



# VANGUARD

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## State and local emergency planners seek more active role

*By Mead Treadwell and Jeremy Thompson, editors*

America's emergency managers at the state level want a stronger role in federal policy related to emergencies, and Janet Napolitano, the new homeland security secretary, wants to give it to them.

That was the result of an exchange Monday at a meeting of the National Emergency Management Association, which is holding its mid-year conference in Alexandria, Virginia. The conference, which brought emergency managers from U.S. states and territories, found Napolitano's idea of "seamless" emergency planning between federal, state, local and private responders to be a recurring theme.

"I believe an important part of being secretary of homeland security is to make sure that we are working as real partners with state and local agencies. That means more than just saying we're working as partners. It means making sure that before policies are adopted or changed there's been adequate time for consultation," said Napolitano, who joined the Obama Administration during her second term as governor of Arizona. "It means being open to suggestions from our local and state partners."

The CEO of the Council of State Governments emphasized the issue more fundamentally with a strong federalist stance.

"We need to make sure that the states are respected," said David Adkins. He said that it was important to remember that the federal government is a "product of the states" and that the states served as laboratories "that are more important now than they have ever been."

Napolitano believes that with this change in relationship between the states and federal government must come with a more realistic perspective on the role of Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"One of the major things we need to do is change a public perception out there that in any emergency that a) FEMA is supposed to be there, b) FEMA is supposed to be there before anyone else and c) if not, there is something wrong with FEMA," said Napolitano. "FEMA is not the first responder, is the point..." she added. "We need to enhance and clarify" FEMA's role.

NEMA put these perspectives into a published position paper. The paper states that “The federal government currently has the opportunity to transition from top-down direction to meaningful collaboration with all non-federal stakeholders,” and recommends that the federal government “place a moratorium on all evolving and new requirements on State and local emergency management programs and conduct a comprehensive review” of those programs in order to “determine their effectiveness in reducing risk and building capabilities for State and local governments.”

Members hope that as the federal budget is being crafted, they may be able to provide more input into how exercises are planned, and how funds are dispensed. The complete federal budget proposal from the White House will be released later this spring.

## From the Wires this Week

### Emergency Management/Homeland Security

**DHS to sharpen its Common Operating Picture** (Government Computer News, 03/06/09)

<http://www.gcn.com/Articles/2009/03/06/DHS-Common-Operating-Picture.aspx>

The Homeland Security Department wants to upgrade its Common Operating Picture, the situational awareness tool used at the department’s National Operations Center, and make it more accessible to state and local authorities, a senior department official has said. DHS activated the COP in 2006 and currently uses it as a situational awareness tool for strategic, operational and tactical purposes at the NOC. The department now plans to spend millions to upgrade it, refresh technology and eventually to build a new version of the COP that would allow for improved visualization and increased users.

**DHS forms new research centers** (Federal Computer Week, 03/06/09)

[http://fcw.com/articles/2009/03/06/dhs-ffrdc.aspx?s=fcwdaily\\_090309](http://fcw.com/articles/2009/03/06/dhs-ffrdc.aspx?s=fcwdaily_090309)

The Homeland Security Department has hired two not-for-profit organizations for up to \$712 million for up to five years to run two new research and development centers. The centers will both be Federally Funded Research and Development Centers. DHS hired the Mitre Corp. to operate one of the centers, the Homeland Security Systems Engineering and Development Institute. The department also announced it had hired Analytic Services to operate its new Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute (HSSAI) for up to \$269 million over five years. HSSAI will help DHS evolve concepts for systems, use best practices in life cycle systems engineering and management and provide technical and integration expertise for programs, DHS officials said. Meanwhile, officials said HSSAI will help the department with homeland security analysis and expertise focusing on program objectives, system requirements, and metrics.

**DHS assistant secretary for intergovernmental affairs appointed** (Boston Globe, 03/06/09)

[http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/03/mass\\_homeland\\_s.html](http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/03/mass_homeland_s.html)

“One of my top priorities is to ensure there is strong communication and consultation with state, local, tribal and territorial governments. Juliette [Kayyem] brings a tremendous amount of expertise to the table, having coordinated efforts amongst varying entities during her tenure in state government. Juliette will play a critical role in helping to improve and strengthen communications between all levels of government and in helping in the mission to create one Department of Homeland Security,” Janet Napolitano said in a statement.

**FEMA gives \$1.8bn to North Carolina emergency responders** (Triangle Business Journal, 03/06/09)

[http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2009/03/02/daily56.html?ana=from\\_rss](http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2009/03/02/daily56.html?ana=from_rss)

Emergency response organizations around North Carolina received \$1.8 million in grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA doled out the money to about two dozen fire departments and EMS organizations around the state. Among the recipients of the grants were fire departments and rescue organizations in Clayton, Kenly, Butner and Wake Forest.

**More reviews: Merging the Homeland Security and National Security Councils** (Foreign Policy, 03/06/09)

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/03/06/more\\_reviews\\_merging\\_the\\_homeland\\_security\\_and\\_national\\_security\\_councils](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/03/06/more_reviews_merging_the_homeland_security_and_national_security_councils)

As part of a 60-day review underway on whether the Homeland Security Council should be merged into the National Security Council, the Obama White House has invited outside national security experts for periodic consultations on the matter. Randy Beardsworth, a former DHS official, chaired a meeting on the subject. Attendees included the Heritage Foundation's James Jay Carafano and the Project on National Security Reform's executive director James R. Locher III. About two dozen people attended the meeting, most of them at the deputy assistant secretary level.

**Glitches delay dirty bomb detection at U.S.-Canada border** (Ottawa Citizen, 03/05/09)

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/glitches%20delay%20dirty%20bomb%20detection%20canada+border/1358002/story.html>

Technological glitches have put on hold a U.S. plan to equip its customs agents along the Canadian border with portable equipment designed to detect radioactive material being smuggled into the country. The U.S. officers were supposed to be equipped with the gear that would allow them to more easily ferret out radioactive substances, or so-called "dirty bombs," that could be smuggled in by terrorists. A dirty bomb involves using conventional explosives to disperse radioactive material. But that program has been put on hold, and the devices may not be in place until 2012, according to a newly released report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, an organization similar to Canada's auditor general.

## **Communications and Information Security**

**Group: Data sharing still falls short** (Federal Computer Week, 03/10/09)

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/03/10/Markle-info-sharing.aspx>

The sharing of national security information is still not enough to protect the country, and related government-wide policies that safeguard civil liberties are still needed, a group of former senior government officials, information technology industry executives and privacy advocates said. The group made recommendations on how the Obama administration and Congress should use policy and IT to deal with those problems.

**DHS may use stimulus funds for UAVs** (Federal Computer Week, 03/10/09)

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/03/10/SBInet-considers-UAVs.aspx>

The Homeland Security Department is considering using \$100 million in funding from the economic stimulus law to add unmanned aerial vehicles to the SBInet surveillance system on the U.S./Mexico border, a senior official said. The other options under consideration are upgrading tactical communications or accelerating deployment of the permanent towers for the first phase of the SBInet system in Arizona, said Mark Borkowski, executive director of the Secure Border Initiative Program

Executive Office in DHS' Customs and Border Protection agency. The office oversees SBInet's virtual and physical fence projects.

**Department website to track DHS stimulus spending** (Department of Homeland Security, 03/10/09)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/journal/leadership/2009/03/stimulating-economy.html>

The stimulus provides more than \$3 billion in new homeland security funding. This funding will be used to improve security at our borders, rebuild our Coast Guard fleet, expand technology, strengthen rail and transit security, and enhance emergency preparedness and response. The new website will allow the public to track how the funds are spent.

**New DHS cyber-security working group links agency** (Government Technology, 03/09/09)  
[http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/625825?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=link](http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/625825?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=link)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has created a collaborative venture for public- and private-sector organizations in order to nip problems in the bud that are associated with industrial control systems -- at least the ones that can be nipped by computer. The Control Systems Security Program, offered by the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Division, has created the Industrial Control Systems Joint Working Group to allow the federal government to work with vendors and state and local agencies to address high-tech issues in their operations.

**National cybersecurity director resigns, blames NSA** (The Tech Herald, 03/09/09)  
<http://blogs.usatoday.com/technologylive/2009/03/national-cybers.html>

In a letter to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, Rod Beckstrom, Director of the National Cybersecurity Center, cites funding roadblocks and smothering controls imposed by the super-secret National Security Agency. "During my term as Director we have been unwilling to subjugate the NCSC underneath the NSA," he writes. "Instead, we advocated a model where there is a credible civilian government cybersecurity capability which interfaces with, but is not controlled by, the NSA." *Related article: [Top cyber official sounds off.](#)*

**Viewpoint: DHS official discusses interoperability of emergency responder equipment** (Government Technology, 03/09/09)

[http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/625804?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=link](http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/625804?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=link)

"There's also no doubt in my mind that interoperable technologies already exist," the official writes. "Of course, we can spend years making them better, faster and more powerful than ever before, but here's the reality: We can buy technology that meets most of our needs now, while we continue to work on making the better stuff available. However, before we can begin implementing the technology, we must face a bigger issue: cultural differences."

## Training and Education

**Coast Guard establishes safety zone for helicopter exercise in California** (Federal Register, 03/09/09)  
<http://regulations.justia.com/view/137198/>

U.S. Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco will be conducting airborne use of force judgmental training flights with observers from the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center and Coast Guard Headquarters, March 5 through 20, 2009 in the waters of San Pablo Bay in California. The exercises are designed to train and test Coast Guard aviation personnel in the judgmental decision-making process necessary to safely and effectively employ use of force from a helicopter during homeland security incidents. The training will generally involve the use of Coast Guard helicopters to intercept fast-moving, evasive small boats on the water. The helicopter crews will fire weapons at the small

boats using blank ammunition and catch bags to ensure that cartridges and other debris do not fall to the water. This safety zone is issued to establish a temporary restricted area in San Pablo Bay around the training site.

## Missile Defense and Satellite Technology

**Viewpoint: Missile defense funds need support** (Politico, 03/09/09)

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0309/19767.html>

While Americans celebrated the anniversary of our nation's independence in 2006, North Korea test-fired a volley of seven ballistic missiles, some of which were capable of reaching the United States. It wasn't the first time North Korea had acted aggressively and irresponsibly. Fortunately, had any of these missiles been launched as an attack on the United States or our allies, for the first time, the president could defend against such an attack by using an operational missile defense system. Since then, though, rogue states have continued to seek the means to attack us and the U.S. has continued to develop its system.

**Inside U.S. missile defense plans: The tech behind the Russian, Iran talks** (Popular Mechanics, 03/06/09)

[http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/military\\_law/4279850.html?page=1](http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/military_law/4279850.html?page=1)

In accelerated efforts to isolate Iran, the Obama administration has given hint to a change in America's ballistic missile defense system plans. President Obama told reporters that in a letter to Russia, he said that "lessening Iran's commitment to nuclear weapons...reduces the pressure for, or need for, a missile-defense system." Although world leaders deny a quid pro quo, the implicit deal would seem to guarantee assistance in dealing with Iranian nuclear weapons ambitions in exchange for a cessation of US plans to build interceptor missile silos in Poland and a tracking radar in the Czech Republic.

**Reports: Russia building anti-satellite weapons** (AP, 03/06/09)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ia2ELy71D8upyHQMB-4TOWsJVvqQD96O0NS00>

Russia is working on anti-satellite weapons to match technologies developed by other nations and will speed up modernization of its nuclear forces, a deputy defense minister was quoted as saying. The statement by Gen. Valentin Popovkin signaled the government's intention to pursue its ambitious plans to strengthen the military despite the money crunch caused by a worsening financial crisis. He said the military will procure enough new missiles to deploy near Poland if the U.S. goes ahead with its European missile defense plans.

**Budget to reflect key defense priorities, OMB director says** (Global Security, 03/04/09)

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2009/03/mil-090304-afps04.htm>

The 2010 defense budget being finalized by the Obama administration will maintain priorities such as quality-of-life improvements and acquisition reform as it caps other defense spending, the Office of Management and Budget director said. Peter R. Orszag told the House Budget Committee the \$533.7 billion defense budget provides funding to increase Army and Marine Corps end strength, provide service members a 2.9 percent pay raise, improve military housing and other defense facilities and provide better medical treatment for wounded troops. Meanwhile, the budget will set realistic requirements and incorporate "best practices" to control cost growth and schedule slippage of weapons programs, he said. Orszag told the committee the White House will leave the details of that plan to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, a staunch advocate of acquisition reform.

## Transportation Security

**U.S. airports receive \$1bn security stimulus** (Airport Technology, 03/06/09)

<http://www.airport-technology.com/news/news50917.html>

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced \$1bn of funding to accelerate and enhance the implementation of aviation security projects. The stimulus project funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will allocate \$700m to checked baggage explosive detection systems and \$300m to checkpoint explosive detection technology. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that President Obama's plan to stimulate the economy created a perfect opportunity to accelerate the strategic airport security plan.

**2009 National Infrastructure Protection Plan released** (Department of Homeland Security, 03/06/09)

<http://www.dhs.gov/journal/leadership/2009/03/2009-national-infrastructure-protection.html>

The NIPP describes the nation's approach to establishing goals, requirements, and performance measures for infrastructure protection and resiliency efforts. The NIPP also sets forth a comprehensive risk management framework. It clearly defines the roles and responsibilities for the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Sector Specific Agencies, and other federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners within the critical infrastructure and key resources mission area.

## Announcements

### To receive an EMP briefing

The Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute in Claremont, California support state legislators and emergency management groups by providing briefings on electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack scenarios and preparedness. If you would like your committee or organization to receive one of these briefings, please contact [Jeremy Thompson](mailto:jeremy.thompson@instituteofthenorth.org) by email or call 907.771.2446.

### To receive a copy of *Missile Defense and the Role of the States*

In February 2007, the Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute published a report on *Missile Defense and the Role of the States*, a survey of Adjutants General on questions regarding missile defense and electromagnetic pulse. To receive a hard copy of the report, please contact [Jeremy Thompson](mailto:jeremy.thompson@instituteofthenorth.org). You can also view the report online at: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=304>.

### To view the IWG report

The Institute of the North's Defense and Security program is a member of the Independent Working Group on Missile Defense, the Space Relationship, & the Twenty-First Century, a non-partisan group of defense experts who meet regularly to discuss issues and projects related to missile defense. To view the 2007 report online, please visit: <http://www.missilethreat.com/iwgreport/pageID.163/default.asp>.

### **To submit material**

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[http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security\\_and\\_defense\\_program.html](http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security_and_defense_program.html).

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### **About the program**

The Security and Defense program at the Institute of the North conducts research and educates policymakers on strategic issues relating to the defense of the United States that particularly concern decision makers in Alaska and at the state and local level throughout the nation.

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*The Institute of the North, based in Anchorage, Alaska, is a non-profit educational and research organization founded in 1994 by former Secretary of the Interior and twice Governor of Alaska Walter J. Hickel, focusing on strategic and natural resource issues.*

*The Institute of the North · 509 West Third Avenue, Suite 107 · Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907.771.2446 · Fax: 907.771.2466*

