

HOMELAND SECURITY

Rhea Homeland Security Restructuring

If you attended the last meeting, then you already know about the changes that have taken place in our group. However if you didn't participate, then I'll give you the details as I know them.

We have appointed all new Team Leaders and Squad Leaders and moved the existing Team Leaders into different positions.

The New positions are:

Director: Jim Conner

Resource Officers: Tommy Mize, Don Hutchins and Billy Cranfield.

Alpha Team Leader: Bill Frazier

Alpha 1st Squad Leader: Willie Hughes

Alpha 2nd Squad Leader: Roger Ashley

Bravo Team Leader: Tom Jones

Bravo 1st Squad Leader: Bill Green

Bravo 2nd Squad Leader: John Blount

Charlie Team Leader: Doug McDaniel

Charlie 1st Squad Leader: Tim Wilson

Charlie 2nd Squad Leader: Tim Morgan

Delta Team Leader: Bill Newman

Delta 1st Squad Leader: David McSpadden

Delta 2nd Squad Leader: Bill Newman

As things develop, I see a need for other positions to be created. It is our goal to make our Homeland Security Teams the best they can be and to give other counties a model that they can look over.

It is a team, and it takes all of us working together to accomplish our goals, and to make our communities as safe as we possibly can.

Next Homeland Security Meeting

August 26th

Rhea County Courthouse 6 PM

National Organizations Partner to Launch National Preparedness Month

August 10, 2004 – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), The America Prepared Campaign, the American Red Cross, the National Association of Broadcasters and the U.S. Department of Education have joined a coalition of more 50 national organizations to engage Americans in emergency preparedness by launching National Preparedness Month on September 9.

“National Preparedness Month brings together an amazing coalition of partners to make citizen preparedness a priority for every city, every neighborhood and every home across America,” said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. “Homeland security is a shared responsibility and I am pleased that so many organizations and so many national leaders are working together to help get this information out into communities across the nation.”

National Preparedness Month will provide Americans with a variety of opportunities to learn more about ways they can prepare for an emergency, get an emergency supply kit, establish a family communications plan, and become better aware of threats that may impact communities. It will also provide them with several opportunities to volunteer or get first aid or CPR training.



CIA Visits Local Law Enforcement to Offer Anti-Terror Briefings

For the first time in its history, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has begun a series of terrorism briefings for local law enforcement personnel in cities and small towns, a significant shift in approach for the agency. Briefings by CIA counter terrorism experts, which are being coordinated by the FBI, have been given in about a dozen cities so far with many more planned.

Source: David Johnston and Douglas Jehl, "C.I.A. Sends Terror Experts To Tell Small Towns of Risk," The New York Times, 18 July 2004: A18

Polls Say Citizens Less Prepared for Terror Attacks

Two surveys on the preparedness of Americans were discussed at a July 20 symposium titled "Public Preparedness—A National Imperative," co-sponsored by the American Red Cross, George Washington University, the Department of Homeland Security and the Council for Excellence in Government. A Red Cross poll found only one in ten American households has a family emergency plan, disaster kit, and first aid training. 49 percent of the adults surveyed by the Council for Excellence in Government poll said that they were not concerned about an attack in their neighborhoods.

Source: John Mintz, "Public less fearful of terrorist attack; trend worries preparedness officials," The Washington Post, 21 July 2004: A12

Watts Bar bridge closing Monday Aug. 16

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will temporarily close the bridge over the Tennessee River at the Watts Bar Dam in Rhea and Meigs Counties beginning Monday, Aug. 16. The bridge, which is located on State Route 68, will undergo major rehabilitation that will include removal and replacement of the entire bridge deck. Nearly 4,500 vehicles per day currently utilize the bridge. The bridge is expected to be reopened to traffic by Jan. 16, 2005, and the project should be totally completed by May 15, 2005, according to Region Two Director Bob Brown. "We apologize for the inconvenience this project will cause to those living and working in the Watts Bar area," Brown said.

"TDOT is performing this much-needed project at the request of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and we will make every effort to keep the project on schedule."

The contractor on this project is Mid-State Construction Company based in Livingston.

Portable message boards will be placed in the area before the project begins to inform motorists of the upcoming closure, and detours will be posted. The primary detour route around the bridge will be from U.S. 27 (SR 29) to SR 30 (Rhea County); from SR 30 to SR 58 (Meigs County); then from SR 58 to SR 68 (Meigs County). Other detour routes will be posted at SR 302 in Rhea County and SR 304 in Meigs County.

How secure is the Department of Homeland Security?

Senior Homeland Security official Faisal Gill failed to disclose that he worked for an American Muslim leader now in jail on terrorism charges.

By Mary Jacoby

June 22, 2004 | WASHINGTON -- The policy director for the Department of Homeland Security's intelligence division was briefly removed from his job in March when the Federal Bureau of Investigation discovered he had failed to disclose his association with Abdurahman Alamoudi, a jailed American Muslim leader. Alamoudi was indicted last year on terrorism-related money-laundering charges and now claims to have been part of a plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah.

After a flurry of interagency meetings, however, Homeland Security decided to leave the policy director, Faisal Gill, in place, according to two government officials with knowledge of the Alamoudi investigation. A White House political appointee with close ties to Republican power broker Grover Norquist and no apparent background in intelligence, Gill has access to top-secret information on the vulnerability of America's seaports, aviation facilities and nuclear power plants to terrorist attacks.

Terror Weapons

Biological Weapons:

Terrorism involving biological weapons - referred to along with chemical weapons as "the poor man's nuclear weapon" - can range from putting deadly substances in the nation's food supply to the aerosolized release of a contagious virus over a city the size of New York or San Francisco.

The Biological Weapons Convention, signed in 1972, prohibits the manufacture, stockpiling and use of biological weapons. But there are several countries that continue to make and study them. Some countries' stockpiles are unaccounted for, as is the case with Iraq.

Former President Nixon banned the production and use of biological warfare agents in 1969, ending the U.S. biowarfare program. The Soviet Union's biowarfare program, Biopreparat, lasted until the 1990s.

Chemical Weapons:

The first major use of chemical weapons in modern times came when Germany launched a large-scale poison gas attack against French troops on the battlefield of Ypres in 1915. Allies responded with their own chemical weapons.

By the end of the war, chemical warfare had inflicted over 1 million casualties, of which around 90,000 were fatal.

Hydrogen cyanide and carbon monoxide were used by the Germans to murder millions of people in extermination camps during World War II.

During the Vietnam War, the United States used tear gas and several types of defoliants, including Agent Orange. The 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibits "the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare." But it didn't prohibit the manufacturing and stockpiling of these weapons. About 40 countries ratified the protocol.

More than 140 nations signed the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993, which bans the development, production and possession of chemical weapons. Nonetheless, a number of nations are believed to have the weapons.

Chemical agents are classified according to the symptoms they cause, such as blistering and nerve agents.

Nuclear Weapons:

Nuclear weapons produce devastating and long-term effects on human and animal life, as well as the environments in which they live. These are the hardest of all types of weapons to make because the critical nuclear elements - plutonium and/or highly enriched uranium - are hard to come by, and are very expensive.

The United States dropped one atomic bomb each on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, bringing an end to World War II. The Soviet Union became the next country to develop atomic weapons, igniting an arms race and a global interest in nuclear fission devices.

Traditional nuclear weapons are not the only threat. Officials are concerned terrorists might also target the world's nuclear power plants and supplies.

One worst-case scenario simulation estimated a one-megaton explosion in Detroit - equivalent to a million tons of TNT - could kill 250,000 people, injure half a million more, and flatten all buildings within a 1.7-mile radius.

Radiological Weapons:

Radiological weapons are thought by many to be the likely choices for terrorists. Unlike nuclear weapons, they spread radioactive material, which contaminates equipment, facilities, land and acts as a toxic chemical, which can be harmful, and in some cases fatal.

A "dirty bomb" is the likely choice for terrorists and can kill or injure people by exposing them to radioactive materials, such as cesium-137, iridium-192 or cobalt-60. Atomic experts say the explosion of a dirty bomb containing one kilogram of plutonium in the center of Munich, Germany, could ultimately lead to 120 cancer cases attributable to the blast.

Other Weapons:

There are various weapons - many of which are still under development - that may not fall into the category of a "biological," "chemical," "radiological" or "nuclear weapon."

Cargo Transport Executives Say Their Industry's Homeland Security Performance Is Lacking

According to a study by Deloitte & Touche USA LLP, released on 11 August, "The U.S. cargo industry is not performing well in implementing any of the most important homeland security measures." These findings come from a survey of 103 executives representing the air cargo, maritime, rail, logistics providers and trucking (truckload and less-than-truckload) segments of the industry.

Important findings include these:

- a.. Air cargo rated most vulnerable. More than 80% of executives rated the security risks to air cargo as very high or high, while 70% gave a similar rating to the maritime sector.
- b.. Key security measures not adequate. Executives believed that conducting background checks for workers and drivers was the most important step that could be taken to reduce security risks, with more than 60% of executives rating this measure as very important. Yet only 14% of executives rated the industry's performance in this area as excellent. For a series of other security measures, no more than 9% of executives rated industry performance excellent.
- c.. Fewer rail and trucking firms make homeland security a high priority. Only about one-quarter of executives at trucking firms and 60% at rail firms said that homeland security would be a high priority at their firm over the next 12 months.
- d.. Security spending to increase. More than 80% of executives said they expected their firm to increase spending on security over the next 12 months. When asked to name one or more funding sources for the spending increases, about one-half said their firm would fund increased spending from current revenues or reserves and a similar number said their firm would employ rate increases.
- e.. Popularity of outsourcing. To respond to the complex demands of homeland security requirements, roughly half the executives said their firm planned to use outside services, including roughly three-fourths of executives at maritime firms.

TRAINING

Pepper Spray

August 26th - 6 PM Rhea County Courthouse
This class will be held with our Monthly Meeting

Extendable Baton

September 18th - 10 AM Rhea Elementary School

First-Aid and CPR

Dates and times should be available and announced at the next meeting.

Haz-mat Operation Level

The following was sent to me by Billy Cranfield at The Rhea EOC.

I am passing this on if any one would like to attend. TEMA is putting on a class on Haz-mat Operation Level

You have to have 32 hours, the class start at 6:00PM until 10:00PM at the EOC in Meigs County.

The class dates are

August 31, September 2, 7, 8, 14, 16, 21, 23

this will be free, but you have to attend 8 days to be at this level.

Have a great day.

Thanks

Billy Rhea County EMA

Volunteer Trucking Supports our Efforts

We would like to say a special Thank You to Alvin Harrison, owner of **Volunteer Trucking**, for donating the training fees for the extendable Baton course.

Thanks to Alvin, the only cost to our group will be for the batons.

With the generous donations from the local business community we will be able to train and equip our Homeland Security Group for future emergencies. That will make us more effective and the community more secure.

Next Homeland Security Meeting

August 26 - 6PM