



The Beacon



By and for emergency responders

FIRST MEETING OF THE NDPO STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP SCHEDULED

The first meeting of the State and Local Advisory Group (SLAG) has been scheduled for late September.

The Advisory Group was established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Representatives to the Advisory Group were selected from nominations by Federal interagency partners, members of Congress, professional associations, and the general public.

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to provide the federal interagency community with practical and general policy advice regarding program strategy, development, and implementation to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of emergency responders. The group represents the diverse functional areas of state and local entities which may be involved in the planning for or response to a terrorism incident involving WMD (e.g., fire/rescue, HAZMAT, emergency medical and public health services, law enforcement, emergency management, and state and local governments). A copy of the Advisory Group charter is attached. Topics and issues of relevance to the Advisory Group function may be forwarded to the membership or to the NDPO via email (ndpo@leo.gov) attention Advisory Group.

NDPO CHAT SESSION: SEPTEMBER SPECIAL GUEST WILLIAM PATRICK

The next NDPO chat session on Law Enforcement Online (LEO) will be on Friday, **September 29th, at 2 p.m., EST**. The focus of the chat will be biological terrorism with Mr. William Patrick.

Mr. Patrick has served for over twenty years with the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and the Agent Development and Engineering Directorate in Fort Detrick, Maryland. Mr. Patrick has participated in the planning, directing, coordinating, evaluating and reporting on a broad, complex program of medical defense against potential biological warfare agents. Mr. Patrick has also assisted the US Government in many cases, including the probe of an Oregon cult that infected more than 750 people with salmonella; the US investigation into Iraq's suspected production of microbes; and the probe into the Aum Shinrikyo cult attack in Tokyo.

This chat will be an excellent opportunity for emergency responders to ask questions to one of the country's leading experts in bio terrorism.

Chat Instructions

must be a registered LEO user and have computer. While in the chat program, type click the circle next to “Go to Chat Room,” then ndpo. You must be dialed into LEO to use room as close to 2 p.m. as possible.

prior to the session. If you have technical at 1-888-334-4536.

SATELLITE BROADCAST ON

**Wednesday, August 30, 2000
2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. EST (Live, Interactive Version)**

Satellite Platforms: C/Ku; Military/Federal CDV; LETN

The National Terrorism Preparedness Institute (NTPI) of St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) presents “CoMNET” – The Consequence Management News, Equipment, and Training Magazine. CoMNET is a recurring satellite broadcast program offering Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) related awareness information to the Nation’s civilian and military emergency response communities. CoMNET is a news magazine style program consisting of multiple segments, similar to the National Alert programs aired on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Emergency Education Network (EENET), but includes a “live” call-in discussion at the end of the program. CoMNET is the product of an interagency effort to bring together the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) / Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support (OSLDPS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA), the Director of Military Support (DOMS) Consequence Management Program Integration Office (CoMPIO), and the Combating Terrorism Technology Support Office (CTTSO) Technical Support Working Group (TSWG). CoMNET is a product of the Advanced Technology Integration Demonstration (ATID) team, consisting of the Strategic Assessment Center of Science Applications International Corporation and the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute.

Target Audience: The target audience for this program includes both the civilian and military emergency response communities at all levels of government, to include law enforcement, fire officials, emergency response teams, and local, state, and federal preparedness personnel. The CoMNET Magazine broadcasts are also be useful in keeping local, state, and federal administrators informed of WMD resources and operational considerations that may impact their communities.

Program Objectives: While the hybrid form of CoMNET allows for program diversity, the proposed format for the August 30, 2000 CoMNET broadcast will include:

- ❑ WMD related news stories collected from around the country presented in a news magazine reporting format
- ❑ Feature stories on WMD response equipment designed to introduce or familiarize the community with “reputable” equipment items
- ❑ Feature stories on WMD training events recently conducted in communities throughout the country (i.e., Consequence Management 2000, etc.)
- ❑ Feature stories on WMD training resources/facilities that are available to the response community
- ❑ A live call-in interview/discussion session with reputable members of the emergency response community

Broadcast Viewing: The first CoMNET broadcast will take place on August 30, 2000

from 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M., EST, and will be carried over the following satellite networks:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's
Emergency Education Network (EENET)
The Environmental Protection Agency's Air
Pollution Distance Learning Network (APDLN)
The Department of Energy's Digital Video
Teleconferencing Network (DVT)
The National Guard's Guard Net XXI
The Air Force's Air Technology Network
The Army's Satellite Education Network (SEN)
The Government Education Training Network
The Law Enforcement Training Network
The Federal Emergency Training Network
The Federal Bureau of Investigation's FBI
Training Network
The Air National Guard "Warrior Network"
The Military Teletraining Network
The Police Officers' Standards Training Network

In addition to the above satellite networks, any location with a satellite dish may register to carry the CoMNET broadcast; following registration, satellite coordinates for the broadcasts will be provided to the requesting party. Registration information, as well as current information regarding CoMNET broadcasts can be found on the OSLDPS website (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/osldps/>), the NTPI website (<http://terrorism.spjc.edu/comnet.html>), or by calling NTPI at (727) 893-9800.

USAMRIID SATELLITE BROADCAST ON BIO WARFARE & TERRORISM MEDICAL ISSUES & RESPONSE

Live Satellite Broadcast

September 26, 27, and 28, 2000

12:30 – 4:30 PM ET

**Sponsor: The US Army Medical Research
Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID)**

Concern over the potential use of biological weapons for warfare or terrorism has increased in recent years, due to knowledge about biological weapons programs in other countries, numerous recent bioterrorism threats,

advances in molecular biology, and the ease of information dissemination through the internet. Military and civilian medical and public health professionals must become proficient in the recognition and management of biological weapon casualties, and in notifying the appropriate agencies and personnel to respond to an event.

This live three-day satellite broadcast will inform and educate health professionals about the proper medical response in the event of an intentional biological agent release. World-renowned experts from USAMRIID and other organizations will present this program at no charge.

Target audience

- Military and civilian medical care providers
- Public health professionals
- Clinical laboratory staff, pharmacists
- First responders and others who would assist in recognizing and managing casualties from a biological agent attack

Objectives

Day 1: Presents an overview of biological agents.

Day 2: Uses battlefield biological warfare scenario to discuss the management of a biological warfare or terrorist event.

Day 3: Uses scenarios and round-table expert discussion to evaluate the public health and medical response to biological terrorism. A brief discussion will focus on the DoD Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program.

Registration Instructions

Individuals should register on-line at the website www.biomedtraining.org. You will be able to review and choose from a list of viewing sites available in your state. You must confirm your registration at a specific viewing site by using the e-mail or telephone number

indicated for your site facilitator. If you do not have Internet access, please call Rick Stevens at (301) 619-4880. To ensure the receipt of print materials, the local site facilitator must know by September 1, 2000, that you will be attending the course.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR FEMA'S REGION VII

Beth A. Freeman, the disaster services coordinator for US Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, has been appointed director of Region VII for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA's Region VII is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, and is responsible for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

As regional director, Freeman will be responsible for implementing disaster response and recovery activities and overseeing FEMA's prevention and preparedness activities. She is also responsible for the regional office staff and a cadre of Disaster Assistance Employees, temporary workers who are deployed during active disasters.

Previously, Freeman served on the Board of Directors for the Grant Wood Chapter of the American Red Cross and on the National Advisory Council to the Small Business Administration, and was chair to the Cedar Rapids Recreation Commission, a citizen's advisory board.

Source: www.fema.gov

UPCOMING WMD CONFERENCE

The Continuum from Response to Management

September 27-30, 2000

St. Petersburg, Florida

Sponsored by: Bay Pines VAMC, VISN 8, Veterans Health Administration, Employee Education System, Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group

A need exists today to prepare both civilian and military physicians, nurses and administrators who may receive mass casualties who have been exposed to a life-threatening contaminant through either accident or from terrorism using WMD. This program will offer presentations by world authorities and a multi-agency Interactive Response Demonstration.

For more information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.va.gov/wmd/Default.htm>.

NDPO ONLINE RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS:

- Helpline – ndpo@leo.gov
- Law Enforcement Online Newsgroups
- Common Communication Link

For more information about these resources, e-mail us at ndpo@leo.gov.

Editor's Note: Items published in *The Beacon* are for informational purposes for the emergency response community. The material submitted does not necessarily imply concurrence from the interagency community represented at the NDPO.

The Beacon is published monthly for members of the emergency response community. Please send articles, comments, feedback, and letters to the Information Sharing Team at the address listed below.

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Visit us online at www.ndpo.gov.

**CHARTER FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP
TO THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS OFFICE**

A. Official Designation

This Charter relates to the State and Local Advisory Group to the National Domestic Preparedness Office (NDPO), referred to herein as the Advisory Group.

B. Scope of Activity, Goals and Objectives

The Advisory Group's general scope of activity is to provide the Attorney General and the NDPO practical and general policy advice regarding NDPO program strategy development and implementation, in support of the NDPO goal to enhance the capabilities of emergency responders and medical professionals at all levels to safely and effectively respond to potential or actual terrorist acts involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The Advisory Group's specific objectives are:

To represent the diverse functional areas of state and local entities which may be involved in the planning for or response to a terrorism incident involving WMD, including, but not limited to, fire/rescue, HAZMAT, emergency medical and health services, law enforcement, emergency management, and state and local governments.

To facilitate cooperation among fire/rescue, HAZMAT, emergency medical and health services, law enforcement, emergency management, and federal, state and local governments addressing the issue of domestic preparedness.

To serve as the interface between federal domestic preparedness program planning and the needs and priorities of the state and local emergency response and health care communities.

To interact with the NDPO on a regular basis for strategy review and course adjustment, and to meet with the NDPO Domestic Preparedness Leadership Group at least annually to identify and discuss key issues and options from their unique state and local perspective and expertise.

To provide an organized public forum for discussion of domestic preparedness issues as they relate to state and local constituencies.

To help represent the Attorney General and the NDPO in local communities and among organizations interested in the domestic preparedness issue, working both to gather and to transmit information concerning NDPO program initiatives.

C. Duration and Tenure

The period of time necessary for the Advisory Group to carry out its purpose is indefinite.

This charter expires two years from the date of authorization and is subject to further renewal on a biennial basis thereafter.

D. Reporting

The Advisory Group shall report to the NDPO Domestic Preparedness Leadership Group, which is chaired by the Attorney General and includes the Secretaries of Defense, Energy, and Health and Human Services, the Directors of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Counterterrorism of the National Security Council.

E. Support Services

The FBI/NDPO will provide all the necessary support services for the Advisory Group.

F. Duties

The Advisory Group, as appointed by the Attorney General, will have duties that are advisory only and will carry out the objectives listed in the scope of the Advisory Group's responsibilities.

The Advisory Group Chairman may also appoint Ad Hoc Committees, with the approval of the Designated Federal

Officer (DFO), to assist in carrying out the Advisory Group's duties.

G. Annual Operating Costs

The estimated annual operating cost of the Advisory Group is \$100,000, primarily for the expenses of members to attend Advisory Group meetings. The estimate includes airfare, lodging, meals, space and equipment rental, printing, mailing, transcription services, and other miscellaneous and incidental expenses. It is also estimated that the equivalent of one work year of support services will be provided by the FBI.

H. Meetings

The Advisory Group will generally meet three times each year. The Advisory Group meetings will be open to the public unless determined otherwise by the Attorney General. Ad Hoc Committees will meet based on a schedule agreed to by the Chairman of the Advisory Group and DFO.

I. Establishing Authority

Authorization for the establishment of the Advisory Group is included in a request for the reprogramming of existing FBI funds to the NDPO.

J. Termination Date

The Advisory Group's termination date is two years from the Date of Charter, and is subject to renewal.

K. Date of Charter

The date of the charter is _____.

Janet Reno
Attorney General
Department of Justice