

ND Department of Emergency Services



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TESTIMONY
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
JUNE 2, 2010
BY GREG WILZ
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Greg Wilz. I am the Deputy Director of the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES). My testimony provides requested information regarding the four Homeland Security Grant topics submitted by the Committee.

Measures to Determine the Success of Funding Provided through Federal Homeland Security Grant Funding

The Homeland Security Grant Program's main purpose is to prepare for a terrorist event "by building or enhancing capabilities that relate to the prevention of, protection from, response to, and recovery from terrorism." Because North Dakota has not experienced a terrorist event, an absolute measure of success is difficult to quantify. Realizing this, the federal government quantifies success by linking federal preparedness grants to meet the National Priorities, which are linked to specific Target Capabilities. Federal grant guidance has highlighted eleven specific capabilities upon which states were to concentrate efforts. North Dakota has aligned its strategy to meet the National Priorities and associated Target Capabilities and has concentrated its funding on the following:

Expand Regional Collaboration (Overarching National Priority)

Implement the National Incident Management System and National Response Framework (Overarching National Priority)

Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Program (National Priority)

Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration Capabilities (National Priority)

- Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination (Target Capability)
- Counter-Terror Investigation and Law Enforcement (Target Capability)

Strengthen Interoperable and Operable Communications Capabilities (National Priority)

- Communications (Target Capability)

Strengthen CBRNE Detection, Response, and Decontamination Capabilities (National Priority)

- CBRNE Detection (Target Capability)
- Explosive Device Response Operations (Target Capability)
- WMD and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination (Target Capability)

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Director - Department of Emergency Services

Greg M. Wilz
Director - Division of Homeland Security

Mike Lynk
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Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities (National Priority)

Community Preparedness: Strengthening Planning and Citizen Capabilities (National Priority)

- Planning (Target Capability)
- Community Preparedness and Participation (Target Capability)

To meet the Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination and the Counter-Terror Investigation and Law Enforcement Capabilities, the North Dakota Fusion Center was formed; it has been renamed the State and Local Intelligence Center.

To meet the Communications Target Capability, significant funding has been provided to local and state entities for purchases of P25 compliant equipment to ensure compliance when the federal narrow banding requirement takes effect in 2013. In addition, a portion of the state funding was used to retrofit State Radio towers.

To meet the CBRNE Detection, Explosive Device Response Operations, and WMD and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination Capabilities, eight regional hazardous materials response teams were formed. In addition, capabilities of the existing four FBI certified bomb squads and the six SWAT teams were expanded.

Bomb Squads: North Dakota has increased bomb technician safety, improved overall explosive response capability, and accelerated explosive incident response.

SWAT Teams: Safety for SWAT operators has been improved through purchases of armored vehicles and personal safety equipment. Command and control functions have undergone important advances. The program has enabled more training to expand the skill set of crisis negotiators.

Hazardous Materials: The purchase of two Ambuses enhanced capability of EMS to transport and evacuate mass casualty patients. It is important to note that DES worked in conjunction with the North Dakota EMS Association and the North Dakota Department of Health to update a portion of the EMS Regional Response Plan to negate the past practice of ambulance personnel self-dispatching units as occurred during the Northwood incident. The Department has developed and is implementing a plan for statewide catastrophic hazardous materials response. Since four existing technical level hazardous materials response teams were already existence, capabilities of each were augmented to meet regional respond needs. Also, the capabilities of four operational-level hazardous materials response teams were enhanced in order to provide necessary support to technical level team efforts.

To meet the Planning & Community Preparedness and Participation Capabilities, Department staff members have coordinated with counties to update Shelter and Evacuation annexes in Local Emergency Operations Plans to ensure alignment with the National Response Framework. National Incident Management System training has been funded to meet implementation compliance. The Department has implemented use of WebEOC, a web-based incident management tool to provide enhanced operational performance capability during major events as well as improved daily operations functions. In cooperation with the North Dakota League of Cities, community preparedness and participation capabilities have increased through formation of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

Reporting Requirements for Recipients of Federal Homeland Security Grants

The federal government requires North Dakota to monitor recipients "to provide reasonable assurance that the Federal award is administered in compliance with requirements."

The State complies requiring recipients to provide quarterly progress reports (January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15) until the sub-award is closed. Each year the state performs on-site programmatic and fiscal monitoring visits to one third of the recipients. Recipients are also required to report any *OMB-Circular A-133* audit findings. The Department also receives yearly program audits after annual reports are submitted to the Department of Homeland Security.

Local Funding Required as a Match for Federal Homeland Security Grants

In the 2009 Homeland Security Grant guidance, there was included a 10 percent cost-share by local jurisdictions in the Radio Programming for Statewide Interoperability. The cost-share may be soft or hard and should not be a hardship on local jurisdictions. In all previous years, there was no match requirement.