserve our essential values and not allow our liberties to disappear because of some anxiety of this type of threat.

Well, after a period of time in private life I felt that there was a need for a private organization - not necessarily attached to government. I was out of the governorship by this time and it was a chance to form a private 501(c)3 that could push forward on good homeland security policy and engage everybody in what I thought was still an essential need, which was a complete partnership between federal authorities, state authorities, local responder communities, particularly led by the mayors like your wonderful Mayor Riley. Some local programs. The private sector, the private corporations and their role in what a potential response might be. And community leadership. You have to have community leadership. The people have to understand that they are a part of something larger just than themselves. That they're not people who will just be simply sequestered in their homes at the time of an attack but people who know what to do and how to lead their fellow citizens.

You put this together and Americans cannot be defeated in any way. NCORP is designed to try to facilitate this and to help this and to learn what is necessary. Because it is important to create a 72-hour program where we understand that in those first 72 hours we need to be on our own. We need to have a partnership and a planning process that says what we're going to do in those first 72 hours, at least. There has been a sense in the 20th century, I suppose, that we should defer these things. That if we just wait around, it'll be okay. They'll come and they'll save us.

Well, friends, I'm going to tell you the truth. There is no "they." We are "they." And that's what we have to do. And that is what NCORP, the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness is designed to help facilitate. An understanding that we have to have a 72 hour program and a blueprint that we'll put into place. Now, we're going to have a national meeting in Washington where we draw people in from various parts of the country in order to address the final creation of a National Blueprint.

To do that, we need to draw upon good thinkers, great leaders like the Mayor, and all of you, to learn what it is that you are accomplishing in preparation for a potential terrorist attack, to keep the community safe and to be in a position to properly respond.

Now, we've done a lot of this. We've been down into Tennessee and Alabama. We've held a national meeting already, an organizational meeting in Washington, DC. We've done events like this one in Indiana and in Michigan. We met with the port people just recently in Boston and had a conference very similar to this in Boston. And now here we are in Charleston. This is place where we can learn much, here in Charleston, South Carolina. This is a good conference that we're going to have here today. And after this conference we expect to do another in Galveston, Texas, and perhaps one on the west coast as we begin to lead in towards our national meeting, where we hope we can make a contribution.

We'll, we can put together a blueprint and a best practices document where we can learn from people just like the folks here in Charleston, South Carolina, who have spent so much time working on this. Very impressive, this notion of community leadership that has been so much a part of the Mayor's thinking and the work that is being done with the community leadership here. You're getting neighborhoods organized. You're explaining exactly what needs to go on.

So I'm going to stop now. I'm almost done with my ten minutes. So I'll say this. I think there's great meaning in this. This is a matter where if we do the job correctly and create a genuine partnership of the federal authorities, like the wonderful Coast Guard that I visited with all day yesterday. The federal authorities like Department of Homeland Security. The state people who operate these emergency operation centers. And supply so much support in the time of crisis. I know because I've done it myself. The localities, in which we find the essential people on the front line of this. Then we can have an entire community of preparedness. An entire community of preparedness. And then we can share this with the people of our communities. And let them know we're as ready as we can be. And then you move into the areas of real high policy here. If you're in a position to let the people of this country know we're as ready as we can be, then you can begin to remove some of the sense of anxiety and uncertainty that terrorists wish to inject into the society of the American people.

We're not free of risk but we can live and survive no matter what they do. There isn't anybody that can bring down this republic; no one. And we can convey this and create certainty within the community. And we can live with risk. And Americans have always lived with risk. We have always lived with risk. We have always taken our chances and we have

decided to be free people. And those essential values are the ones we must preserve. We can be safe, we can be secure, we can do it through the involvement of the entire community. And we can do it while preserving the values and liberties that make us Americans. And that is what NCORP is about here today. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for your leadership.

McQueeney Dr. Jim Simkovich serves as the TriCounty Director of Public Health with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. He will deliver an address on a unified community response. Dr. Simkovich?

Simkovich Good morning. To many of you I'm no stranger and probably a lot of what I'm going to say this morning you've heard me say before. Since 2001, many of us in this community have done a tremendous amount of training together. Fire, police, EMS, public health, HazMat. We have really worked hard to make this community come forward.

Could I get the next slide, please? We have no lack of risks in this community, as all of us know. We have the risk of importation of diseases. We have the earthquakes, fire, hurricanes. We have no lack of it. If you look at what our threat assessment is for the state, the Charleston area is number one in every single category up there. What do we have? What we've done is learn how to work as a community very well.

I used to say thank goodness for hurricanes because what they did teach us here is how to really function and work together in an emergency operation center and across all the disciplined areas. The one thing we have in common with all of those scenes you see up there on the screen right now is they all take one thing. They take a unified community response to truly be effective. And no community is going to make it on their own. And when I talk about community, I'm just not talking about the governmental jurisdictional area. I'm talking about each one of the community disciplines, or silos that we form.

We've learned now to work within our organizations. Fire can work across the border so that, with the firemen across all the other communities around here. And police can do the like. They help their communities make great strides in working together.

It's unprecedented how they will cooperate and share resources. We've signed agreements to share resources and we practice every single month and meet every month to do that. For the communities we have to worry about, we want to understand when a disaster does strike, how are we going to work and assist each other. Because we're all working to meet the needs of the public. That's our job, for many of us in this room. And there are a lot of us out there who don't understand that we have this responsibility on a daily basis.

And new threats have arisen since 2001. Threats that we never felt we'd have to address here in Charleston. But we do have a risk of terrorism. We do have the risk of chemical explosions. We do have the risk of just daily accidents, as we can see in this state from Brandonville, with the chlorine incident we had. So we have to be prepared. And we have to be prepared on how we're going to share our resources outside of our regular business. Do the police understand what responsibilities they have in protecting the hospitals as community assets? Do they understand what's going to be needed if we have surge capacity? Do fire and HazMat understand what roles they may have to assume to assist the health care community to protect the health and welfare of the citizens? These are all added responsibilities that may not be thought of in our silos. We have what I call a public health system. It's not what I should say CDC calls it.

And everyone up there on that screen, every one of those entities, really is part of the big major public health system we have in this country and in this community. But does everyone understand their roles and responsibilities? Do our elected officials and agency heads understand all the risks that are involved with all aspects of chemical, biological, radiological and natural disasters?

When decisions come is not the time to learn. Just like all of us have to learn our roles and responsibilities and how we'll respond as a unified body to protect the citizens of the state. And we have to learn about evacuations to decontamination to just daily medical services. We're one community and we're going to sink and swim as one community. We have to understand what our capabilities are and what capabilities we don't have. We have to know what resources are available across the board so we can share those resources in time of disaster.

We do a fantastic job of that here in Charleston. But the job isn't done. We still have a long way to go. We had a major success in the building of the Ravenel bridge. I never thought in my lifetime I'd ever see a new bridge come across that river. But it was done because of great community planning on the state, on the community level, and on the federal level. And it was done in unprecedented time.

You see explosions here of celebration and I hope we can have many more as we prepare this community to safeguard it and protect our citizens from hazards, both natural and manmade. Thank you.

McQueeney Thank you, John. Next we have the President of NCORP, Jeb Carney, along with Program Director, Jim Frierson, to introduce the Charleston program and the National Blueprint. Please welcome Jeb and Jim.

Carney Well, thank you very much for having us here today. It's very kind of you to come out. It's also wonderful to see so many here who have supported your local efforts. We're here today because of you.

We have embarked, as Governor Gilmore said, upon putting together a National Blueprint for Secure Communities. The blueprint of ideas come from gatherings like this and this afternoon, and that Jim will describe in a few minutes. The National Blueprint, is being developed in a partnership with the Kennedy School of Government to help other communities learn about the best practices that other communities have succeeded in developing on their own.

The goal today is to be able to develop a template out of these best practices that can be shared and discussed at the 2007 National Congress. We were hoping that each and every one of you will participate in that Congress. And the material that you develop and help us develop will be part of this afternoon's discussion.

So today is an excellent opportunity to understand some of your great ideas and best practices that were formed here with the Mayor's leadership and some of your individual initiatives. We will outline them as best practices in the blueprint and display them online for everyone to see.

I'd like to take a few minutes here and introduce a few people that are members of the National Taskforce that are helping Governor Gilmore across the country with NCORP. They're here today and they've come a great distance to help support this effort. I'd like to introduce Colonel Greg Riddlemoser of the United States Air Force. He is the Chief of the Defense Support, the Civil Authority, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Greg, are you here? There he is in the back of the room. We have Colonel Jeff Brady, FBI task officer of the National Counterterrorism Center. He is a member of the National Joint Terrorism Taskforce. He is here representing the Joint Interagency Training Center. Colonel Brady is here.

I'd like to also introduce Antonio Oftelie, who is the Director of a Partnership for a Networked World at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. And Antonio hopefully is here. I'd like to introduce Richard Kilberg, who is the President of Fred Friendly Seminars at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Richard? He is here, too. I'd also like to introduce R. David Bice, who is the Director of the Hamilton County Indiana Emergency Management Association. David? David is in the back, as well.

We have other people here who have been helping us put this together. I'd like to also thank Rosalie Wyatt who is also a member of the NCORP Advisory Committee from the Congress that we had in Washington, DC

last November. Rosalie has been in contact with you to develop today's program and is an invaluable worker with our program. David Anderson, the Executive Director of NCORP, is also here today. You'll be hearing in a minute from Jim Frierson, the Program Director of NCORP.

Again, I want to thank you very much. I hope all of you will be able to stay around this afternoon while we have a working session where we can actually dig into the inner workings of some of your ideas and be able to post those to the blueprint so that we can discuss those in Washington, DC at the Congress. Again, thank you, Mr. Mayor. I really do appreciate your support. I'd like to introduce Jim Frierson, the Program Director for NCORP.

Frierson

Excuse me, for saying hello to Mayor Riley. I'm happy to report that I have about nine years of history with him. Which is nothing when you look at his tenure in office. But I'm from Chattanooga, Tennessee. And a group of us came over here nine years ago and he was host to us and to our community leaders. We felt we could learn a lot from your city. And then he joined us over in Chattanooga about one year later. So we've been in both places.

And you have a great leader in this community. A couple of things to set the stage here. One is the path to Charleston starts only about a year and a quarter ago. The kind of conferences we've been doing, the kind of conference we're doing here today, begins with the leadership of Governor Gilmore in creating this organization, which is a 501(c)3, truly a foundation-like organization, and with the ideas of Jeb Carney, whom you just heard from.

And that pathway, the first steps along that path were taken in my own community of Chattanooga and in the Tennessee Valley Corridor that really stretches from Huntsville, Alabama up through Oakridge, Tennessee and Knoxville. And Governor Gilmore was good enough to consider planting the flag first in my own region, in my own backyard.

And it took a lot of foresight on his part too. He was so far ahead of us in recognizing that this was an issue that was timely in every community in America. And he was beginning with our part of the world. We were honored to do it. We had about a hundred people in a two day conference that really was a simulation of a disaster. And a very convincing one. And any person who would have walked in the middle would have thought that the real thing was going on, in our case, a toxic chemical spill. A kind of a domestic terrorist threat.

But I want to tell you, the atmosphere was gripping. It was convincing and it was real. And we actually had one journalist who came in in the

middle of it and really did think that he'd walked into a press conference about a disaster in the neighboring county.

Later conferences after that turned more to looking at the issues as opposed to acting out the simulation. Because we came to recognize that those of you that are early responders, you've had hours and hours of training. It's not another training session you need.

But what NCORP could do is to connect you with the other leaders in your own community who often aren't the ones in those training sessions. They aren't the people who put on the protective suits in the case of a chemical spill. But they are the people in the community who must make important decisions. They are school principals. They are media representatives themselves. They are elected officials in smaller jurisdictions in your region. They are major employers. They are human resource officers. They are in-house administrators whom you and I know will be the first ones to get a call. And that call says, what am I supposed to do? What are we supposed to do? What about my children who are over in that elementary school five miles away? May I leave work and go get the kids from school? Well, the answers to those questions aren't the same in every case. Anything but that case. And the protocols and the values that must be weighed and the tough decisions that must be made are local. They are on the front lines.

And as the Governor has said, especially in the first few hours and days after any kind of disaster, natural or manmade, the early decisions are made by local folks. In some cases, elected officials. But in some cases, unelected officials, corporate leaders of voluntary organizations. That's you. And that's why you're here. And we really appreciate the turnout from Charleston. This is really something.

The path that leads here took us after Tennessee to a national summit in Washington in November of last year, where we expected 200 people to come and 700 people showed up. And I'm not talking about beltway people. I'm talking about folks from all over the country. Fire, police, emergency response, medical and mayors.

The mayor of Philadelphia was there. The mayor of Galveston was there. But there were mayors of little cities that you would not have heard of, and we hadn't heard of before. Following that we were up at the Joint Counter Terrorism Taskforce headquarters in McLean a month or so later to really look at the inside of what a nerve center looks like. Now in the federal establishment. And the creation of a joint center like that, not surprisingly, is one of the very recommendations of the Gilmore commission that places like that be created where multi-agency groups can come together.

Following that, we were at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard because some of these issues are classic issues such as how different branches of government are supposed to collaborate across political and jurisdiction lines, from federal to state to local. And from public sector across to the private sector, for-profit and not-for-profit. The Kennedy School is a very good place for studying those issues. And the Kennedy School sees NCORP as an organization that puts those issues in action. That puts those issues on the table. And that's why the Kennedy School today is a partner of ours.

Following that we were in the upper Midwest in Lacrosse, Wisconsin for a regional conference that was really a gathering of police chiefs, who said, we'd like to turn over one day of our meeting to NCORP and let you run this as an NCORP event. And that's exactly what we did. And we partnered with people from Minnesota, from Wisconsin, from Iowa. Later in about the mid-summer of this year we were in Novi, Michigan, a suburb on the western side of Detroit, for really more of a community-focused event with a college, a very good liberal arts college there that operated as our local partner.

And since then the Governor has been in Manchester, Indiana, and up in Boston for a true Boston regional meeting. And now here we are in South Carolina. This is NCORP's Southeastern Regional Meeting. As Tommy McQueeney pointed out earlier, we do have people from neighboring states. From North Carolina, from Georgia and Tennessee, from Virginia. And some states that aren't even neighboring states.

But while we wanted this to be a regional draw, but we also wanted to focus on Charleston because you, as a community, have some very unique features. And two of the three issues we are playing on today and working on today, playing off of, are issues that really characterize the Charleston experience. And the Charleston vulnerability.

Of the three, the first I just want to describe as port security. Many of you in registering for this conference had a chance to indicate a preference. Some others of you may not have. This is the path you're going to follow later in the day. So I just want to describe and define the term a little bit of what we mean.

Port security deals with those, those critical vulnerabilities of any community that happens also to be a major port. You are a great model of that and you also serve as test bed for some new approaches on the federal side, project Seahawk, which Governor Gilmore had a briefing on yesterday.

It is a great example of how Charleston can be a pilot, a test bed for other port cities. But, all the rest of you who live anywhere in this region, you are shaped by the fact that this port is part of the economic lifeblood of this community. It is a fact. To say that that's a special vulnerability is not to criticize. It's to state a fact of life, that it makes you a different; because you're that port of entry and that portal for interstate and international commerce, there are things that go with that territory that affect people whose lives are not necessarily intertwined day to day with the operation of the port.

But it also means there are some companies who really understand transportation, logistics and security. And so the questions that we want to frame in the morning and the kinds of answers and solutions we want to come up with in the afternoon revolve around questions such as, how is life different for people in Charleston because of the presence of the port?

And getting off of the defense and looking at the offensive side of this equation, what is it that companies themselves that are in the business of the port and of commerce, could possibly add to improve your preparedness in anticipation of a disaster? Because they are good at moving material and understanding where critical assets are. And we are joined by some of those very companies here today.

Second issue, also very characteristic of the Charleston experience, is the issue of mass evacuation. The word "mass" is important here. Because as I've learned the history of the last couple of decades in Charleston, in the face of Hurricane Hugo, 2.5 million people were evacuated, were displaced. We believe that's the largest number in American History in one single movement of people.

To call it voluntary is to stretch the understanding of the word voluntary. They were advised strongly, if not ordered to move. But two and a half million people is a mass number. And with that movement and with that number go some other issues, not just of getting them out of home and neighborhood, but where it is they go.

And issues of the capacity of the wonderful term that Dr. John Simkovich introduced in his slide, not the first responder but the first receivers. Those in smaller communities in upstate South Carolina and North Carolina and anywhere else who receive 2.5 million people. And the question of readiness on their part. And the question of whether there are any advance agreements or understandings that this might happen. That you might appear in Hickory, North Carolina the next evening. And the capacity of hospitals, of community centers, of gymnasias. All of those issues on the receiving side are, are the second chapter of mass evacuation. We've had a chance to look at some communities that do it well.

And our understanding is this community did it quite well in 1989. In the face of Hurricane Hugo. But there are lessons to be learned and there are questions to be asked. And that's what we're framing under mass evacuation. The third issue is not characteristic of Charleston itself. It is about every community in America. And it is the issue of special needs. By that we mean parts of your population that are uniquely vulnerable, by reason of age, physical infirmity, other disability or handicap as that term is understood, and especially today those who have cognitive and intellectual disabilities that keeps them from even understanding the nature of the threat. These are people who don't make decisions for themselves day to day about where they will be, where they will live, where they will eat. Typically they have a guardian of some kind. But I'm talking about adults, I'm not talking about children here. We expect children to be taken care of in our society. But there are a great number of adults who can fall through the cracks. So we have specialists from the national level who've joined us today to look at the issue of special needs populations. What is that a civilized community like Charleston, especially, needs to understand in the area of special needs?

So those are the three breakout sessions. We will later in the morning talk about the three areas where those will occur. But we urge you to follow your passion and your interest and if it's a new area for you, wonderful. Don't feel you have to go to the area that you're already a specialist in. Hopefully there's some cross-learning that occurs here.

On the screen is the National Blueprint. And the National Blueprint is a working document for us. But it's really a series of initiatives and best practices that have been identified everywhere we've gone so far. We expect many more to come from this meeting today. These will be recorded in real time by one of us in each of these working sessions. This will be added to our knowledge base. And when we come back at the end of the afternoon we'll have a chance to profile the best of those in the eyes of the people who led those breakout sessions. That is the work of this conference.

You've heard most of the speeches already. And the speeches are designed and have set the tone very well. But now the work is on your shoulders. First to frame the issues in the morning. And in the afternoon, to help us identify solutions, initiatives, partial answers or even bright ideas that you honestly feel could contribute to the readiness and preparedness of your community, of your region, and of our country. That's the work of this conference.

What we would like to do now is to call up the first panel in this plenary session. I do want to say just one word about breaks. This group is

running ahead of schedule. We have two ways we can do that. We can reward you for your good behavior and for having been here early and for running ahead of schedule, which we're inclined to do. We need to have a little bit of a break to bring people up anyway. And our principals are entitled to that break as well. But if we could make it as close to a five minute break as possible and resume, we will resume with the issue of port security and five experts who have been asked to be up here in what we call a talk show format with experts on the issue of port security and the three principals you've already heard from. And with thanks to the three of you for your opening remarks and for setting the tone for what we have here, Governor Gilmore, Mayor Riley, Dr. Simkovich, thank you for what you've already done and what you're about to do. We will have a five minute break. Thank you.

Frierson We want to, in this next hour, take the issues that we keyed up earlier, port security, mass evacuation, special needs, and treat them in a different way. This is designed to be a conversation among people who know a lot about the issue and have a great reason to care a lot about the issue. People in positions of leadership, nationally and here in Charleston and in the region. So the questions that we want to ask here and the questions we want to ask in the afternoon are really designed to frame the issue and do it in a way that allows us ultimately to put it up in what we showed you earlier, something called the National Blueprint.

And the kinds of questions that you'll see in your breakout session with the help of your facilitator are really designed to kind of screen through questions such as, what is the problem or barrier, in this case scenario of port security, that might be hindering your community's ability to respond in a disaster? Tell us about your, your own experience, your own ideas, your possible solutions. What are some community resources that could be brought to bear in implementing your idea? What are some of the existing barriers and why have things not worked in the past? What agencies, what parts of the public sector might be the ones who are most involved in the issue right now. Talk about issues of interoperability, which is a big word for how systems can communicate with each other or people can communicate with each other across political and jurisdictional lines from first responders to the private sector, to the business community to police and fire and government. If you know of any, please describe in your organizations or partnerships that could be tapped to help in this area. And if known, are there any technologies. And, and this becomes a very exciting, kind of open-ended area. There are new technologies everywhere in our lives today. And there certainly are the issues we're going to be talking about here. So in this next session we've asked that, among our principals, Mayor Riley and Governor Gilmore and Dr. Simkovich, that Governor Gilmore would kind of lead off with some, just some questions posed to a group of experts in this area who include, and I

will try to do this now in the order of their seating: Captain John Cameron, who serves as Sector Commander for the Port of Charleston with the US Coast Guard, which is, as you know now is part of the US Department of Homeland Security; Dr. Kent Gourdin, a Director of the program in Global Logistics and Transportation of the College of Charleston. We also have with us Dr. Geoff Scott, who is with NOAA. And his expertise is in the area of coastal and environmental protection, and biomolecular research in the Hollings Marine Laboratory.

And my friend, Dr. Eric Dobson, who is the founder and now chief scientist of Navigational Sciences, a company here in Charleston. This company has real expertise in the area of asset tracking and understanding from a situational standpoint where cargo is and tracking it in real time. They are working on an initiative very similar to what the National Air Traffic Control System does for aircraft, but for marine craft and their cargo. And when I talked about some exciting technologies, I was referring to technologies like that. This is a very solid panel. We're happy to have these four experts. These three principals.

Governor Gilmore, if I might ask you to go first, you had the benefit of that tour yesterday. You can take the podium and it is playing off of your own briefing yesterday, your tour of the port and your briefing on Project Seahawk. I know this issue is on your mind.

Gilmore Great. Thank you. How about that? See, that's why we have so much insurance on this event here today, you see? Insurance, right? He did okay, though. He's a young guy. He fell right off and got back up. Let me bear in mind, mention a couple things to you. Number one, remember that there are two web pages we'd like you to write down and to be aware of for NCORP. National Council for Readiness and Preparedness, ncorp.org, will give you an ongoing updated sense of what the organization is doing and the progress we're making in these areas. And then in conjunction with the Harvard Kennedy School, we also have a second website, nationalblueprint.org. Have I got that right, Jim?

Frierson Blueprint, nationalblueprint.org.

Gilmore Nationalblueprint.org. And that's the interactive one that gives people an opportunity to put some ideas in as to what the best possible practices are. So just be aware of that. Now, yesterday I had a chance to get out with the Coast Guard and tour the port, let me put on my Coast Guard hat here. Actually I guess until I'm prepared to go out in the middle of a hurricane and pick people up, I probably ought not to wear it. But it was a great experience yesterday.

There are two components to port security. And I'm going to bet that you know more about this. But I will start by saying that there are two things. One, people raise this question about all the containers that are coming in. How do we know that they're safe and secure?

When we did the national commission on homeland security, we proposed that there be a trusted shippers program where the federal government would certainly go and work with our partners in foreign countries in the shipping lines so we knew what was coming in, what the manifests were, what was in these containers to begin with before they ever even got to the United States coast. You can't do all containers that way, however. And furthermore, naturally there are other additional measures that are taken just to make sure that nothing has slipped into those containers. There are seals on these containers. There are other ways of examining them also to get some sense of security.

Now, the second component is not just before you get to the port, but in the port. Is there not a danger of an attack which could have grave consequences to Charleston, the southeast and indeed to all of America if one of the major ports was struck in some way. We live in a media society. It would be highly publicized. There would be danger to other ports then immediately who would say, oh, my, are we next? So then that would have a potential impact on the economics of port security. But I think there may be more components.

We have about 25 or so minutes to work on this panel. And to get each of you to give a few minutes of an introductory remarks and then a few minutes for the doctor, the Mayor and I maybe to ask a few questions.

We do have a second panel that we're going to do in a few minutes on mass evacuations and special needs. It's going to be led by Dr. Simkovich. And then with that conclusion, we will reserve a good time for some Q&A from the audience.

But the breakout sessions this afternoon are a real opportunity for the caliber of the people who are here in this room to be able to participate through those breakout sessions. And our hope is you will be able to devote some time this afternoon to those sessions so that we can get the benefit of you and all of you here in the Charleston community.

We're here in Charleston because we value this community. We value South Carolina. We value these people particularly in Charleston and the leadership of the good Mayor who has done so much. You are all involved in this. You do this on a daily basis. You're engaged in it in your other work, whether it's in the churches or whether it's in community leadership or your professional work with Homeland Security or

responders. We need the benefit of your thinking, too. And so this format is designed for the breakout sessions to give you a chance to interact a bit more.

So with that being said, why don't we begin on this issue of port security

And if you all can be flexible, why don't we begin with Dr. Scott. And just give us a few words, Dr. Scott? A few minutes and then hopefully within the confines of a half hour we'll be in a position to get a little Q&A from Mayor Riley and from the doctor?

Scott Thank you.

Gilmore Go ahead, sir?

Scott Thank you very much. My name is Geoff Scott. I'm the Director of the NOAA Center for Coastal & Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research located out at Fort Johnson on the harbor. We also have the Hollings Marine Lab located out in that facility. We have a third NOAA facility located on the Navy base, the Coastal Service Center. All three of our NOAA centers are focused on research that deals with observations in the oceans.

And it's very important as we prepare coastal ports like Charleston to understand the natural area around us in terms of things such as biological stressors like pathogenic bacteria and harmful algae. Things like this which may pose potential hazards. We're in the business of conducting basic research and responding to natural events, things that may be outbreaks of illness and disease that are commonly occurring. And by responding to those this allows us to be prepared in the event of a terrorist threat or any other type of threat that may occur.

For example, in 1997 and 1998, we had a introduction of a vibrio strain into the ports in Texas and in the west coast in Seattle that closed the shellfish industry. A vital part of the economy in the United States. This was because of a Pakistani strain of vibrio bacteria that was highly infectious. Now that was prior to '9-11'. And if that had happened post '9-11', there would have been a lot of concern that this was an intentional introduction. We now know with the great work we've done with the Coast Guard here in the port of sampling container ships coming into the port, we know that that pathogen is here but it's not going to be very likely that it's going to persist in the environment here because of the selenites and types of environments that we have in the waters here.

But the real key to being prepared as a port of commerce, in my opinion, has been partnership. And I think Dr. Simkovich really addressed that

issue in some of his comments. We have been involved in several workshops in the community with the USC Center for Public Health Preparedness. That is one of 18 centers around the nation funded by CDC to develop preparedness. And it's the only one of those 18 centers funded by CDC that actually has a coastal focus. We think that's kind of important since half the population lives in the coastal zone. And so we think that those have been very important workshops.

Our first workshop focused on a burgeoning issue here in Charleston, the cruise ship industry. And this is an issue up and down the coastlines of the United States. And what do we do when we have a cruise ship that starts into port with what appeared with what appeared to be a Norwalk outbreak but suddenly it appeared to be a terrorist event? We went from a medical issue to a public safety issue. How do we secure that boats get people to medical treatment that need it? And we were just very enlightened as to the need to build partnerships between the medical community and police and fire and public safety.

Our second conference focused on a pleasure boat that came into the harbor and detonated a dirty bomb. We were very fortunate at that workshop to have Mayor Riley who gave a real prophetic message five months prior to Hurricane Katrina, about how the best way to be prepared for homeland security issues is preparing and responding to natural disasters.

And then our third workshop last year dealt with bird flu. Again, this time brought in by commercial ship and how we have to intersect across the parts of the county to be prepared to deal with another type of emergency. I think the real key in all of this, though, has been the ability to interact in partnership as we try to learn now to work together.

That big bridge that John Simkovich showed is the key. We've had a number of little small bridges here in Charleston. We've had a number of people working in security and safety for a long time. But by bridging and building these partnerships we build a bigger, better bridge and do this job much better to be prepared.

Gilmore Very good. Thank you. Dr. Eric Dobson, why don't you go next?

Dobson Charleston is an interesting place. I lived here in about 1995 and actually worked at one of those NOAA centers mentioned earlier. I worked my way up to a river view which was a big deal. And I sat there and watched these big ships on the Cooper River roll in and roll out.

I saw these large ships rolling in and rolling out of the harbor with all these containers and wonder where are they coming from and going to?

Who's keeping up with them? And why you couldn't just put a cell phone on one of these things and call it and find out how it is and where it is any time you wanted to? Well, I found out, unfortunately. And it stirred up an odyssey of - the next question is well, while we have an air traffic control system why don't we have a marine traffic control system? Something with the Internet the way it is now, can't we just have a single global control tower that says, I know where this container is, everywhere it's going? And that's an issue that has been initiated in the private sector as sort of a best practice test and it's exciting to see, as well as seeing a private sector cluster growing in South Carolina for port security and container security.

But we still have one fundamental question that still has to be answered when you talk about port security. And that's, what's the balance between physical security and intelligence? I think we all agree that both are necessary. But how do we fund them adequately so that we have advance warning and then activate local resources to react as we're discussing today when a potential problem is identified?

Gilmore Yesterday it was my pleasure to spend most of the day on the water, you know, in the port of Charleston with Sector Commander, Captain John Cameron. The real Coast Guard guy. So Commander, if you would, please, a few words?

Cameron Thank you, Mr. Governor. We in the Coast Guard, having a multi-mission responsibility, simultaneously working humanitarian and national defense, law enforcement and infrastructure missions. It gives us a real opportunity to work broadly with the entire community around a port. And we're very fortunate to have that opportunity and to have that strength inherent to our organization.

This particular community is a real pleasure to serve with. Because the community understands the value of the port. The community understands the risks of the port. And the community works together. And it's not just a mission to protect Charleston, but it's a patriotic mission to protect the nation as a port to the world. So I thank all of our partners here today and I'm very, very, very pleased with this turnout. And Mr. Governor, this is actually very typical in Charleston whenever there's an opportunity to get together to talk about this.

Gilmore We appreciate the partnership with the federal authorities, especially the Coast Guard and, and also the local community authorities, as well, and everybody that's working together on this. It's really the reason why we've come to Charleston, because of this wonderful example of an entire partnership of the entire community. That includes, of course, all the folks that are out here, as well. A fourth opening remark, Dr. Kent Gourdin?

Gourdin Thank you. I'm Director of the Global Logistics and Transportation Program in the business school at the College of Charleston. And, so I'm basically a business person. And I echo Eric's comments a little bit. When I came down here in 1999, I really had nothing to do with the maritime industry. And I've since been struck by how much the maritime industry and the port is really kind of a stealth industry. Even the people that live here, they see the ships. We complain about the trucks on the roads. But we really have no idea of the magnitude of the business that's being conducted by the port. So it's really a two-fold problem, I think, in the context of this conference. But the port security is very challenging when you realize that something on the order of seven million containers a year come into the United States. And when you think about that from a security standpoint, that's enough to kind of send you off screaming into the night wondering how we're going to manage to keep foreign threats out.

And the challenge here I think is the protective aspect while simultaneously keeping the containers moving. Keeping business going and keeping costs down to, to keep us competitive. The other aspect is more from the sort of the disaster point of view. And that is getting the port back up after a major disaster like Hurricane Hugo. And the impact to the port extends far beyond Charleston to hundreds and hundreds of miles away to areas that may be totally not impacted by the disaster that has affected the Port of Charleston. So I think this conference is very timely and I'm looking forward to the breakout sessions this afternoon.

Gilmore In a moment I'm going to ask the Mayor whether he has any comment or an initial question. But let me toss the first question, if I could, please, to, to Captain Cameron. Captain, just in a word, talk to us a little bit about Seahawk and how that gives us the opportunity to have this complete partnership of response laterally between all the sectors of the community?

Cameron Thank you. Project Seahawk ---

Gilmore What it is, of course?

Cameron Yes. Project Seahawk was an idea of Senator Hollings prior to '9-11'. And it was the result of some after action reports on exercises for events that are fairly common, common except that communications and integration and understanding between agencies could certainly be improved. And of course, '9-11' put the meaning to his objectives, his proposals. And he was successful in securing some fifty million dollars for a pilot project here in Charleston. And the Project Seahawk Task Force, of some 47 member agencies from the federal to state, county, local and private entities.

So every day now in a center built with that money, a meeting occurs with representatives at every level of government talking about the activity coming up in the port, what ships are coming, what crew members are on those ships, what cargos are on those ships, and at the same time, what special events are happening in Charleston, what intelligence information is available to all of those agencies. And we sit at a table every morning and connect the dots and make sure that the domains of every agency that are represented are connected so that there are no gaps between them. Another element of Project Seahawk is a taskforce that has shared agents donated from many of those member agencies. And the Department of Justice is the appointed administrator of Project Seahawk. And they serve as the supervisors for that taskforce. And they write up the incident action plans on a daily basis. And in a unified command environment their assignments are drawn up every day. So we have a comprehensive risk assessment and response happening every day here in the Port of Charleston thanks to Project Seahawk. Now, there's many more objectives of the project that we hope to carry through and there's quite a bit more work to be done. But it is very functional and effective right now.

Gilmore You've got some local participation at Seahawk, too, don't you? Plus the federal agencies?

Cameron Yes. The membership, as I said, includes municipal police forces, municipal first responders, county HazMat, county sheriff, state law enforcement division, Department of Health and Environmental Control, Department of Natural Resources. Now, there's danger here that I'll leave somebody out. But as examples, you know, heavy participation at the municipal level, at the county level, the state level and the federal level.

Gilmore Mayor Riley, do you have either some question or a comment?

Riley Yes, thank you, Governor. While we are on the subject of Seahawk I think it's just important we say that it was an effort led by Senator Hollings set up under the Department of Justice. Which I think is clearly a national model and I want to ask Captain Cameron a couple questions about it. And he's doing a fabulous job, and I've been up there and it's amazing. I mean, it's just a real class thing. They got the ships charted and when they're coming in and who's doing what. And all of that. If we didn't have Seahawk, where would Charleston be in terms of port security and how essential is it, do you think, that, that every substantial port have a Seahawk type unified cooperative activity?

Cameron Well, Mr. Mayor, certainly our intent was to build something worth emulating. I mean why else do it? But it isn't our role in Charleston to

pick the next port. However, in my experience in my career, my prior time in New York, for example, I can draw stark comparisons. And the way it affects the Coast Guard, I can tell you, is the level of assessment that happens every day here is far superior to what I would be able to do with my own resources on a daily basis. The intelligence that comes in from agents from customs and border protection, from immigration and customs enforcement, from contract employees at the Department of Justice is very astutely picked from very impressive backgrounds. It's just not easily available without a center for everyone to operate out of, co-located. Now, other ports are certainly extremely functional. And their operations are happening in silos. And other ports have figured out ways to work between their silos. And it is effective. But the recent Safeboard Bill describes Seahawk without naming it, and demands that there will be more of these centers around the country.

Gilmore Jim, would you like to add anything?

Frierson I think a project like Seahawk is absolutely essential to safeguarding any port in the United States. You have to have a central place to put collective wisdom together. That's really what we're doing there. We're putting all the assets together in a collective fashion. Secondly, in a preventive fashion, as well, the facility has radiological sensors. Having all that in a real time fashion in an operation center with the folks that can be the first responders is absolutely critical and essential to being able to respond. Preparedness is prevention. And that's really what this is.

Gilmore I guess if you look at the old wall issues, you have to address the issues of what's coming into the port, the port security itself, and if then something goes wrong, how it affects the entire community. All of that.

Frierson I think we have to look at this coastal community just like we have to look at it as Mayor Riley showed us during the hurricane, you have to look at the entire community. And, in fact, one of the things that we're really trying to look at and again looking ahead, is trying to design communities to be more resilient to natural disasters, and with the planning that we did for Homeland Security events to be more resilient during a manmade or a terrorist event. And I think something like Seahawk really gives us that capacity to do that part of it for the terrorist aspects. But it also carries right over into the natural disaster and other aspects, as well.

Gilmore Go right ahead?

Gourdin There's, there's one other aspect I think I'd like to touch on, as well, being a private sector representative here. There are some key ways that I think the private sector can support the mission of Seahawk and many of these centers around. And that's by creating commercial systems for tracking

these shipping containers that both impact the logistics cost, i.e. and sort of a means of technology adoption, if you will, incentives for technology adoption, and provide greater intelligence on; which I think would be well served by, by a command center like Seahawk, you know, not only where the ships are but what's in each container and where's it been? Audit trails, things like that. So that would be my hope is that there's a outreach further into the private sector. I know Seahawk's working very well with the private sector. But, you know, there are many ways I think we can grow that and, and increase the efficiency of that center, as well.

Gilmore You think that's it? Doctor, would you have a question or ---

Simkovich Yeah, I have a question. I'm on Seahawk team so I've sort of a leading question. How, with the millions of containers that come in every day, how is the public ensured of the safety of containers that are coming in and the cargo that's coming in with those, Captain Cameron?

Cameron Really, I wish the port director were here to answer that question. But I sleep fine at night knowing that customs and border protection is screening every single container for its origin, its contents and is very astutely capable to identify anomalies in cargoes that are moving through new routes. Or, if there are different involved parties. Or there are the nine components such that if they been the same place at the same time could, couldn't be assembled into something dangerous. And also on the personnel side, on the crew side of the vessel, many times in these unified command meetings in the morning, somebody will bring up that this container is of a little bit of interest. And we don't put it at a high priority. But then somebody else will come up with some information about a crewman on that same vessel. And all of a sudden you've got a couple dots to connect.

So the ability to combine that information and the scrutiny over every single container administratively gives us the opportunity to put our resources where the risk is highest. And customs and border protection has a strong capability to examine containers both by opening them and with x-ray equipment. There's a center here in Charleston where it's remote and it's designed to handle hazardous materials and inspection of those materials in those containers. And the percentage of containers that go through that center is adequate to handle those containers that you determine are a risk.

Gilmore Very good. There's going to be now a second panel; this at least introduces this topic. And we could go into this with a little more depth this afternoon in the breakout session. But this provides a good introduction to this issue of port security and how it's being handled in Charleston. We'll start a second panel now. Jim, will you introduce the

second panel? Gentlemen, when you leave, don't fall off the back of the lectern. We can scare Frierson, but not you. Okay?

Frierson For the sake of handling the other two issues of mass evacuation and special needs, I like to think of these issues as macro and micro. Mass evacuation is exactly what the name implies. Great numbers of people being displaced and all of the issues that go with that. Of capacity. Of public notice of adequate warning and simply of handling. As we said earlier on both the sending and the receiving side.

Special needs is micro in the sense that you're down, in some cases, to the needs of very individual cases and very individual citizens are a part of the community. So it's, it's the alpha and the omega of community response.

We are joined in this session by four additional experts. And I'll just mention how we're going to do these. First of all, I will do my best to do this in order. Their proximity to the podium. Dr. Ralph Shealy, of the Area Health Education Consortium is many things in terms of his expertise. He is also involved with Charleston County Rescue Squad, Charleston County Sheriff's Office's technical position. He was medical director of the rescue squad. And a Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. Cathy, Cathy Haynes of Charleston County Emergency Preparedness, Director of that. Cathy is a name we were hearing from the first moments that we came to Charleston to begin organizing this conference. She is the real thing and, and has been in this field with a tremendous amount of experience. And, and obviously works in a very collaborative relationship with the city as well. And conducts the CERT training. One house rule we have at NCORP meetings is don't use an acronym unless you're prepared to spell it out. So Cathy, CERT is?

Haynes Community Emergency Response Teams.

Frierson Thank you. We will also have with us under the heading of special needs, Dr. John Kim Cook, who is a Ph.D. doctor in the office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security, with a strong focus on this issue of special needs. And, and the staffing of the federal interagency coordinating committee created by the President on this very issue. And by no means least, Dr. Rick Rader, who, whose principal title is Director of the Morton Kent Center for Habilitation at Orange Grove Center, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The word habilitation has a certain magic to it. Notice what it is not. It is not rehabilitation. It is about habilitation. It is about coping with the challenges of daily life by adults who have intellectual or cognitive disabilities. There is responsible for creating programs and addressing the medical needs of people with; the correct clinical term would be neurodevelopmental disabilities as they age.

He is also the editor in chief of a wonderful magazine, which is here in, in copies for you to pick up. The magazine is *Exceptional Parent Magazine*, the leading journal for the support and education of parents who have children with special needs. He was the special liaison for the family healthcare concerns of the Presence Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, President of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry and a consultant to the Surgeon General and on the board of the American Association of Health and Disability. Finally, serves as a Professor of Human Exceptionality at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. It's a great panel and I have asked Dr. John Simkovich to play the moderating role for this panel. John?

Simkovich Well, it seems quite fitting that I have the special needs section since every time there's a disasters it seems my desk over at the EOC gets most of the phone calls about what are we going to do with special medical need patients. And as I spoke to Dr. Cook last night, I said, you know, there's a real mix-up we have in this country right now. It's that we talk about special medical needs. And we're looking who are coming out of home health care, some people who have just been recently discharged from hospitals who need direct nursing services. Yet we have a whole sector of our community with disabilities, who don't need the hands-on type of treatment but need to have special accommodations to ensure their safety during times of disasters.

I think Hurricane Rita indicated this. Then Katrina indicated the importance of these groups. And I think we have a great panel here to comment on about it. I'll start off with Dr. Shealy. Well, actually I'm going to go ladies first. I'm going to start off with Cathy Haynes. Because she's the one who really in, a time of disaster in this community, organizes it and keeps it moving in the EOC. Kathy?

Haynes Thank you. As mentioned I'm the Director of the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness. Basically, my role is to activate and coordinate and get everybody that we need and all the resources that we need represented in the Charleston County Emergency Operations Center.

The Charleston County EOC becomes a central hub for a major event. And the link between local and state resources that may be needed or requests that may come in. We work very closely with all the municipalities in Charleston County. We have representatives from those municipalities in our emergency operations center so we can keep that line of communication open and available. Because we learned during and in the aftermath of Hugo that there were some issues that unfortunately fell through the cracks. And we put together a plan. We work very closely and don't want that to happen again. And I feel very confident and

comfortable in saying that, that we have done a good job in improving that so we don't lose anybody in the event.

Simkovich One of the things we have here in the Charleston community, if we have a major hurricane come through, there are 1300 patients from nursing homes and hospitals that would have to be evacuated. And to ensure their safety it has to be a timely transfer of people. The problem with it is, often the highways get clogged. The assets aren't there to move people. And as our coast grows, it's going to become more difficult to transport and safely move people out of the community.

Next I'd like to call on Dr. Shealy, who's with County EMS, and with AHEC.

Shealy I'm an emergency room physician by trade and experience, and I wear several hats. And in Charleston County among them related to EMS, rescue, law enforcement and education related to issues related to disaster issues as they apply to health professions.

I'd like to give a maybe a little different perspective on the issue of evacuation. I think when the word is first used we tend to think in term of a traffic problem. But there's are the issues of deciding that evacuation is necessary, and notification of the public that it's necessary, of dealing with traffic flow patterns, where the traffic will go, how it'll be directed and so on.

But I'd like to think of evacuation from a somewhat different perspective. And that is to view the issue as one of being a population that's having an emergency. Population is an organism with different members, different functions, different needs.

The real issue is that this population is exposed to a threat. And that somehow the need is to shelter or protect the community from that threat and move them from one place to another is one way to do it. But there are other issues. The people that are anchored by, for one reason or another, I think it's good we've got special needs of evacuation together.

But in the setting of hospitals there are folks whose conditions are so precarious that moving them would almost certainly result in bad outcomes or even death for some of those people. There are other populations within the communities, people with long-term care, such that moving them is a danger.

So I think that our real challenge is to find ways to protect the population from a threat that sometimes will involve hardening an environment so that they can shelter in place. So that; I'm thinking of an incident that, for

instance, to review a medical university hospital, the neonatal intensive care unit was badly damaged by winds. There were structural failures in the building itself and it was necessary to evacuate those people. But it involved evacuating them within the building, or moving from one place to another within the building. Because the staying where you were was the safe thing to do. And especially in issues related to threats to the atmosphere. Staying in place is sometimes the best way to shelter.

I think there's also an issue with any population movement that everything that happens to a population will continue to happen during that movement. You know? You can think of a historical biblical incident like leaving Egypt and going to a far land. That was a 40 year trip. And lots of things happened to people. But even in an evacuation like leaving Charleston in the face of a hurricane, we all know that a trip to Columbia could take, well, a long time.

And people are going to be born on that trip, people are going to die on that trip. People will have heart attacks. Other things will happen. And we have to think about how to structure our infrastructure of social supports so as to support that migration, which is another word for what evacuation is.

It's obvious that we've got to think about how to fuel vehicles and how to take care of breakdowns and clear the roadways. But we also have to think about supplying to other needs of populations in that movement. So I think that the topic of evacuation, if we should go over into thinking about how we're dealing with dodging a bullet for a population exposed to a threat. So a final level of analysis might be that, well, okay, we know what to do when a hurricane is bearing down on Charleston.

But what if the threat itself is local? Suppose that now we have an intelligent force who's trying to hurt us and the threat itself may be moving? What does evacuation mean in that context? How do we protect, shelter a population that's now really exposed, maybe to a higher level? Where they're on the highway trying to get out of the city. And what levels of protection can we supply there? So I think the topic of evacuation of special populations can be expanded to cover some essential elements not often included in a discussion.

Simkovich Thank you, Dr. Shealy. Next I'd like to call on Dr. Cook. We spoke last night over dinner about special populations of people and the problems we had here during the one hurricane exercise we had this year. And the confusion that was coming about between the special medical needs and the special population. So if you wouldn't mind addressing special populations needs?

Cook

Thank you, Dr. Simkovich. And I think when I tried to pronounce your name last night you just said to call you John. So you can do the same for me. Thank you, Governor Gilmore and Mayor Riley for presiding and organizing this conference and thanks to all of you at the local level who are doing the honest work and preparing people for emergencies and carrying out those responses and recoveries which are so difficult in those times of need. And I just want to focus on a couple of things. First of all, I'm not just a, you know, suit from Washington. I actually grew up in a rural area of east Texas and; so I consider myself a southerner. One of you. We were a different part of the south but we were pretty southern.

And I'm near Washington but I'm near Virginia. I live right outside the beltway so you can say that hopefully I have a little bit of outside the beltway thinking. And one of the things that I noticed in Vienna is that they had developed some registries for people with disabilities and elderly. And we'll be talking about some different ideas that have come up later on in the panel this afternoon. But there are a lot of ways you can be innovative about this.

But just to remember that people with disabilities are across a broad spectrum. That they're not just people who may be blind or may be deaf or hearing impaired or may be in a wheelchair. But there are a lot of; as you mentioned earlier, psychological and mental issues that need to be dealt with and often they're unseen. They're things that you just don't think about. But for all practical purposes, most research shows that there are somewhere around one in five of Americans, about 20 percent, that have some type of disability. Whether it's a hidden disability or something overt.

A couple of words I'd just keep in mind. One is partnership. And two is integration. When you're talking about people with disabilities and senior citizens. First of all, partnership; for the federal government to come in and tell you what would be best for your community is just not productive. What we want to do is partner with the state and the local governments as well as the private sectors, the employers. It's so important that we all work together to make this happen.

As Governor Gilmore spoke earlier about the federal government's response, we have to really look to the local level about 72 hours, the people at the local level who know your community. And often know where those people who are vulnerable are. And you can locate them and, and try to evacuate them and, and help them with whatever needs they have. So partnership is so important. We want to be a facilitator. And there are a number of ways that we can do that. And we can talk later in the day about that. The second thing is integration. Integration of people with disabilities and senior citizens into the emergency planning process.

It's the process of not only just thinking about what will they need in a disaster? But allowing them to come in with disability advocates when you have meetings about these issues at the local level, but to bring in some of the disability community and say what are your needs that we may not have thought of? And what are things that you can do to provide expertise to us? Because many of them do have expertise on these issues.

And finally, along with that, the integration of those people with disabilities, not only from an advocate's perspective, but just for people with disabilities who may be accommodated in some way that are part of your planning committees. That can become a part of your complete planning process.

As was mentioned earlier, we are implementing an executive order from President Bush in 2004, the Executive Order 13347, you don't need to know that. But basically it's individuals with disabilities in emergency preparedness. And we are working with many federal agencies as well as people in the Citizen Corp. The Corporation for National Community Service. People from the communities. To bring about some facilitation of structure and infrastructure, if you will, of ideas, of concepts, of organization for people with disabilities so that they can become a part of the process. But then also, in an emergency, in times of emergency, then their needs can be taken care of. And there are a lot of ideas that can be shared and, and we appreciate all of your input that you can give. Currently we're working on the special needs clarification.

As Dr. John mentioned, the special needs category is often confused because it is very broad and historically has meant a number of different things. Not only people with again, hidden and the non-hidden disabilities. But you have medical needs that are very acute. Some that are not acute. But what we encourage, really, is to drill down a little bit deeper and talk about those real specific categories and to develop responses and develop plans for all of those specific categories and needs. And then also try to integrate people with disabilities, again that keyword integration, into those shelters when you have, for instance, a general shelter.

You may have a person who is blind but just needs somebody to read a sign for him or her, or somebody to show them where the restroom is or show them where the food is or what have you. But they may not have medical needs necessarily and to be lumped in that would actually prohibit people from getting medical needs taken care of. Because it muddies the water there. So that's just some of the issues that we talked about last night. Facing it, why you need it.

Simkovich Rick, Dr. Rader?

Rader Great, thank you. As a physician I'm probably the red herring here. I'm formally trained in internal medicine but my real insights into the special needs community came from my formal training in medical anthropology. Not so much what happens on the mitochondrial level with somebody with a genetic disorder, but what happens in the social transformational properties of a community when they have to integrate an individual that has human exceptionalities.

Twelve years ago I responded to a very seductive ad in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. And that ad eventually was my entrée to become the country's first medical futurist in neurodevelopmental disabilities. And it's kind of a neat job that I have. And if any of you ever can get a job as a futurist I highly recommend it. I figure by the time I retire no one will realize I didn't know what the heck I was talking about. So it's pretty good. But when I started I thought that I would be involved with issues regarding neurodegenerative diseases and robotic transplants and physician training. Because physicians don't know anything about disabilities. Newborn screening was something that I was interested in. Dual diagnosis, behavioral and cognitive atypicalities, etc. Nobody dreamed that my portfolio as a medical futurist would contain the future medical needs of people during an evacuation with special needs. So the first rule of predictive modeling, if something sounds like it has hoof beats, you know, don't discount it. It might be a zebra. So I want you to take that way from here. My training in neurodevelopmental disabilities and my ability to hang around all day long with people who think differently than you and I; whose inbox might be confused for our outbox, has caused me to develop a unique sort of thought process that I call contra-positive thinking. I'm required now to go into a setting and say what is not happening here. And so a lot of my remarks might be reflective of that. And they certainly are not that of an ingracious guest here.

When I woke up this morning two things hit me that basically are serving as a barometer to the question of how are we doing in terms of disaster preparedness. One of those two things was something that I saw. And the other one was something that I didn't see. The thing that I saw was the newspaper that was delivered under my door at the hotel. And on the front page, if you read USA Today, you'll see that a federal judge has described the handling of FEMA's response to people with housing problems as Kafkaesque.

A few pages behind that there was a very interesting article about the recent fire that left ten people dead, 18 hospitalized and everyone traumatized in a group home in Missouri. Despite the fact that there doesn't seem to be any noncompliance issues, the problem is the

definition. And as we embark upon the science and art and science of the special needs community, words, nomenclature is very important. It seems as if this assisted living home didn't require sprinklers. If it was called a residential facility there would have been sprinklers required in the code. So I call that the jargon of death or the nomenclature of nobodies. Words reflect our feelings and I think it's real important.

The other thing that I didn't see that serves as a barometric preparatory remark about how are we doing was what I didn't see. On the back door of the hotel door there was no map for evacuation. And I was surprised at that. So I went down; when I checked out I asked the concierge, I said, "Excuse me, sir. I couldn't help but noticing that there was no map on the back door." I said, "Is that not a law in the state of South Carolina?" He says, "Oh, yeah, but we've been so busy redecorating the rooms that we haven't gotten around to that yet." They did get around to putting two nice pieces of chocolate on my pillow. They did get around to putting a nice invitation on the wall to invite me to have some vegetable quesadillas on the seventh floor. And they did invite me by posting a notice that I would have a complimentary breakfast.

So how are we doing? We're not doing too well. I took two plane rides to get here. And on both of those plane trips I was amazed and appalled at the same time, looking around at the passenger indifference during the, the discussion of the emergency procedures. We've become indifferent. We've become immune. We basically are in trouble.

And likewise, I was very, very surprised to hear at the beginning of this particular meeting, the color guard and the pledge, etc. Nobody said anything about in case of an emergency. And if I was to tell you that one of the two exits in this building are currently blocked by painters' scaffolds that weren't removed on time, which one would you go for? So I think that we need to suffice to say that we need to start internalizing.

You know, the expression all politics are local? Well, so is all emergency preparedness. And it has to start at the beginning. So I think that's very, very telling. I want to demonstrate something to you. In 1986 the Challenger spacecraft explosion, the President appointed Rogers Commission to investigate the causes of that. I remember being mesmerized by a Nobel Price winning physicist named Dr. Richard Feinman who basically stopped this Commission in their tracks when he reached into his pocket and pulled out a little O-ring and dropped it into a cup of ice water, demonstrating that it was the change in the temperatures that screwed up the seal of the ballast tanks. I don't have an O-ring because our problem with disaster preparedness and special needs populations have nothing to do with sealing anybody in.

But I would like to demonstrate something that; I'm very, very visual. We have something called a black rubber ball. With expected properties so that every time we bounce it, it's a reasonable expectation as to how that ball will respond in this environment. And utilizing that expectation of how that ball is going to respond, we make up rules to play the game. We have foul lines. We have the net, the height of the net. We have how long of duration the game is going to be, how many people are going to play it. When we come across another segment of the population that looks the same but doesn't respond the same, those foul lines are terribly obscured and that basically is the difference between the special needs and neurotypical needs.

Simkovich Thank you. Governor Gilmore, I believe you have a question?

Gilmore Yes. Or at least a comment for the panel. And if you have any reaction that would be helpful. One thing I want to draw to your attention on the issues of evacuation is something I learned at one of the other events. And that is the role of the family pet in an evacuation situation. Now, when I first heard of this, I thought, when you're trying to save the lives of senior citizens and people with special needs and people in trouble, how can you really worry about the family pet? But then someone mentioned to me that people won't go sometimes if they're going to have to leave their pet behind. And it gave; it goes less to the, the dog or the cat or the animal than it does to the humanity within the person themselves and their sense of loyalty. So, you know, I've had some people say that these evacuation issues must take this into consideration. Or then you'll have the extra burden of wrenching people from their family pets. And sometimes they just won't go. Have you all got any thoughts about that?

Rader Yeah, I'd like to say something if I can. It's not only family pets. People with special needs have unique service dogs, as well. And I'm not just talking about the typical seeing eye dog. There are companion dogs. There are dogs that can predict seizures. There are dogs that can bring things. And there are also the companion dogs that change the neurological and immunological systems by stroking dogs.

You know, we have a vast body of science now called psychoneuro-immunology that attests to the healing powers of social companionship and social affiliation. And so it's very, very important to also accommodate, you know, pets and dogs, etc. One thing I want to state to that degree that very, very often gets overlooked. At the end of the day, the bottom line where the rubber meets the road on supporting people in the community with special needs, it's not commissions like this. It's not physicians like myself or my colleague over here. It's the direct support professionals on the front lines. Eight hundred thousand to a million of these folks, most of them just with GEDs. They make seven dollars an

hour. The societal expectation is that they'll, they'll respond like Madame Curry. If I would ask you who do you think is our biggest competition to keep these people at their jobs working in group homes, residential and assisted communities, would you say that it's we lose them to psychiatric communities? Do we lose them to the dialysis clinic? Do we lose them to the community hospital or to the nursing home? No. We lose them to McDonalds. Because in McDonalds for the same amount of money that they can make, nobody's going to fire them if they make a mistake. And these direct support professionals, 800,000 strong, you know, 25 percent of them live below the poverty line. Forty-four percent of them receive food stamps. You know, I think it's a little unrealistic for us to put the burden on these direct support professionals, especially in a disaster.

Simkovich Thank you. Cathy, can you address the adult _____

Haynes Yes. We found; that was one of the issues we found, as I mentioned in my opening comment, is that during Hugo we learned of things that fell through the cracks. Well, one of them was the very issue of our citizens in that dog or that cat is the only family member they have. It's just as close to them as their child. And because they couldn't take their pet with them to a local public shelter, they chose to stay in harm's way. Well, what we have done is partnership with the city of North Charleston, is using the North Charleston Coliseum, which is out of the flood area. Is a large facility that we can; that has been set up to be used as a pet shelter. Citizens with pets that don't have any other way to go; don't have any other means of getting out of harm's way, that would need to utilize the shelter component anyway, will; can go to the coliseum and stay there safely with their pet. It is a big partnership because it takes all of the communities to help out with that. We also have expanded upon that issue long since then.

It was mentioned in my introduction about the community emergency response team. Which is a program that we've had in place in Charleston County for almost three years; a little over three years now, where basically what that program is that we go out and train citizens how to be better prepared.

Frierson And with your indulgence, we'd like to move to that next segment. We have been joined by 20 or 30 of the Neighborhood Council Presidents from Charleston. Many of you are down front already. If there are some who are not in that group of Neighborhood Council Presidents, we'd like to ask you to come on down front.

I would also like to thank this panel for their participation. Each of them, of these four will be leaders, resource experts and other kinds of leaders in

the respective breakout sessions on mass evacuation and special needs. Dr. Rader, we owe an additional thanks to. He has brought copies of *Exceptional Parent Magazine*. It's the annual resource guide. It's more than just a regular issue. It's the January issue each year, which is an encyclopedia of resources on special needs for families and providers. And that is in the breakout room. And it's available to everyone in that breakout session. But there are more copies for anyone here who has an interest in that topic. And he is the editor in chief of that.

To all four of you, thank you. This is scratching the surface of these two issues. We know that more work to come in the afternoon. So we will thank you for that. Excuse you from this panel for the moment. And I will ask my colleague, David Anderson, who is Executive Director of NCORP, to come forward for this next part of the ceremony honoring Mayor Riley and the Council Presidents, the Neighborhood Council Presidents from Charleston. We're not taking a break at this point. We want to go straight into this part of the program.

David, if you will come forward? While folks are coming forward, we have one request. Probably in the interest of getting started, some of you came on in and bypassed registration. The reason we want to capture that has nothing to do with payment and everything to do with staying in touch with you. Many of you are here as parts of larger groups and we want to make sure we know you were here. So - excuse me. The others of you, when I said come forward we just simply want you to be here on the early rows. We; you will stand and be recognized there. There are two or three who are asked to be on the stage. The others of you need not feel you have to come on up here. But we will be standing and be recognized in the course of the ceremony. Sorry for that lack of clarity. The ones on the stage already knew they were coming up here. They are surrogates for all of you. This award is one that all of you are going to share. Okay. Thank you, Mayor. We're attending to our own needs right now. Please have a seat. Go ahead, there'll be just a little bit of an introduction to what the logic of this award is from David Anderson of NCORP.

Anderson Thank you, Jim. It, it's a real delight to be here today. You know, as we've gone around to different communities we learn just so terribly much about how to forward our mission. But one of the really exciting things that happens and one of the things that happened as we came here to Charleston and started working with the Mayor's office and with the Fire Chief Thomas, and other people in the community, is what we discovered here in Charleston.

And what we discovered was a real gem. Something of long standing in this community, but something that we felt really spoke to what our mission was, which was trying to get complete community involvement.

And while it's a program of long standing here, we thought it an innovative model to communities around the nation. And that program is your program of Neighborhood Councils and their Presidents. I have up here with me today several of them who are here certainly on account of their own accomplishments, but also as representatives of the program as a whole. I have Charles Rhoden, of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association. I have Cynthia Nolen, of the Citadel Woods Crime Watch; Mr. Arthur Lawrence, of the Westside Neighborhood Association; Tim Callahan from Daniel Island; and Nancy Button from the Rosemont Neighborhood Association.

The City of Charleston Neighborhood Councils, approaching 100 strong, provide a system of communication and a substantial base for providing training and preparation for disaster readiness for city residents. City staff regularly meet with neighborhoods and provide basic training for the neighborhood as they understand that there is a period of time when the city and its citizens must be able to operate and function with outside help. Neighborhoods are encouraged to send representatives for CERT training from the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division. CERT trained volunteers are prepared to be first responders for their neighborhoods. These volunteers and other neighborhood members offer a front line response for the individual neighborhoods in the city. Neighborhood residents are also trained to go to their neighborhood fire stations in a disaster, if normal means of communications are down. The repeater system found at each station will enable city officials to communicate with neighborhood leadership and relay vital information to them. Neighborhood residents are also trained that if there is an evacuation the City of Charleston website will be their source for critical information if they are out of the area. Neighborhood associations are also encouraged to send a list of residents with special need to the city. That list is then forwarded to the County Emergency Preparedness officials and is used to check on residents in case of natural disaster, to ensure that they're being properly cared for.

For readiness and response, Neighborhood Presidents know the location and identity and the severity of any ill, handicapped or special needs individuals or elderly people and ensure that they get the help that they need. This initiative really does ensure that there is no citizen left behind in this community.

Started in 1977 through a recommendation by Mayor Riley, and adopted by resolution, the purpose of the neighborhood service office is to maintain and improve communication, understanding and cooperation between the neighborhoods of the City of Charleston and its officials to provide for the institution and operation of an officially recognized process for citizen participation in the city's governmental decision

making procedures to encourage the volunteer leadership of neighborhoods in the initiation of self-help action and to provide assistance to neighborhoods and citizens seeking access to municipal government, its services and its officials.

And before I turn over the microphone, one more thing I would like to do. I've acknowledged these fine ladies and gentlemen here. We also have many other neighborhood presidents in the audience. I would ask each of you to stand so we can recognize you, as well. Now, without further ado, I would like to turn the microphone over to Governor Gilmore.

Gilmore And this will be for the purpose of making the presentation. But this is a very impressive program, Mr. Mayor. We have said from the beginning that we have to have a complete community partnership. But then comes the question, what's the best way to do that? And to designate the community councils, the neighborhood councils, to place people with a sense of responsibility of what they need to do in the time of a catastrophe, to explain how that links into the local fire departments, and to create one in each neighborhood, exactly does what is a best practice.

And so this is, Mr. Mayor, the National Blueprint practice award, best practices award. I see that you began this program in 1977, Mr. Mayor. That must have been when you were first elected, when you were about what, 12 or something like that, I guess? But this is a very impressive program and one that we wish to, to recognize. Maybe the best recognition NCORP can give to Charleston is simply being here and drawing upon the experience and thinking of not just your Mayor, but also the community leadership that is represented by this award. But we wanted to give a token of our appreciation and a recognition to this community.

And Mr. Mayor, if you would come forward? This is a plaque which I present to you on behalf of the City of Charleston and your Neighborhood Councils, in special recognition of the Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor, and the City of Charleston Neighborhood Councils, 2006, the National Blueprint Best Practices Award. Congratulations and thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Well, thank you very much, Governor Gilmore. I so proudly accept this on behalf of these wonderful people here, the wonderful people out there, their colleagues and neighborhood presidents, and the members of their neighborhood organizations. We have 99 Neighborhood Councils and they are so wonderful. They work in every aspect of city life, including keeping the Mayor on his toes and City Council on their toes and making sure we're alert to all aspects of neighborhood needs. I meet regularly

with the neighborhood counsel presidents at 7:30 in the morning at small breakfasts to make sure we have the one-on-one. And they do so much.

But this award recognized very quickly something special. And it's, and it's about the fact that, and you know, everything; the scale of everything's so big now. And we have to resist the tendency to think of the big and not every individual. And, and what this award represents is the fact that, that these wonderful people and their colleagues accept the responsibility of being concerned about every citizen in their neighborhood when we have a hurricane threat or other natural disaster. It's not a group; it's not big scale.

It's each person is special and important. And last year, when one of the storms were approaching that we had to be ready for, I heard a wonderful story of a Neighborhood Council President not terribly far from here, lives in a very fine home, quite secure, who's out in the rain in her neighborhood knocking on doors. And she found one elderly person for whom no one was responsible. She was going to make sure that if the hurricane did, in fact, approach more closely that that person would be taken care of. It's the fact of these marvelous people accepting the responsibility in our community of making sure that we never forget that every citizen is important. Thank you very much.

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- Oftelie We are partnered with the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness for the development of the National Blueprint. What I'd like to do first, though, since most of us know each other. But if we could just take a moment and starting at, at my right, just get the names and affiliation you have in the group that you are with?
- Bentzel I'm Carl Bentzel. I actually work; I'm a little bit of a ringer on port security. I actually worked for Senator Hollings when they established Seahawk. And I'm in Washington, DC right now with the DCI group as Vice President. Work on homeland securities issues.
- Brady I'm Jeff Brady with the National Terrorism Task Force.
- Godkins My name is Michael Godkins. I'm a director of the Independent Living Center, Disability Resource Center here in Charleston, South Carolina.
- Kilberg And I'm Richard Kilberg. I'm the President of the Fred Friendly Seminars at Columbia University Graduate School Journalism.
- Dobson And who is this gentleman to my left again? I cannot recall?

Gilmore Gilmore. Here for you.

Oftelie Wonderful. I'll tell you a little bit about what we're going to do here. We've had some great sessions. I was able to roam about the three sessions and listen to some of the ideas coming forward. We're going to take some time and go through each group, identify some of the best ideas that they had; what we've learned, and take a look at those. Just in a brief introduction, the Kennedy School is involved with this effort in a way to look at the best practices and innovations taking place. Harvard is good at a few things. But one of the things we're really good at is going out to the nation, finding the leaders, finding the great ideas, the best innovations, taking those, studying them. Seeing if they're successful and then we try to take all the credit.

Well, but what we do want to do with this is once we get your ideas into the blueprint with NCORP, is take these across the nation. The American public at the local level has vast ingenuity. And we're trying to develop competitive advantage for communities. So we'll be taking these ideas and going out with NCORP across the nation and bringing these ideas out to the public. We're going to go around here. And we'll start with Jeff and Carl. Maybe what you could do here is provide us a general sense of what the group learned. And then if you could identify one great idea or two that you felt were really powerful that you can share with the rest?

Bentzel We had a very interesting communication group. A lot of first responders. A lot of people who worked in the industry. People from Charleston. I'd say there were three sort of categories that we considered as a group. And, and in part there was a lot of sense of pride, local pride in the Charleston area about the Seahawk operations.

So a lot of our initial discussion was about Project Seahawk and how intelligence fusion and an intelligence fusion center works in Charleston. I think the folks there made it clear that intelligence fusion does not take away an agency's responsibility. If there's a terrorism action the FBI is involved. If it's a maritime incident the Coast Guard is involved. If it's an environmental or health issue the state DHEC is involved. So there was a lot of discussion on interplay of the various segments and how they work together in a fusion center.

I think there was a general consensus that it gave an opportunity for all of these different groups to get together and communicate better. And so that really was able to facilitate their law enforcement efforts and maybe got issues considered that might not have been considered in the absence of a fusion center. There was some concern that was expressed from the private sector that information flowed from the federal government erratically.

And it was pointed out that there was some legitimate reason for the federal government to keep certain information away from the public for legitimate reasons, protecting sources, the validity of the information. However, there was a general sort of sense that there was some concern that perhaps there would be a better way of getting that information to the private sector. And in particular people that could be impacted by a terrorist action through the ports.

I think our second issue was really communications issues. How does the public interact with law enforcement? And how do we set up a mechanism so that there's a better opportunity for the public to communicate with an operation like Project Seahawk or the federal government.

There was a lot of discussion about the medical community. And the first responders I'd say felt that perhaps a lot of activity had occurred for security purposes and hadn't quite filtered down to allow them to participate and get information. For instance, if there was some biological terrorist action and would the local hospitals be able to handle surge and was there enough information. And some of the state folks that were there said that they had plans and they were a system of plans.

But there was some concern that perhaps that wasn't being imparted adequately and maybe that people who had security clearances and people who didn't have the interface that they should.

I think the third area that we discussed; actually I'm going back. There was some discussion, actually some arguments that we could set up a better system of communication so that volunteered information could be distributed. For instance, Internet communications could be used so that you could query certain agencies to get information.

The third area that we discussed was technology and how do we establish a better system of technology for port security. In particular, radiation detection and tracking containers were a major concern. There was discussions about whether our system is adequate enough. And, probably an acknowledgement that we can't investigate every single container but we would like to do a better job. What sort of programs could we set up as the federal government to incent the private sector to install technology that would allow us to detect that; weapons of mass destruction before they were entering the United States.

So those were the three areas that we sort of discussed. And I'm going to let you do the summation of some of the things we discussed.

Brady Having gone through and kind of dissected some of the major issues, we did focus in on some of the very good practices that are done here in Charleston. Some of the things that are being looked at, being discussed and, and actually are in place. I'll kind of give you a real quick overview and then I'll focus in on what we identified as a best practice that we're going to send out here on the Blueprint. As my colleague discussed, the communications aspect that, you know, what is the, what's the private sector and the community's role and what's their interplay in the communications aspect when you're getting, trying to get federal information down to the local level. We had a robust discussion about what type of an alerting system should you use to take care of the fear factor that a community is going to have? How are we going to educate them? And I think there was a lot of discussion about media engagement and message shaping through the media to try and calm public fear. We talked about the law enforcement and first responder communities and their information and coordination and how they conduct that here in the Charleston area.

The Chamber of Commerce folks talked about a program called Think Tech that focuses on home and security issues, the business sector models that they have that deal with response issues and their plans, the business continuity plans for business if something does occur. There were some discussions about potential using list services for public notification systems.

And again, economically based systems to improve port security with a government, private and public partnership. Some of the different aspects that were discussed. The best practice fit, I think, we just feel in this particular thing, in Charleston that I think we'd like to share with the nation is that, is the fusion that you have established here between the communications mechanisms, the information systems that you have, and the interoperability of those systems that you're using in the Charleston area for port security. And all those systems associated with the vulnerabilities of the different stakeholders that you have in the port system. Because it's not all government controlled and government owned. So that's what we're going to start to focus on as our best practice for this particular point.

Oftelie Wonderful. As a bit of a framing for this, one of the things that we'll be looking at, however it is, what NCORP is, when we had these ideas, there are generally three ways that these will go forward. Some of the ideas we can look at and can say, you know what, this is current. This can be taken from Charleston over to Long Beach, California and they can implement this tomorrow. There are some that are a little bit more difficult. They're a great idea but it's going to take some organizational realignment. Maybe it's a new corporate type of partnership, some new collaboration.

And it's going to take a little bit of work. And there's a third area that's even more challenging but where the; I think the greatest benefits come. And that's when we have to have new authority structures, possibly new institutions, new networks, new technologies to come forward. That will take some significant building.

I'd like to ask the Governor, in your experience and in the context of this idea where we're taking the fusion center concept and maybe expanding it to include the community sector, making sure that the information gets flowing out across there like more of a tri-sector type of arrangement. What is your take on how the nation moves forward with bringing the new types of structures forward? We don't necessarily the laws and the authority right now?

Gilmore Right. And I think everybody in the room was here when I made earlier presentations, you know, to him and the role that I'm playing with NCORP. I certainly want to thank everybody for staying through this day and for participating so vigorously in all of this. And the morning sessions were designed to lay the framework and begin to get some of the big picture ideas out on the table. And then the afternoon sessions were our opportunity to draw from you in the breakout sessions and get some of these ideas that Antonio's referring to right now.

The official commission I chaired, I began to address the issue of a fusion center right after '9-11'. We addressed the issue in the year 2002 report of the official commission. And then we bring up the concern that people were expressing nervousness that they simply could not get information out of stovepipes. That culture. We teach each other to hold information close. This is nobody else's business. This is our business. And we don't want to talk to them. It's a competitive situation. And they're more; as a result of that cultural barrier, no good systems of interactivity of information has been set up. That all changed with '9-11'. There was a consensus that fusion centers needed to be done. We recommend there be a fusion center at the national level on intelligence. And what's interesting to me from today and also some of the other meetings is this issue of the ability for people to share information and the use of fusion centers in multiple ways keeps emerging.

We propose that there be a fusion center at the CIA, the NSA, the FBI and several of the other Department of Defense intelligence centers. And then demanded the state people and local people have representatives in there so that they could be sure that this would get to the federal silo.

But I noticed in Seahawk, for example, that it's primary function is a fusion center. It's a chance to get all the different agencies talking to each other. And there is an insistence that the local people be included in that

fusion center. And this begins to move through this vehicle of addressing the issue of sharing information. You actually are beginning to reach to the far bigger policy. Which is the question of getting federal, state and local people all in partnership with each other.

You can't have a partner unless you're willing to talk to him. And if you're talking to somebody else, all of a sudden you've got a partner. And that is what keeps coming out over and over. And I was very interested from the reports across the room here to hear this re-emerge one more time. The joint terrorism task forces and the great fusion center. Jeff and I worked on that again and observed exactly the progress that they had been making.

These other standard approaches, Antonio, that we're talking about here, the other approaches that were being talked about, the hospital surge issues and communication on that, Internet communications. I think that we all agree there has to be a plan. Has to be understood. Everybody has to know who's in charge and who's duty it is to do what part of this. And then once the problem occurs, then you've got; always got this issue, this challenge of communication. Technologically it's been raised; Internet communications have been raised here. I think this is something that absolutely has to be focused on, understood and exercised.

My experience is that we have a real catastrophe that very frequently you tell your communications were down. I remember in the Katrina incident, for example, and this was long after '9-11'. We wanted to call down into the target area down there in Louisiana in order to begin to share some resources at the private sector. Couldn't get anyone on the phone. That's not anybody's fault. It's just the way things are in the middle of a catastrophe. If you have a communication system depending on infrastructure, it may be down. If you have it based on cell phones, well, there's not so much capacity to go through those lines. If it's all full up, I don't know what your experience is, but cell phones particularly fail in these kinds of circumstances.

Now, the Mayor has said that if needed he wants the community leadership, which was here in the room earlier, and some still may be here, to understand that you need to get to the fire stations where they have the repeater radios. That's good. I think at the end of the day you have to get into making sure you understand the plan. And then we have to make sure the communications actually really work in the time of the catastrophe so that the plan can be implemented. The trick to all this for me is prearrange. Work it all in advance. Answer all the questions in advance. Don't be fighting about who's in charge, where the phone's going to answer during the time of the catastrophe because that won't work. And

could be potentially dangerous and even lives could be lost. We've seen that. We've seen it in Louisiana.

People, in fact, died as a result of not having some of these things worked out in advance. And so I understand these concepts. And I think that this is very additive to be able to say here in Charleston that these are the focus areas that are being looked at.

Oftelie Well, thank you, Governor. Jeff and Carl, when I was in your group I noticed that there was talk of extending this communication center concept and information flow down to the citizen level and community level. Can you guys expound on that a little bit? Any technologies that were brought up or any ideas? Submitted ideas on how to actually do that?

Bentzel Well, I think one of the issues that was a concern is how do you differentiate secure information versus the public's need to protect public safety. And what sorts of people would have to be involved. But I think there was clear interest in some sort of system that will be able to provide whatever information was necessary for public safety as soon as practicable. And try to work through that. So setting up a system and actually I think the Chamber of Commerce has been working on some of these things for businesses and trying to come up with plans on how they would continue to do as much of the business and economic activity as they could while going through one of these activities. So I think there was clear interest in how it would be structured and how you would make sure that the information that was provided was accurate and the interface was adequate was the issue.

Oftelie So it sounds like we had great ideas how some people would go about and, and start building on communication. That dovetails I think very specifically with the issue of special needs and of how we communicate to that community of people. How we prepare and ready ourselves. Michael and Richard? Thoughts on your group, some of the learnings? Some of the ideas, innovations that maybe came forward?

Godkins In the spirit of partnership and cooperation, I'm going to encourage Richard to anytime that he feels that he could add to what I'm talking about, then to just jump in at any time. One of the things we talked about is the simple fact that when you're trying to prepare, emergency preparedness and evacuation and assist folks that, you know, with special needs, that you need to include them; be more inclusive with their ideas, their thoughts and their abilities to participate in that process.

Oftelie Excuse me for a moment. Can everyone hear Michael okay? You have a mike, don't you, Mike?

Godkins Yes.

Oftelie Okay.

Godkins Can you hear me better now?

Oftelie That's fine.

Godkins One of the things we talked about which was the ability to reach out to folks with disabilities to be able to go with information and identify the folks that we're trying to evacuate. Identify what their needs are. Identify really the numbers that are out there. And, and how to go about doing that. Several of the folks that were there that we talked about was the simple fact that it was really kind of difficult to identify the true numbers of folks with disabilities because of their ability to have that contact with them. Some of the areas that were identified that were actually being somewhat successful in identifying folks with disabilities were the neighborhood associations. The neighborhood organizations that were going out door to door and really trying to identify individually the folks in the communities that had the disabilities that were going to need the assistance.

But, you know, a lot of the folks really kind of talked about there is kind of an innate, or you know, trust issues as far as folks with disabilities. Because we in the past have had several instances that we deal with a lot of folks that are, you know, a lot of different organizations because of our needs, we deal with a lot of government entities, health care systems, whatever that may be. But you know, different types of agencies. And we traditionally in the past, instead of being looked at as person-first, we've been kind of medical model. A lot of those organizations look at us and try to figure out how they can best treat the system. Or fix it. Instead of figuring out how to take us, incorporate us into the community, being more inclusive, they try to figure out how they can fix us instead of fixing society and the community at large.

So you know, we kind of realize that we needed to be more inclusive, try to figure out how to incorporate folks with disabilities into the system of trying to help identify the folks that were in the community with disabilities. So we talked about trying to take folks with disabilities and get them involved with the community organizations, with the neighborhood associations. Also to be involved and be responsible at the county levels and at the state levels. Try to be involved with the design, the preparedness and the implementation of any type of plan that's going to include folks with disabilities. If you're going to try to figure out the best way to kind of serve us and meet our needs, you really need to involve us in the design and preparation of the plans that are going to

serve us. Because a lot of times folks that do not have disabilities, they're not taking into full consideration what the needs are of folks with disabilities.

Oftelie Richard, maybe you can respond to that? Can you give us a sense of; in my time with your group there was, there was a little confusion and a lot of complexity around how do we appropriately identify the groups?

Kilberg Well ---

Oftelie I think, we think we know but we don't.

Kilberg I mean, there were questions like that both on a very specific level and in a vast kind of metaphorical kind of physical level. That is, there were specific suggestions about how we ID people with special needs or disabilities. Whether they should have a chip shot into them that would identify them to medical providers. When they were unable to identify themselves and their specific need and medical needs. And that was interesting. And had issues of access to that information. And redundancy in a disaster situation. But more interesting, actually, on identifying disabled people was, it was striking how the conversation was unable really to stay on disabled. It quickly moved from disabled to special needs. And from special needs to vulnerable populations. I.e. your kids and your grandmother. And then from vulnerable populations out to the general population. So it was very hard to actually separate it. And then actually what happens, of course, is once you take care of all those kinds of; you know, things aren't general population definitions, the general population's taken care of. The general population's freed up to do what it needs to do. So that, that conversation kept going around and around. And I certainly will; a second like, discussion of trust. And not just; again, not just for disabled populations, but in general the need to in any disaster situation, to be trodding pre-trod ground. To have prepared and have made personal contact with people who will trust you to take care of their welfare. Whatever their level of need is.

It was ironically noted, of course, that in this meeting which had planned already to talk about disabled people as one of the focuses, there was no way for a disabled person to mount this platform. So you know, we're hoisting on our own petard.

A couple other little things, or another specific suggestion within the conversation was to create; that there is no unified source of information or reference for people to figure out how to prepare themselves and their special disability vulnerable relatives, friends, associates. And that creating something like that would be an interesting initiative. Certainly integrating, again, all stakeholders. And that is a sub-issue of trust.

There was some discussion of the counter-productiveness of certain mandatory regulations. For instance, mandatory regulations that would define what would be adequate as a disabled shelter. And on the principal, the best thing the enemy of the good, you know, if you had mandatory certifications all these other kind of, of shelters that might be adequate but not perfect would not be used especially. And that might especially impact poor communities and people that live in.

Finally, it was frequently stressed, or remarked, by people in the community associations, people working with populations already, that expecting even majority compliance, a majority participation with any of these efforts wasn't likely. That most people would not fill out forms, would not consider what kind of water they have to store, would not make plans. It was not; it was, you know, kind of a depressing observation, of course, and we couldn't figure out exactly how to talk about it. But I think; my takeaway is that, you know, that's an important job for leadership to think through with how to deal with those kinds of problems.

Oftelie Right. Governor Gilmore, if we were successful at, at Jeff and Carl's building a large scale fusion center which, which brought information down from the federal level to the state, to the community. Down to actual citizens that were able to be integrated with a system that; a central portal, so to say, for access to special needs communities, and we had all that figured out.

There still is a challenge of trust, which we talked about. And it's a choice. It blows on the choice to accept aid. A large percentage of the population will choose to opt out of these systems. How should we as a nation, as a community, handle the issue of you want to save peoples' lives, but ultimately they have a choice?

Gilmore Yeah. You know, my reply; of course, I'm off the top of my head, but I'm going to reflect on this a little bit. But as I was listening, I have a couple of reactions on this. Two. One is the sense of personal responsibility and accountability. If there's going to be a choice, it has to be understood everywhere that there may be a choice and that they have to live with the consequences of that choice. I don't think everyone thinks that we have the right to make choices for people. But we do have the right to expect people to live with their decisions. And not put other people in jeopardy when they make bad decisions.

But I think the solution is elsewhere. I think the solution is in a lot of public communication, particularly from public leaders. And by the way, that's everybody that's here in the room. I mean, there has to be a general discussion out there with the entire community about what could happen

and what choices they may be faced with, so they're in a position to make better choices, not in the crisis. I think we all agree that in a crisis there's a higher likelihood we'll make a wrong decision than if we're thinking about it in a calm time. So I think public communication may be the place where I would focus some attention. When you have a general community discussion about what the potential consequences are of an attack or a catastrophe within the community and what types of situations might occur, I was writing down, you know, as I was thinking about this, Antonio, you know, not everything can be foreseen. And it seems to be a general thought that we may have to get people with special needs out. It may be that we're not going to be able to get people, any people out. It might be that we have to require people to shelter and/or advise people to shelter in place. That's when everybody will want to leave, of course. But everybody may be expected to shelter in place, depending upon what the nature of the threat is. It may be that they have to be moved, not out of the community but elsewhere in the community. That is a Katrina example of all the manufactured housing being shipped down there by the tens of thousands of units.

You have to have a plan for getting people out. You have to have a plan for getting people housed when their own facilities are no longer habitable. And you have to have a plan for people to stay. What happens on special needs people when we're not telling them to go elsewhere or to even leave the community, but we tell them you have to stay and they don't have any of those normal elements of their, of their life at their hand anymore? How are we going to provide that? How are they going to provide for themselves? So I think; I'm going to stop other than to say I think there's a general community discussion about this, about community leadership is great. And while I'm going to echo this in a few minutes with closing remarks, I want to say that I think one of the great benefits of this meeting which I had not focused on when we said it was the opportunity to get 250 of the key leaders from the Charleston community together in one place from all different fields, to maybe talk over these kinds of issues.

Oftelie Yes.

Gilmore So they can have the pride of leadership to the community.

Oftelie Thank you, Governor. We do have a leadership here. And I would like to reiterate we do have two microphones, I believe, that are at the sides. It's difficult for me to see if someone has a question. But if you do, please feel free to stand up and our, our spotters so to say can find you. We probably have time for two questions if anyone would like to direct a question to the panel we have here now. And then we'll move to, to our

mass evacuation group after that. Any questions? Looks like none. Any final comments, Jack and Carl? Michael, Richard?

Godkins Touch on a couple things. Yeah, and I think we need to do a better job, you know, at least at the state level, top down, of really trying to educate and inform as far as the disability population is concerned, to educate and inform the population of their needs to be better prepared in the, in the case of their personal responsibility. To start working on their plans and know what their supports, what their needs are going to be and, and try to identify ways to meet those needs. You know? And I think we could be a lot more successful on the local level as far as really trying to collect the personal information and getting that to those that really kind of, that need to have the information. That can really kind of help resolve, once we identify what the needs are, the number of folks in the population that's going to need assistance. And really try and identify what their needs are going to be as far as the sheltering is going to be, and the transportation, the housing. Whatever all that may be. They really try to identify, you know, take what we've given them as far as information and try to help put together the package to then solve and meet those needs.

Oftelie Great. Thank you. Those are wonderful insights. We look forward to having; to building on the ideas that you, that you generated in your meetings. And thank you to everyone who was in the special needs and the port security groups. We have some, some great ideas. I think we have one question here in the ---

Question I was just curious when, when will you guys be done with this project and when will we hear, hear the results of it?

Oftelie Sure, I can answer that also. With the Governor to add to it, as well. First of all it's a long term process, an iterative process. The National Blueprint for Secure Communities is something that that will be living. That as innovations come forward, as best practices move forward, as people become just more ingenious in how we react to potential threats, we will be continually updating this document.

In the near term, we do have the event scheduled in DC, which we hope you can all be at, which will be unveiling the first version of the National Blueprint. That will have; we have already a number of ideas in there. We'll have hundreds of ideas in there that are actionable. For communities as soon as they open it up. But we'll continue to build on it, continue to move out into the nation and gathering more ideas, refining ideas. And over the long term it will be chronic documents. Where you'll have a shell. You can go online and download any portions that you would like to look at and to put into, play in your locale.

Gilmore That's right. I think NCORP has legs. I think a non-profit on homeland security that is really devoted to the key concept of a partnership between federal, state, local, private sector and community leadership has legs. I think people want this. And as a result, I think that the organization will continue beyond the national meeting date. We figured at a year ago talking to local responders nationwide that there was a void and a need to have a more specific plan put in place for the first 72 hours. I think we can do that. And as Antonio said, we continue to update that. I think the organization itself, I think, seems to have enough enthusiastic support from the local responder community nationwide that I think it will continue. And, you know, this is a privately funded organization. We don't get any tax money from anyone. But when we're talking to potential donors that care about homeland security and the safety of the nation, no we're talking about a longer term program. I'm inclined to think it will continue. But the specific answer to your question is, when you're going to hear about the result of this? This will be incorporated in the Blueprint which should be in some format unveiled. Directly.

Oftelie Great.

Question Okay. I have one quick question. We can't always help all the special needs people and we certain have agreed to go and that sort of thing. But, and I have a 95-year-old grandmother that has dementia. And in her case I would think they would come to me with a power of attorney and say what would be your wishes if there was a catastrophe. We certainly don't want to wait until the advent of the catastrophe to be making those contacts. Now, then when we have documents, the living wills and organ donations, some of the preparation for handling special needs, could that not be tasked to the long-term care facilities, to private home care givers, to go ahead and get these documents in place or recent acknowledgement that there is a segment of that population that will allow to be helped. And know that ahead of time?

Oftelie Yeah, first I've; my first reaction to that personally was in the National Blueprint there's a section where we're talking ideas. It also lists the barriers. And that's a great example of the barriers that we have in place, whether we've thought through it or not, that impede our ability to help these populations. So on one hand I would like to turn that back to you and say, tell us what to do? Go on to National Blueprint sites and tell us what you think the best way to fix that is. We need those ideas. Michael, if you have a quick response to that?

Godkins Well, I just want to say one thing that we have been doing here on the local level for about a year now, ever since Katrina last year, because it really kind of forced us to take a look at some of the issues as it relates to folks with disabilities, you know, it really identified that there were some

shortfalls with, with the process of helping to evacuate and care for those with disabilities for some type of catastrophic event. And, so we've been looking; kind of working in the last year trying to identify folks. And bear in mind that this is folks that are willing to self-identify. We haven't been going out there with this; it's all about choice.

As far as our organization is concerned, we're not, you know, forcing them to self-identify. Or do this or register. But we're putting together a registry of folks with disabilities that have identified themselves, that they're going to need assistance. They're going to need sheltering. In most of the cases these are folks that really, that are not in any type of assisted living or institutionalized care or anything like that. These are folks that are, are independent, living on their own in the community that rely on caregivers other than families or friends for those types of supports. They use personal attendant services and things like that. That in the event of a catastrophe those are not going to be available to them. So they're going to have to rely on some other parts of the public forum to help them to prepare, put their belongings together and evacuate. And be pointed to transportation.

So we're trying to put together a registry of folks that would fall into that need so we can try to put together a plan and whether it's through us, we've looked at churches. We've looked at other organizations, community organizations. Tried to identify folks that would be willing to basically adopt this individual, the individuals we have on there, so they can kind of develop a relationship and go to their homes, help them to put together their personalized plan, but also be willing to help them to implement that plan when time; when it comes to need to be able to evacuate or need to evacuate, they'll assist them with that.

Oftelie That's good.

Godkins That, that is something we are trying to do.

Oftelie Great. In late of time, we need to move on to the next group. I would like to throw out a challenge though to our fine gentlemen here and to Michael. That's a great, a great question and I think a great answer. Now, we need your ideas. In the Blueprint. I would love it if you two could get together afterwards.

Godkins Okay.

Oftelie We're done here today and talk about this. Talk over the phone or whatever it may be. To get this idea and fix this and get it into the Blueprint.

Oftelie Okay. And then we need to bring the other group up. There's still one more group, so okay. I'll make this real quick. We were in the special needs breakout session. After that thing broke up, well, it was pretty short. We didn't have a lot of time in there and there were a lot of people. There were six or seven very spirited discussions.

Frierson Understanding that hospitals closer to the ocean are not going to be maintainable for the majority of the hospital's population, so as a group we're understanding that we're probably going to have to move patients inland. And we're trying to make preparations for that. The issue the first responders need a place to shelter the families, we've also addressed that. And most of the hospitals working in conjunction with each other have set up sheltering areas within the hospitals, providing for child care, providing for elder care and in certain cases providing for pet care, as well. And we have a number of ideas that I think would work as best practices wrapped up into one.

Oftelie In late of time, we are running a little bit over. I would like to on behalf of Governor Gilmore and NCORP and everyone here, and the nation for that matter. We have six great ideas that we've talked about here. If I may, I would like to challenge each and every one of you and ask; and plead with you, if you can take these ideas and put them in the Blueprint. I think we've got a start today. But as you talked, there's more, I think, that you have that can go in the Blueprint. And we need those ideas. Won't have time for any questions. But I would like to thank you for ---

CLAPPING

Oftelie I was just passed a note as well to; there is the annual Resource Guide of *Exceptional Parenting* available again in the lobby, as you're on your way out. Thank you very much. We are going to adjourn in here in a few moments. I would like to invite the Executive Director of NCORP, David Anderson, to the podium. And to give closing remarks, as well, Governor Gilmore. Thank you.

Gilmore Dave's going to wrap it up and, and bring the meeting to a close. So I'm just going to take one or two words. David will probably do this. But I'm going to take advantage of the moment and just - where's Rosalie Wyatt? She in here? Rosalie? Rosalie has been the NCORP staffer who has done so much to bring all this together. I think it's been a very successful meeting and she has worked tirelessly for months to make it come to a reality. Rosalie, thank you very much. Just a few thoughts and then I'll turn it over to David.

Number one, I think it's been a true town hall meeting. I have been very impressed with the caliber of people who have showed up and stayed and participated. It's really been wonderful for us, and I think it's wonderful for the community, frankly, here in Charleston. This is a fairly good representation of the response community for the entire Charleston community. So I think it's been a good town hall meeting. I think we've gotten, as Antonio said, a series of best practices now which can go on to the Blueprint and be discussed on the Blueprint. We'll put that on for the Nationalblueprint.org website, also, for comment by the people. I think that it's pretty exciting that we got so many of the key leaders of the community together in one room. So that they could interact, see each other, have an understanding of where they are. I know a lot of that goes on already; that reflects itself in this meeting.

But this is a big meeting. A couple hundred, 250 people from all different parts of the community all in one place at one time. And I think that's an asset, frankly, to Charleston. We've got good public relations in that the press cared enough about this to come out and publish it and watch it and broadcast it and talk about it. That will mean that the people in the community will understand that their leaders care enough to come together and do this. I think that's a big plus. And primarily it's bottoms up. It's not top down. There isn't anybody in some far flung place that presumes to be in charge of homeland security commanding these 250 people what to do. These 250 people are already at work and thinking about these issues and now we're sharing it with each other. And this will become something that will be of an asset to other parts of the country as we go forth with a national program to create a Blueprint. The last thought that I had which is kind of a precautionary note. It's a very interesting question I've got in my mind. I saw a lot of answers here.

I found myself asking, what is that we have not yet thought about? What is it that we have not yet thought about? We all understand what a hurricane is. We have a lot of experience with it. We don't understand completely what terrorists might try to do. What is it that we haven't thought about? That, that needs some, some attention? And I think that 250 of the best minds of South Carolina came together today and as we go forward we'll be able to reflect on that. I want to thank all of you very much and then turn it over to David Anderson for a couple of final words. I appreciate the opportunity to benefit NCORP by being here. We think we've been a contribution to the Charleston community. But we think you're making a contribution to this vehicle to the people of the United States. So thank you very much.

Anderson Let me conclude this session today by thanking all of you. Thanking all of you for getting here so early in the morning, for staying with us and staying with us right to the very end. Speaking for myself; I hope this has

been a rewarding experience for each of you. Speaking for myself, I can't hardly express how much I've learned and how much I think every member of the NCORP team has learned by being with you here today. And not here with you today only. The Governor spoke about the tireless work that Rosalie has done. And she has. And she's made three trips to Charleston for this event. And has been in constant communication with various leaders in this community on all levels. I hear from Rosalie, as does every member of our team, several times a week. Indeed sometimes several times a day. We hear that it's been a continuous learning experience for us as we put this together. And I can hardly express how rewarding it's been. I hope you feel the same way about your experience with us. I would ask all of you to mark your calendars.

We're having a National Congress in Washington, DC to bring together first responders, local government, private sector and the charitable communities together in a bigger session of what we've done here today, and to work on our National Blueprint. I'd also invite each of you in the breakout sessions has worked to contribute to that Blueprint. But I would encourage each of you to individually log onto our Blueprint website, which is www.nationalblueprint.org. I would encourage you to put any thoughts, any ideas, things you think work, things you think don't work. They all work into this mix, and I tell you they're terribly valuable, not only to us but I think to everyone who will use that as a resource.

When we gather in Washington we're going to unveil that Blueprint. We're going to work on it further to work on bringing about; bringing the cream of the crop of the ideas that we've gathered and how we implement those and how we can go forward in the communities and, and help them and help each other to, to do this terribly important work. So again, thank you all for coming here and unless I hear further objection, I will adjourn this meeting today. Thank you so much.

MEETING ADJOURNED