

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF READINESS AND PREPAREDNESS

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO STRENGTHEN HOMELAND SECURITY



National & Local News Coverage

The National Council on Readiness and Preparedness (NCORP) was formed in response to the finding of the 5th and final report of the Gilmore Commission that America's homeland security required the private and community sectors to be involved in preparing communities for the first 72 hours of a crisis.

Recent disasters such as Katrina illustrate how community survival and recovery depend upon the efforts and coordination of the citizens, organizations and businesses before, during and after disaster. Public and private sector leaders working in partnership to educate and train citizens about their role in responding to a disaster should be a national priority.

Over the past year, NCORP has been traveling to cities and towns across the country to meet with first responders, local officials, the private sector and citizens to gather information and ideas for its National Blueprint for Secure Communities, a compilation of best practices that communities can use during the first 72 hours of a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

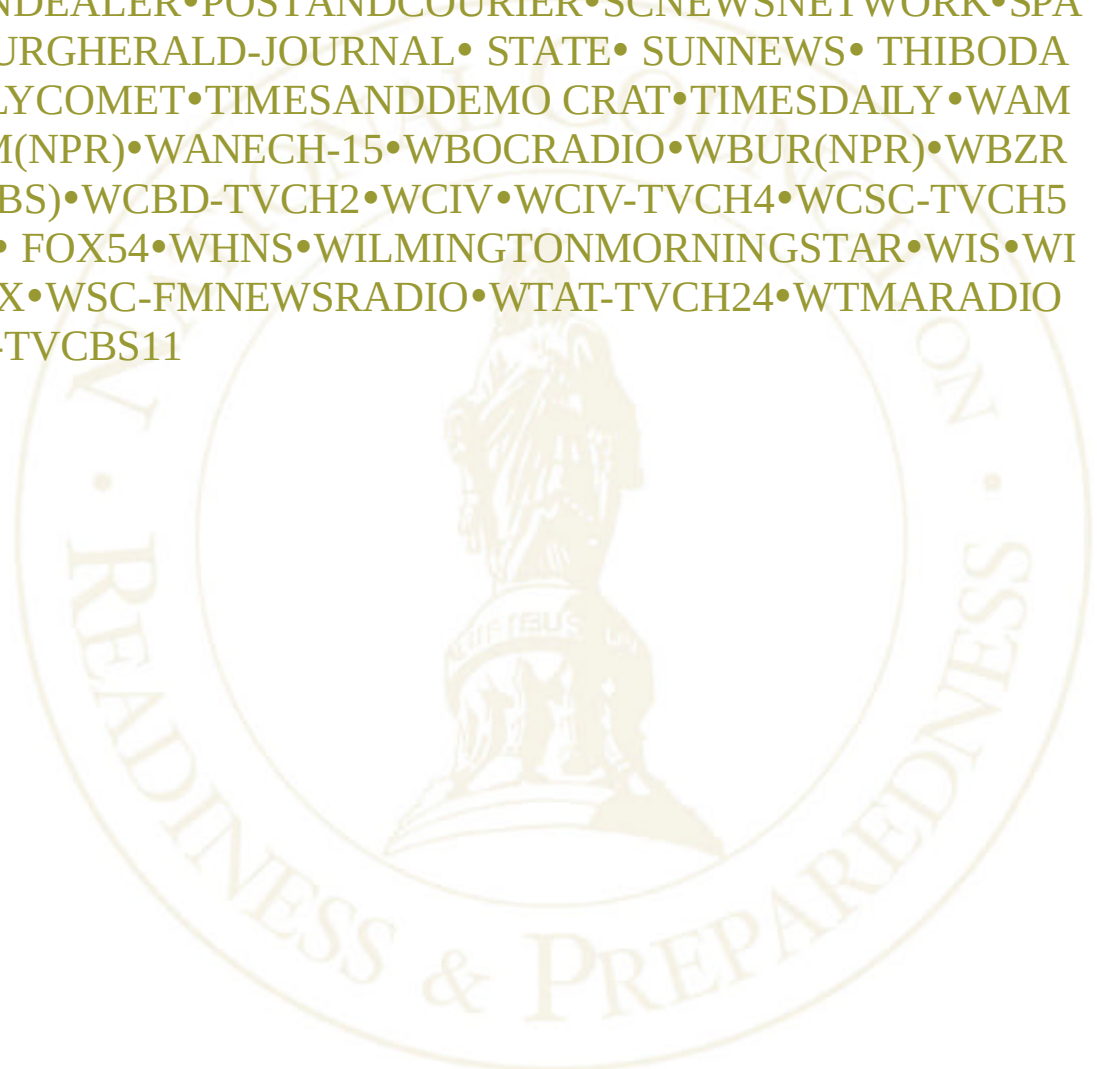
Due to the importance of the topics discussed and the high and diverse turnout from the local responder community, NCORP's regional homeland security summits have consistently enjoyed significant press attention from both national and local media outlets.

Selected example of media coverage are provided on the following pages.

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FOR BOSTON, CHARLESTON, MANCHESTER, GALVESTON:

ASSOCIATEDPRESS•ABC-5•AZTECAAMERICA•BOSTONAIRPORTJOURNAL•BOSTONHERALD•CHARLESTONCITYPAPER•CHARLOTTEOBSERVER•FLORIDATIMES-UNION•FOX-25•GALVESTONCOUNTYDAILYNEWS•GUIDRYNEWS•HOUSTONCHRONICLE•JOURNALGAZETTE•KAMU90.9FM•KPRC-TVCH2(NBC)•KRIV-TVCH26(FOX)•KTRK-TVCH13(ABC)•KUHF-FM88.7(NPR)•MOULTRIENEWS•MYRTLEBEACHSUNNEWS•NBC-33•NBC-7•PLAINDEALER•POSTANDCOURIER•SCNEWSNETWORK•SPARTANBURGHERALD-JOURNAL•STATE•SUNNEWS•THIBODAUXDAILYCOMET•TIMESANDDEMO CRAT•TIMESDAILY•WAMU88.5FM(NPR)•WANECH-15•WBOCRADIO•WBUR(NPR)•WBZRADIO(CBS)•WCBF-TVCH2•WCIV•WCIV-TVCH4•WCSC-TVCH5•WFXG•FOX54•WHNS•WILMINGTONMORNINGSTAR•WIS•WIS-TVFOX•WSC-FMNEWSRADIO•WTAT-TVCH24•WTMARADIO•WTOC-TVCBS11



Boston, Massachusetts

In Boston, NCORP brought together the region's leading first responders in port and border security. The dialogue focused on security at Boston's Logan Airport

Co-Hosts

Thomas Kinton
Chief Executive Officer of Massport &
Former Massport Aviation Director for Boston
Logan Airport
Sgt. Phil Terenzi
Harbormaster & Commander of the Harbor Patrol
Unit

Expert Panelists, Attendees, and Blueprint Contributors include Senior Representative from:

Dennis Treece
Corporate Security Director, Boston Logan Airport
George Nacarra
Director of TSA, New England
Sgt. Kevin McGoldrick
Boston Region Intelligence Center (BRIC)
Lt. Arthur Torigian
Emergency Preparedness Manager, City of Boston
LTC Joseph Higgins
United States Coast Guard
Major Scott Pare
Commander, Massachusetts State Police, Boston
Logan Airport Troop F
Jack Kreckie
Deputy Chief, Massport Fire Rescue

Massport CEO Thomas Kinton said, "Readiness and preparedness for any and all potential emergencies or possible disasters is paramount. Planning between all first response agencies and units throughout the city and state is imperative if we are to learn lessons from recent major incidents like Hurricane Katrina."



Boston, Massachusetts



Initial response local responsibility

By James Gilmore and Thomas Kinton

Monday, November 13, 2006 - Updated: 01:50 AM EST

When it comes to domestic homeland security, as a nation, we are not ready. More than five years after 9/11, our nation has yet to create a national blueprint of on-the-ground strategies and tactics for local communities and the private sector to utilize in the wake of a terrorist attack or natural disaster. Security professionals will tell you that the easiest way to make our ports safe is to close them. The Massachusetts Port Authority knows that is not an option. Instead, we have to prepare for any scenario and ensure that our resources are at the ready. After all, while security officials and first responders strive to be perfect every day, terrorists need be perfect only once to create havoc.

It's time for an honest conversation in this nation about our collective vulnerabilities and the real actions necessary to correct them. In Boston, Massport has strived to be a leader and an honest broker in this conversation. Especially after 9/11, Massport had an obligation to take a real inventory of Boston's harbor and airports. Over five years later, Massport is proud of its achievements, but we know more must be done.

Boston's emergency managers and first responders have created emergency plans and training programs that address the most pressing local preparedness issues. Today, Massport joins the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness (NCORP), in hosting a summit on Boston's airport and harbor safety, to further encourage a communications regime that connects first responders responding to an emerging crisis.

NCORP was established to help every community in America become better prepared. NCORP is traveling across the country and meeting with first responders, local officials, the private sector and citizens to develop a National Blueprint for Secure Communities, a compilation of best practices that communities can use to leverage the resources of the private sector and community organizations during the first 72 hours of a natural disaster or terrorist attack. This blueprint will be the focus of a meeting of community stakeholders in Washington when the National Congress on Secure Communities is held.

As Americans, we stood in horror the morning of 9/11. As the governor in Virginia and the director of aviation at Logan International Airport in Boston, respectively, we worked closely with local first responders and officials. We saw that day that the initial response came from the local, not federal, government.

Working together, we can help each other develop initiatives that can prepare cities like Boston for the first 72 hours of crisis, making our nation safer and stronger.

James Gilmore served as governor of Virginia from 1998 to 2002. He now chairs the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness. Thomas Kinton is CEO of Massport.

Charleston, South Carolina

NCORP joined Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley to host a gathering of hundreds of first responders, elected officials, academics, business and civic leaders at a regional Charleston Security Summit to discuss innovations, best practices and upcoming challenges related to local homeland security, port safety, mass evacuation/surge capacity, special needs populations and overall readiness and preparedness.

Co-Hosts:

Mayor Joseph Riley, City of Charleston
John Simkovich, Regional Public Health Director, SC Dept.
Of Health & Environmental Control

Expert Panelists, Attendees, and Blueprint Contributors include Senior Representative from:

Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston County Emergency Preparedness
Charleston Fire Department
Charleston Police Department
Charleston Neighborhood Council Presidents
SC Office of Public Preparedness
State Farm Insurance
Harvard University Kennedy School of Government
Contingency Planning and Outsourcing, Inc.
Area Health Education Consortium
Roper St. Francis Healthcare
Salvation Army
SC Port Authority
American Red Cross
Office of Senator Jim DeMint
Blackbaud Corporation
Navigational Sciences
Orbis Corporation
SC Emergency Management Division
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
Coastal Crisis Chaplains
College of Charleston
Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency
Siemens Federal Enterprise Solutions



Charleston, South Carolina



SOUTHEASTERN LEADERS WORK TO SECURE NATION FROM THE GRASSROOTS

By BRUCE SMITH

Friday, December 01, 2006

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Securing America requires everyone to take a role - not just the Department of Homeland Security, former Virginia Gov. James Gilmore warned at a conference here Thursday. Gilmore is chairman of the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness, a nonprofit group working with everyone from businesses and local government to emergency responders in a grassroots effort to strengthen security.

"By creating the Department of Homeland Security they captured homeland security and took it to themselves—federal government did," he said. "It's not enough. Much has been accomplished but the simple more of what has to be done is a complete community of involvement and that has not been done."

About 200 people, including businesspeople, public officials, emergency responders and academics from five southeastern states met for a regional council meeting.

Ideas gathered here and from similar sessions nationwide will go into a blueprint for securing communities, said Gilmore, who chaired a counterterrorism panel appointed by Congress between 1999 and 2004. Thursday the talk was of port security, evacuations and providing for those with special needs in emergencies.

"Every family needs a plan ... so if there is a hurricane or an earthquake or a terrorist event, people are in shape - mentally in shape about what they have to do," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr.

Most people don't realize the challenge of securing the ports, said Kent Gourdin, chairman of the department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management at the College of Charleston.

"The port is really a stealth industry," he said. "We see the ships and we complain about the trucks on the road but we really have no idea of the magnitude of business being conducted by the port."

The challenge is to make ports secure "while simultaneously keeping the containers moving and keep business going and keeping costs down." Another concern is that a disaster at a port like Charleston can affect the entire region.

"The impact of the port extends far beyond Charleston - hundreds and hundreds of miles away to areas that may be totally not impacted by the disaster," he said.

Those attending also discussed Operation Seahawk, a pilot project bringing together almost 50 local, state and federal agencies to assess threats that could enter the country through the port of Charleston. Representatives of the agencies share information on which ships are coming in and if there could be any threats.

"We meet every morning and connect the dots," said Capt. John Cameron of the Coast Guard in Charleston. "The level of assessment that happens every day here is far superior than I could do with my own resources on a daily basis."

Galveston, Texas

Galveston's Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas and its City Council co-hosted with NCORP an area gathering of hundreds of first responders, elected officials, academics, business and civic leaders at a regional Southwest Security Summit to discuss

Co-Hosts:

Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas, City of Galveston
City Manager Steve LeBlanc, City of Galveston
Steve Cernak, Port of Galveston
Dr. Karen Sexton, UTMB
Stan Blazyk and Jim Hale, Co-Chairs, Citizen Response Teams
Sharon Strain, Executive Director, Galveston Housing Authority
Judge Jim Yarborough, Galveston County
Jeff Sjostrom, Galveston Economic Development Partnership
Antonio Oftelie, Kennedy School of Government
Harris L. Kempner, Jr., Kempner Capital Management
Dr. Joan Richardson, UTMB

Expert Panelists, Attendees, and Blueprint Contributors Include Senior Representatives from:

Galveston Chamber of Commerce
Galveston Economic Development Partnership
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston County
Port of Galveston
Texas A&M University
Galveston Fire Department
American Red Cross
Galveston Citizen Response Teams
Gulf Coast Center
Galveston Insurance Associates
Sholes International Airport
City Council, City of Galveston
Galveston Police Department
DRC Emergency Services
Rice University
Red Cross
United States Coast Guard
Kings Mountain, NC Police Department
Galveston Independent School District
American National Insurance Company
Galveston Lions Club
The Jesse Tree
Galveston County Office of Emergency Management
Kempner Capital Management
Center Point Energy
Chevron
Galveston Island Convention Visitors Bureau
SAIC
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center NASA



Galveston, Texas



Island's mayor recognized for disaster plan Her strategy during Rita serves as an example for the nation at security summit

By HARVEY RICE
Jan. 18, 2007, 10:55PM

GALVESTON — As Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas outlined Galveston's disaster plan on CNN while Hurricane Rita menaced the island city in 2005, an official from a national disaster planning organization watched in surprise. Jim Frierson realized he was listening to a plan that could be a model for cities nationwide. Frierson immediately sent a letter to his boss at the National Council on Readiness & Preparedness saying that he had just found the "embodiment" of a solid city disaster plan.

National Council officials said Thursday that Galveston's disaster plan will be part of a model national plan known as the National Blueprint for Secure Communities. They also presented Thomas the 2007 Best Practices Award for disaster planning.

Sharing preparations

The city gained attention for the smooth evacuation of its 60,000 people as Hurricane Rita approached in 2005. Officials used public buses to evacuate about 3,200 poor and disabled people. The success earned Thomas numerous television appearances, including on the Today Show and Nightline.

The city's disaster plan also gained notice because it deals with the aftermath of disaster and how to get private business as well as city government back in operation. City Manager Steve LeBlanc helped outline those plans to Frierson and other officials at the National Council's Southwestern Security Summit at the Galveston Island Convention Center.

"If you are prepared for a hurricane, you are, practically, prepared for a terrorist event," said National Council Chairman Jim Gilmore, who presented the award.

LeBlanc said the city begins reminding residents months before hurricane season about safety precautions and evacuation procedures through community meetings, Web sites and public access television. Key to preparations are the citizen response teams, who identify the elderly, mentally ill, those without vehicles or owners of unreliable vehicles, the homeless and others who may need bus transportation off the island, said Stan Blazyk, mayor-appointed co-chairman of the citizen response teams.

The buses arrived in Huntsville before Hurricane Rita only to find that the shelters were full, LeBlanc said. So now Galveston has an agreement with Austin to provide shelter, he said. The city also has a contract for 35 buses and drivers from Harris County Metro, Thomas said.

LeBlanc sketched the preparations for a hurricane strike that appears imminent:

- When a hurricane is 100 hours from landfall, the City Council turns control of the city over to the mayor.
- At 72 hours before landfall, voluntary evacuation is called. Automated telephone messages go out to thousands of islanders.
- At 48 hours before landfall, evacuation is mandatory.
- At 24 hours before landfall, city officials retreat to three shelters: the San Luis Hotel, University of Texas Medical Branch and Moody Gardens.

LeBlanc said Galveston officials visited Biloxi, Miss.; New Orleans and other cities to help refine their plans. They learned that lack of a debris-removal contract was one of the biggest problems, so Galveston now has three such contracts. The city also has a 90-day reserve in the general fund and all other funds so it can operate after a disaster, he said.

Jeff Sjostrom, president of the Galveston Economic Development Partnership, explained a disaster recovery guide that helps businesses prepare for a disaster and offers advice on how to get back in operation.

Manchester, Indiana

Joined by Bernie Beier, Director of the Fort Wayne-AlLEN County Office of Homeland Security, NCORP hosted a public forum on Northern Indiana's homeland security and disaster preparedness. The open discussion took place with the region's leading first responders, local officials, businesses, and citizens to review best practices and lessons learned.

Co-Host

Manchester College

Expert Panelists, Attendees, and Blueprint

Contributors Include Senior Representatives from:

Bernie Beier

Director, Fort Wayne-AlLEN County Office of Homeland Security

John Nowalan

Red Cross, Northeast Indiana Chapter

Brandon Taylor

Emergency Management Director, Huntington County

David Ross

Health Department Director, Huntington County

Dan Hanaford

North Manchester Town Manager

Bishop Brice Bedke

Fort Wayne Department of Health

Logansport State Hospital

Fulton County Department of Emergency Management

Kosciusko Community Hospital

Office of the North Manchester Police Chief

Office of the North Manchester Fire Chief

Beier said, "Municipalities and first responders must be more self sufficient at the local level.

When there is a flood, tornado or other emergency, we have to act locally. We cannot wait for the state and federal government. They are good partners, but local first responders have to be organized and ready to respond in the crucial first 72 hours of a disaster."



Manchester, Indiana

The Journal Gazette

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA • LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1883

First 72 hours after a disaster are critical, panel told

By Rebecca S. Green

NORTH MANCHESTER – Former Virginia Gov. James Gilmore opened a series of discussions of disaster preparedness he hopes will lead to a “National Blueprint for Secure Communities.”

For that discussion, first-responders, police officers and other area emergency workers gathered at Manchester College on Monday for the Crisis Response Summit with Gilmore and Bernie Beier, the director of Fort Wayne-AlLEN County Office of Homeland Security. Gilmore served as governor of Virginia from 1998 to 2002, during the time of the attack on the Pentagon. He now chairs the non-profit National Council on Readiness and Preparedness.

Monday’s discussion included two three-member panels, which talked about what their organizations, agencies and businesses were doing to prepare for a disaster. The first panel included Bishop Brice Bedke of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Huntington, Huntington County public health coordinator David Ross and John Nowalan with the Northeast Indiana Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The second panel included North Manchester Town Manager Dan Hanaford, Huntington County Emergency Management Director Brandon Taylor and Bruce Menshy of Raytheon. And much of the talk centered on the need to be prepared during the critical first 72 hours after a disaster. Bedke explained how members of his congregation, who come from a 65-square-mile area, are divided into “communities” with a leader trained to operate a Ham radio.

Each community also has specialists – focusing on water, food, shelter and other necessities. Taylor said he is working to compile a resource list of equipment, supplies and expertise available within the Huntington County business community, as well as securing that information from other nearby communities. And North Manchester’s Hanaford, the former chief of the Fort Wayne Police Department, said the town now keeps documents off-site, away from the town hall and can set up a functioning town government within 24 hours if disaster were to wipe out the building.

After the meeting, Beier said that while much of the homeland security grant money doled out after Sept. 11 went to equipment it is now time to spend more money on planning, training and practice. He was glad that Gilmore opened the series of summits in the Midwest, away from larger cities and the coasts which can “taint the view” of homeland security in the heartland. The goal of the summits, Beier said, is to look at the best practices in response to natural disasters, terrorist attacks or other crises. Communities are now finding ways to work together and plan together, he said.

“So we can learn to respond together,” he said. “There are a lot of creative ways we can address our challenges.”

Gilmore said he will compare the information he heard from the local emergency workers with what he hopes to hear in other places around the country.

He agreed with Beier that much money had been spent on equipment in the past few years and now money will go to planning and strategic thinking for entire communities. Conveying that to those communities will also take money, Gilmore said.

Taylor said although he thinks the summits will gather a lot of good information about what cities, counties and others are doing to prepare, he does not want the information to “go to Washington” and then sit there forgotten.

“I hope it goes somewhere,” he said.

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