

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

September 27, 2005

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Laboratories
State Defense Building

Members Present

Representative Mario Goico, Chairman
Senator Jay Emler, Co-Chairman
Senator Jim Barone
Representative Judith Loganbill
Representative Julie Menghini

Members Absent

Senator Nick Jordan
Senator Chris Steineger
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Representative Joann Flower
Representative Carl Krehbiel

Staff

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees

Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General for the State of Kansas
Major Scott Henry
Lieutenant Colonel Scott Dold

**Morning Session
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Laboratories, Forbes Field**

The meeting was called to order by Representative Mario Goico, Chairman, at 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, in the Conference Room of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Laboratories, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kansas.

Chairman Goico turned the meeting over to Dr. Duane Boline, Division Director for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Laboratory, for a tour of the Department's laboratory facilities at Forbes Field. Dr. Boline gave some background information covering the Department beginning at the time of September 11, 2001, when there was only one person qualified to do anthrax testing within the Department. Dr. Boline stated that the agency currently has eight to ten people who are trained to handle anthrax cases. He also explained the three levels of laboratories, and said there are five state labs in the United States which are the highest rated, Level 3, that handle nerve agents. He added that three additional labs have been funded for the coming year.

Sue Riley, Laboratory Bioterrorism Program Manager, talked about the Laboratory Response Network (LRN), and explained that Kansas State University has the back-up laboratory for KDHE. The LRN's purpose is to run a network of labs that can respond to biological and chemical terrorism. The LRN includes state and local public health, veterinary, military, and international labs. This area also handles any bioterrorism involving the U.S. Postal Department.

Ms. Riley talked about what happened in the anthrax attacks, and how the Department had to update its procedures and response guidelines. Ms. Riley said the agency continues to have educational classes regarding bioterrorism topics, and have held 11 classes on forensics epidemiology. She briefly explained the emergency management six designated regions of Kansas and a seventh that covers the Kansas City area. Those regions include trauma, hospital, and public health regions.

Julia Young, Laboratory Chemical Terrorism Program Manager, talked about the hazardous materials responsibility in her area. She explained that KDHE is one of 41 Level 2 laboratories, and it meets the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) standards and guidelines. She spoke briefly about the classes that are held for First Responders, and how the needs at local levels are determined.

Discussion and questions followed the KDHE overview, and included inquiry as to how ready the State of Kansas is in case of a very large and overwhelming terrorist incident in 50 locations.

The tour of KDHE's laboratories began at 10:45 a.m., and included Radiochemistry which it works with the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), and also tests radioactive material. Jon Brady, Inorganic Chemistry Supervisor, explained the Toxic Waste Laboratory where dirty water analysis takes place along with various gas testing, *i.e.*, mustard gas or cyanide. The Committee toured the Pulse Net Laboratory where DNA fingerprinting is conducted for bacteria. Polymerase Change Reaction (PCR) testing, a type of DNA replication procedure, was explained. Various types of testing were described, such as Time Resolved Florescent (TRF). The Microbiology Laboratory was toured, which is where culture confirmations are performed, and determinations of drug susceptibility are made. It usually takes 48 hours to get the test results. Also, this laboratory identifies biological agents in regard to a bioterrorism event or rules out certain biological agents.

The tour ended at 11:45 a.m., and the Committee was recessed for a lunch break.

Afternoon Session State Defense Building

Senator Emler, Co-Chairman, reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m., at the State Defense Building. He called upon General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General for the State of Kansas, to give an update on homeland security issues and on hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

General Bunting gave a presentation regarding the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), and the emergency services and work done in connection with hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He stated that Kansas worked with and for the State of Mississippi. It was explained how the State of Florida also participated heavily in the lower six counties of Mississippi, and was able to do so since Florida was not hit by Katrina. Pictures of the staging areas were shown of emergency personnel from Kansas, and also law enforcement officers from other states who became Mississippi law enforcement during the disaster. He showed lists of the major Disaster Declarations made beginning at the first of the year through September 24, 2005, and the deployments from Kansas from September 1 through September 28.

General Bunting's presentation included the 15 National Planning Scenarios for Kansas' National Guard, the Universal Task List (UTL), 36 Target Capabilities, and list of the seven State and National Priorities which consists of three Overarching Priorities and four Capability-Specific Priorities. General Bunting emphasized the second bullet point under Specific Priorities, which was "Strengthen Interoperable Communications Capabilities." He explained the National Incident Management system (NIMS) and National Response Plan (NRP). He talked about the number one reason for wanting to expand regional collaboration was that it would make the State of Kansas safer. He added that extensive regional collaboration is required, risk-based approach is necessary, investment prioritization toward high-risk areas is needed, and regional approaches increase return on investment (Attachment 1).

General Bunting pointed out the official website for the State of Kansas relating to Homeland Security, the regional approach to it, and related topics is: www.KSReady.gov (Attachment 2). He briefly discussed the Communication on Wheels (COW), and explained its capabilities, uses, and equipment involved.

Major Scott Henry, Commander of the 73rd Civil Support Team (CST), Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), reviewed the CST's mission, which is to "Support Civil authorities at a domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support." He gave an overview of WMD-CST Operational Employment. WMD hazards include chemical, biological, nuclear, and explosives. He reviewed the unit's organization, and explained that the unit is staffed jointly with 80 percent Army and 20 percent Air Force, 14 military specialties, seven offices, and 15 Non-Commissioned Officers (Attachment 3).

Major Henry said the unit can set up weather stations, do plume modeling, and tell where evacuation needs to take place because of "Immediate Danger to Life and Health" (IDLH). He showed examples of some of the equipment the unit uses, as well as a Unified Command Suite (UCS), for which he explained its capabilities and cost (\$2.6 million). There are 55 units in the United States. Included in Major Henry's presentation were pictures of an Analytical Laboratory System (ALS) as well as the Tactical Vehicle Fleet. These are all air transportable. The Kansas CST has set several national records, as they can set up and be operational within 22 minutes. Major Henry talked briefly about the gasoline problem in Mississippi, and how they solved it by being provided with extra gas cans to take with the unit when they touched down in Mississippi.

Lt. Col. Scott Dold, Air Executive Support Officer, Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ)-Air, Kansas Air National Guard (KSANG), Adjutant General's Department, spoke to the Committee regarding the Expeditionary Medical Support System (EMEDS). An EMEDS is a modular highly-mobile field hospital developed to bring robust medical capabilities to the battlefield or national disaster locations. It costs approximately \$2.5 million for each EMEDS, and is a reconstituted unit that can be recycled. The Kansas Air National Guard EMEDS will fill the medical response gap that currently exists between the exhaustion of local medical resources during the initial stage of a disaster, and the later arrival of federal emergency medical resources.

Lt. Col. Dold distributed Fact Sheets on the EMEDS, and explained that the driving force behind these was airlift limitations, multiple threats, and minimal warning. The key words covering EMEDS are lightweight, mobile modular, and capable. The first thing to be set up is the Mobile Field Surgical Team, which is the smallest element of EMEDS. It is composed of 300 pounds of portable equipment and a general surgeon, orthopedic surgeon, emergency physician, and a nurse. The SPEARR element (Small Portable Expeditionary Aeromedical Rapid-Response) is the emergency room area. The Kansas Air National Guard has an EMEDS+25 which consists of an emergency room, critical care area, pharmacy, surgery, medical lab, x-ray machine, and 25 beds. The layout of the EMEDS+25 was diagramed on the Fact Sheet distributed along with the EMEDS Modular Response Chart showing the number of pallets in the various types of EMEDS, type of aircraft needed to transport units, and the medical capability of the various units according to the severity of the emergency (Attachment 4).

Lt. Col. Dold's presentation also included showing pictures of how the entire EMEDS are moved by the use of pallets and of the EMEDS being loaded by pallets into the large aircraft carriers at Forbes Field. He also included recent pictures of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi operations, and the inside of the Kansas EMEDS at that location.

Following brief questions and discussion, Co-Chairman Emler expressed his appreciation to General Bunting and his staff for a very informative presentation.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2005. The agendas will be mailed to all participants indicating meeting location, topics of discussion, and times.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Prepared by Dee Woodson
Edited by Amy VanHouse

Approved by Committee on:

October 10, 2005
(date)