



NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program

April 21-23, 2004
Washington, DC

**Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection and Preparedness:
A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships On Disaster Response Training**

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MEETING NOTES FROM KEYNOTE ON HOMELAND SECURITY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING: EMERGING POLICY ISSUES

Thursday, April 22

Keynote on Homeland Security Preparedness Training: Emerging Policy Issues

Dr. James Jay Carafano

Dr. Carafano is a Senior Fellow at the Heritage Foundation. He is a national authority on the policy issues of appropriate training for emergency response. He presented a policy overview of the national effort to train and credential emergency responders. He also gave his own perspective on Homeland Security Presidential Directive # 8.

Dr. Carafano explained that emergency response and preparedness is one of the 5 strategies the government outlined to improve homeland security. It includes training for firefighters, police and EMTs, but it neglected to include the skilled support personnel. The 2002 Act definition addresses emergency responders not just first responders. The act created the Homeland Security Council, which creates policy. The Council staff does the work every day, getting the job done without a lot of publicity. Dave Howe is the Deputy for emergency preparedness and response for the Council. We must have security (offense and defense) and economic growth, while at the same time protecting civil liberties and privacy. We need to pay attention to how we're setting things up, as we will have to live with the system for 30 years.

He then explained the Homeland Security Presidential Directive #8: It is not a law, but the President tasking the federal government with a job to do.

("This directive establishes policies to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent and respond to threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies by requiring a national domestic all-hazards preparedness goal, establishing mechanisms for improved delivery of Federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments, and outlining actions to strengthen preparedness capabilities of Federal, State, and local entities." - from Whitehouse website)

Some aspects to the directive are: First responder / emergency responder becomes synonymous; Establishes a requirement for national preparedness goals (mandates completion by September); Requires the government to establish objectives and focus resources; Requires federal agencies to establish a single contact for state and local governments (by September 2005); Requires a national training program, bringing all the programs together holistically; Assess national preparedness. Federal agencies must identify equipment needs of responders at state and local level, and ODP moved to Office of State and Local Governments, which will ultimately benefit communities.

Dr. Carafano then commented about the directive. He notes the following: Neither the DHS nor the OSLG have the capacity for training, therefore, the integration of training is a key problem; The program evaluates level of preparedness, but not the effectiveness, thus, there is no system to evaluate if we're gaining progress for the funds being spent; There is no committee that exists to identify the equipment needs of a community; If there is a new president in January, the HSPD does not have to survive the presidency; Authorization Oversight Select Committee for DHS only exists in the House, not Senate and is not a permanent committee; HSPD says we have to prioritize, federal money is going towards building a national system that is not meeting the needs of communities.

Don Elisburg then noted: "Policies set by White House advisors are not getting to the budget line thus there is a disconnect." Carafano replied: "OMB has made strides in improving what each department is spending on homeland security. New measurements in place are helping."

Tom then asked: "Our concerns centered around potential disasters around chemical facilities, how do we ratchet up concerns for 10s of thousands who might be harmed in that event?" Carafano replied: "DHS is identifying the biggest bang for the buck, a prevention rather than mitigating/response. The National Guard is not structured to support this type of response. Work to be done at that level requires the enormous capacity of the military to help reduce our requirements to ramp up on the response side."