



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
First Responder Subcommittee

WILLY MARTIN
CHAIRMAN

COL MICHAEL D. EDMONSON
VICE CHAIRMAN

July 1, 2013

Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

On behalf of the First Responder Subcommittee, it is my pleasure to provide this semi-annual report on accomplishments for the first half of calendar year 2013. The subcommittee met as a regular meeting of the First Responders Subcommittee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 in the LA-SAFE (Fusion Center) conference room in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The first responder member representation was as outlined by statute.

The First Responder Subcommittee plans and advises on issues identified by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Unified Command Group (UCG) regarding First Responders in their efforts in the preparation for, response to, and recovery from all emergencies and disasters. Additionally, this subcommittee is committed to coordinating with boundary states by securing memorandums of understanding (MOU) between first responders during emergencies and disasters. The committee serves to coordinate a variety of individuals and agencies representing various parts of the First Responder community in order to discuss developments in their areas and review projects that cut across organizational boundaries.

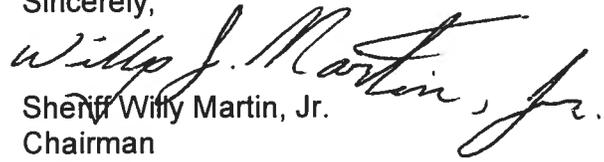
During this reporting period, the sub-committee discussed emergency preparation for all member organizations and other numerous topics in detail including:

- A Homeland Security Grant update on Federal Fiscal Year 2013 grants, including a recap of DHS grant evolution to explain the structure of the grants and the continuing federal funds reduction of approximately 5% due to sequestration.
- Other topics discussed:
 - Investments needed to justify and address risks and capabilities.
 - Plan that intended to combine most grants into a National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) is again part of the budget proposal as are Fusion Center projects that will be funded as much as possible.
 - The FEMA Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process and the capability gaps, both state and regionally, would be the target of funding.
 - Homeland Security applications are pending announcement awards are expected by the end of September 2013.

- Development of a working group with all the partners to decide on the methodology for the grant applications and subsequent awards.
 - Focusing on grant funding toward sustainment efforts such as radio batteries and computer updates should be a priority before addressing additional gaps.
 - State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grants continue to earmark 25% for Law Enforcement (LE).
 - FEMA Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process and the capability gaps evidenced would be the target of future funding 2013 and 2014 programs.
- Briefing on the current threats:
 - Discussed the Boston incident issues in detail.
 - “Sovereign Citizen” issues remain a concern in Louisiana and their numbers may be growing in certain areas due to advertisement and more reporting.
 - Discussed the cyber threat, including recent denial of service attacks and water sector attacks in Georgia. GOHSEP’s Cyber Security Officer in the Fusion Center identified an attack and alerted national assets to it.
- Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR):
 - New SAR initiative of “See Something, Send Something”, with an “all partner” press conference to announce said initiative, will be implemented soon. This new system, with the free iPhone app, allows suspicious activity reporting with both text and geo-coded pictures. This is important due to the fact that, during emergencies, texts often go through when voice communications do not. Geo-coding will allow verification of location as well.
- Emergency Response and Mitigation:
 - The “Sandy Effect” from Katrina’s lessons learned resulted in quicker federal assistance in the field. More contractors engaged in the immediate repairs of homes to make at least a part of the home livable instead of using separate temporary housing.
 - Possible changes in medical responder training is expected, due to efforts in the Boston Bombing incident, whereas future medical response will not wait on law enforcement to clear an area before moving in to perform life and limb saving measures. This may indicate that training would have to change and will have grant implications.
 - Training on other issues such as differences in suspicious packages and unattended packages are also on the horizon.
- Support to School Security Initiatives:
 - Work continues on placing school floor plans into Virtual Louisiana so that they are available to First Responders. Legislative action would greatly assist in these efforts if placing plans into the system were required.
 - DHS Protective Service Advisors (PSA) briefed on the DHS and FBI “outreach” program to address selected schools on security against active shooters. Jefferson and Rapides Parishes, as well as GOHSEP’s Fusion Center Liaison, were chosen from Louisiana to ensure that the state and local governments are well represented.
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF): Search and Rescue missions, as well as marine training supporting 2013 hurricane preparedness, continues.
 - Louisiana National Guard (LANG): Prepared for 2013 hurricane season but continues to update mission readiness.

No changes to the First Responder Subcommittee by-laws were made during this period. An annual review of by-laws is scheduled to take place at the next meeting

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willy J. Martin, Jr." is written over the typed name.

Sheriff Willy Martin, Jr.
Chairman
First Responder Subcommittee