

Nebraska Emergency Management/ Homeland Security Program



The State of Nebraska's annual report on the priorities, goals and objectives supporting the National Preparedness Goal and associated activities funded through the Department of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Grant Program

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State of Nebraska
Office of Homeland Security
2013 Status of the Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security Program

1 March 2014

Governor Dave Heineman
Homeland Security Policy Group
Legislative Appropriations Committee
Executive Board of the Legislative Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Nebraska RRS 81-830, Office of Homeland Security, created, this is the yearly report for FY2013 program activities within the state, in support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This report contains the identified state priorities, goals, and objectives in support of the National Preparedness Goal and the associated activities funded through the DHS Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for FY2013.

Nebraska faces the same threats from terrorism and natural disasters as any other state. Although Nebraska's central location may mitigate potential threats from international terrorism, its small, dispersed population, large agricultural and food processing industry, electrical grid and telecommunications capabilities are potential targets that must be addressed within the context of the total state program. The challenge for Nebraska is to programmatically build an emergency management/homeland security program that effectively leverages our statewide resources and capabilities. This is an exceedingly complex task that requires regional coordination, cooperation, and a focused effort from local, tribal, state, and federal government, the state's citizens, and the private and nonprofit sectors.

Three areas of focus for the Nebraska emergency management/homeland security program are reflected in the FY2013 HSGP investment justifications¹:

1. **Planning Exercise and Training (PET) Program/National Incident Management System (NIMS):** This program focuses on enhancing capabilities through regional, comprehensive, and progressive planning, exercises, and training. Additionally, the state continues to maintain an emphasis on the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), as per the Governor's executive order #0502, from March 4, 2005.
2. **Interoperable Communications:** The state emergency management/homeland security program is developing an interoperable public safety network, recognizing the importance of interoperable, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-agency communications during emergencies.
3. **CBRNE Cities & Emergency Response:** Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats exist across the state. Ten hazardous materials teams, located across the state, provide hazardous materials response through a state memorandum of understanding (MOU) and local mutual aid agreements.

In addition to these three main focus areas, the state also submitted investment justifications for programs in the additional four areas: Agriculture Response and Recovery, Law Enforcement Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and the Intelligence and Fusion Center Process, Citizen Corps, and the Metropolitan Medical Response System.

¹ Investment justifications are submitted to DHS and must demonstrate how proposed projects address gaps and deficiencies in current programs and capabilities. Investment justifications are part of the evaluation criteria used by DHS when allocating grant funds.

The state and local jurisdictions have remained focused on the priorities and programs identified in the state's Homeland Security Strategy and continue to **build a strong program that is relevant, prudent for Nebraska, supportive of, and can integrate with, the National Preparedness Goal.**

Beginning in FY2012, DHS linked the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) under the umbrella of the HSGP. The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and Citizen Corps Program (CCP) are no longer funded as distinct grant programs. However, all activities and costs allowed under the FY2011 Citizen Corps Program (CCP) and FY2011 Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant program were allowable and encouraged under the FY2013 HSGP. Grant rules required that 25 percent of the total funds awarded under the SHSP be distributed in support of law enforcement terrorism prevention activities linked to one or more core capabilities within the National Preparedness Goal.

FY2013 Homeland Security Grant Program Overview (HSGP):²

FY2013 funds were allocated based on three factors: 1) the legislatively mandated minimum amount, 2) DHS' risk methodology, and 3) anticipated effectiveness based on the strengths of the state's investment justifications. Based upon the submitted FY2013 investment justifications and the risk analysis for the state, Nebraska was, for the seventh year in a row, awarded the congressionally mandated base line allocation of **\$3,459,364** for the SHSP. The state had no federally designated UASI cities in FY2013, and therefore did not receive any UASI funds.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP): The SHSP grant supports the implementation of state homeland security strategies to address the identified planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

After the 2013 investment justifications were accepted by DHS, the funds Nebraska received were allocated to the local level within 45 days to pre-designated projects that resulted from a regional investment justifications process. A regionally designated administrative county received the funds and oversaw program integration and progress with the assistance of NEMA, the state administrative agency (SAA).

The Nebraska 2013 HSGP investment justifications were built upon the state having a comprehensive, leveraged program approach, involving state and local program capabilities that support each other with the flexibility to integrate into the National Response Framework. The 2013 investment justifications submitted by Nebraska were the result of a collaborative effort involving the 10 CBRNE hazardous materials response teams, the wide spectrum of first responders from across the state, the MMRS programs, public health departments, volunteers/citizen corps, the state planning team, and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group.

There has been a focused effort, since 1999, to build upon our initial State Homeland Security Strategy. Since the start of the program, funding has been utilized to meet Nebraska's identified risk, threats, and vulnerabilities, to strengthen capabilities, planning, training, and exercise programs across the broad spectrum of needs. Nebraska supports the National Preparedness Goal through the application of a systems-based approach, utilizing capabilities-based planning as a common, all-hazard, major-events planning process. This provides a mechanism for measuring preparedness and identifying future preparedness investments. The State Preparedness System is a "system of systems". As stated in the National Preparedness Goal, a system is a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common organizational structure to achieve a mission or outcome. All of the emergency response processes, programs, and capabilities already in place within our state, local, tribal, and private sector homeland security programs, across all disciplines, support the National Preparedness Goal.

² Fiscal Year 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program Funding Opportunity Announcement, pgs. 7-9.

The Nebraska Homeland Security Program provides a way to enhance these existing resources by networking them together more effectively. This report details how Nebraska continues to build on past successes and expand its capabilities in gap areas related to regionalization of programs, equipment, and resources, and the interoperability of communication projects supported by previous homeland security grants.

The Nebraska State Homeland Security Program and allocation of grant dollars at both the state and local level in 2013 supported seven primary investment justifications. What follows is a brief overview of these investment justifications for 2013. Each investment section includes a brief history of the investment, an explanation of the current status of the investment, and a description of the future of the investment with any foreseeable challenges.

Investment Justification #1: Nebraska State and Regional Planning/Exercising/Training (PET)

This investment includes sustainment and enhancement of a planning, exercise and training process that has been used for several years within the state. It sustains the current training and exercising philosophy that is built each year in the Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) and integrated into the state and regional three-year exercise training calendars. It enhances the process by completing the Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) process, integrating state/regional public health and MMRS programs into planning, developing risk assessment tools for the public and private sector and integrating technical assistance provisions from the state into the state/local/regional/ tribal planning process.

In 2013, Nebraska continued the core capabilities-based PET program within the eight PET regions. NEMA continues to assist the PET regions in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) process within their exercise programs. This process includes strategic planning, exercise design, development, evaluation and improvement planning. Using the three-year training and exercise calendar, we were able to align training and exercising across the regions. All training and exercises done in the regions using HSGP funds were HSEEP and NIMS compliant. This investment is intended to address capabilities at the state/local/regional/tribal level. The priority core capabilities identified at the annual Training and Exercise Planning workshop include communications, on-site incident management, animal disease emergency support, emergency operations center management and planning, strengthening public private partnerships and integrating them into the state/local/regional/tribal planning process. Additionally, this investment continues to support the state NIMS program, the state/local/regional/tribal integration into, and support for, the National Response Framework, as well as the continued development of an All-Hazards Incident Management Team. Nebraska maintains a system of online credentialing of staff and equipment; this program continues to grow, giving local jurisdictions the ability to identify people with the appropriate training and qualifications for the needed response during disasters.



The state and PET regions continue efforts to meet the challenge of maintaining current levels of programming with reduced federal funding. This includes continuing to meet the exercise and training requirements for the Emergency Management Performance Grant and State Homeland Security Grant.

Investment Justification #2: Nebraska Interoperable Communications

Through executive order, the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC) was created in October 2012. The council is intended to focus on supporting interoperability through representation from eight (8) planning, exercise and training (PET) regions, the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), and several state agencies, including the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The NPSCC is charged with providing policy-level direction to planning and decisions regarding development, operations, and sustainability of interoperability among public safety first responders in the state of Nebraska.

The state has implemented the Statewide Radio System (SRS) to support local, state, and federal agencies. The system uses the VHF spectrum, and is based on the Motorola Astro P25 technology platform. The system



provides common interoperability talk groups to local dispatch centers across the state, and has flexibility to accommodate communications between jurisdictions for different emergency scenarios. The state is also in the process of assisting with a point-to-point microwave project connecting all public safety access points together on a single, redundant network. This project, the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network, when finished, will provide a fast, secure network for county officials to utilize as a transport service for data.

Priorities for Nebraska Interoperable Communications

include:

1. Complete implementation of state interoperability talk groups at local dispatch locations.
2. Support outreach efforts to educate and train public safety agencies on interoperability talk groups and frequencies.
3. Update interoperable communications resources in the communications assets survey and mapping (CASM) and within the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).
4. Expand Statewide Radio System access to local agencies and with neighboring states.
5. Coordinate statewide communications planning with OCIO and state wireless interoperability coordinator (SWIC).
6. Assists local government in the installation and implementation of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network.

Investment Justification #3: Nebraska CBRNE Cities and Emergency Response Planning

Nebraska continues to ensure that a response to a chemical release would be responded to with the highest quality personal and equipment. Since 1999, NEMA has maintained agreements with ten local fire departments and has worked to support a State team comprised of members from the Nebraska State Patrol, State Fire Marshal's Office and Department of Environmental Quality. The goal of the CBRNE program is to respond to, stabilize, and mitigate a hazardous materials incident if local resources become overwhelmed.

In conjunction with the local and State teams, the Nebraska National Guard's 72nd Civil Support Team (CST) is another asset. The 72nd CST was established to deploy rapidly to assist a local incident commander in

determining the nature and extent of an incident, to provide technical advice on WMD response operations and to help identify and support the arrival of follow-on state and federal military response assets. While not receiving federal homeland security funds, the Nebraska National Guard's CBRNE Emergency Response Force Package (CERF-P) is another part of the scalable response to a CBRNE event and can be used in a large scale event that would likely overwhelm local responders and the CST.

2013 was another active year for hazardous materials response. Responses included train derailments, small and large leaks in chemical plants and multiple transportation accidents. Responders from all three entities came together this year for the first ever Nebraska Hazmat Challenge supported by Omaha Fire.

Plans continue to need to be updated, equipment always needs repaired & replaced and the on-going training to maintain the standard is time consuming.



Investment Justification #4: Nebraska Agriculture Response and Recovery

Beginning in 2003, Nebraska used funding from the SHSP to increase the state's ability to deal with threats to agriculture and the food supply. Use of these funds has generally fallen into three focus areas: local planning and education, Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and the Livestock Emergency Disease Response System (LEDRS). The LEDRS system was developed so private sector veterinarians across Nebraska could be activated, as needed, during times of a livestock emergency, and continues to provide planning and exercise opportunities to private veterinarians and other LEDRS members each year. In 2009, Nebraska began allocating equipment and PET funds for this investment justification directly to the regions. Under guidance from the PET regions, these funds are shared with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), where they are utilized for projects which increase awareness and capabilities at the local level. The GIS system continues to be enhanced, with many more data points being added to the system each year. Also, because of the availability of regional PET funds, NDA was able to hire a contractor to provide services to local entities.



In 2013, through the use of regional PET funds, an NDA contractor was able to provide a planning workshop and subsequent drill for an identified livestock temporary holding facility location in Hall County. This exercise not only addressed planning and logistical aspects of housing livestock temporarily during an emergency, but also evaluated the functionality of a specific site by setting up panels in the space and addressing entry and exit issues for livestock haulers. Additionally, regional PET funds allowed for NDA to purchase a portable generator for use in a LEDRS response trailer in the Southwest region. At the 2013 LEDRS conference, participants took part in a FEMA-approved training course focused on the interaction between law enforcement and agriculture during an agroterrorism response. The course culminated in a tabletop exercise simulating a Rift Valley Fever outbreak. A Nebraska-supported Multistate Partnership for Security in Agriculture (MSPSA) project to develop "just-in-time" training for first responders was enhanced by a contractor who developed several new training modules

during the year. Another MSPSA project resulted in a planning workshop with Iowa counterparts and livestock checkpoint workshops hosted in four counties along the KS-NE border to support ongoing planning efforts related to monitoring crossborder livestock movement during an animal disease emergency.

Funds to support ongoing preparedness and response activities are becoming scarce. Available SHSP funds projected for 2014 will likely allow only the LEDRS project to continue. Work on GIS will continue only through other grants, such as those offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Local PET will only continue to the extent that monies continue to be made available by the PET regions. Additionally, “just-in-time” training modules will need to be sustained through other funding channels. To sustain efforts supporting this investment justification, other funding sources need to be obtained.

Investment Justification #5: Law Enforcement Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and the Intelligence and Fusion Center Process

This investment justification is a combined focus on the Law Enforcement Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Response and Planning and Nebraska Intelligence and Fusion Center processes. The efforts of the Fusion Center and IED Response are intended to further the state’s ability to detect, prevent, respond to and recover from a terrorist event, or natural disaster. The investment justification builds on the national priorities of strengthening information sharing and collaboration capabilities within the state, at the regional level, and with federal partners. The fusion center process is carried out through the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC). The NIAC is a collaborative intelligence-gathering effort between state law enforcement agencies, drug task forces, the Lincoln Police Department (LPD), Omaha Police Department (OPD), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) provides day-to-day leadership of the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) processes and coordinates explosive device response capabilities. IED response and planning is used to ensure all accredited bomb squads in Nebraska have adequate capabilities and equipment for response to explosive-related incidents across Nebraska. There are four accredited bomb squads in Nebraska that employ hazardous device technicians (HDTs). The agencies maintaining bomb squads are the NSP, OPD, Lincoln Bureau of Fire Prevention and the Scottsbluff Police Department. While not receiving federal homeland security funds, the Nebraska National Guard’s 155th Air Refueling Wing has an explosive ordinance response team comprised of full-time and part-time personnel, many of which have combat IED experience. While their primary mission deals with ordinance, they could be used for IED response.

In 2012, the NIAC launched two hardware/software applications. The first, Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Nebraska, is a platform used to disseminate NIAC products to every law enforcement office in the state through a secure web portal. Currently HSIN has over 175 users from Nebraska, representing over 25 different agencies. A second application, known as the Nebraska Fusion Information Network or NFIN, allows all vetted law enforcement officers to input and query intelligence information via a secure web portal. The system also integrates data from state and local data sources, to include computer-aided dispatch (CAD) and record management system (RMS) from NSP, Lincoln Police Department (LPD), Omaha Police Department (OPD), and North Platte Police Department (NPPD). North Platte Police will also be utilizing NFIN as their sole



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input and retrieval intelligence/SAR information database. At the same time, NIAC personnel vet intelligence information, train analysts and NIAC leaders in the effective use of analytical products, and create analytical products in response to the 880 requests for service received by the NIAC watch center in 2013. All bomb squads have implemented needed, standardized equipment to enhance explosive response capabilities. All squads continue to train and enhance capabilities with specialized equipment obtained through the grant process. HDTs from all bomb squads attended and successfully completed the FBI Hazardous Device School Recertification training. Three of the four Bomb Squads had personnel attend the National Bomb Squad Commanders Conference in Socorro, NM. HDTs from all Bomb Squads attended the FBI Advanced Electronics Course which instructs HDTs on electrical components and firing systems of IEDs. Throughout 2013, there were multiple, combined Bomb Squad trainings including monthly training of individual squads. The above mentioned training and equipment has aided the Bomb Squads in safely responding to, in excess of, 160 explosive-related calls for service.

The most significant issue the NIAC faces is creating an environment within the overall intelligence community in Nebraska to understand and operate according to the concepts of intelligence-led policing. The NIAC will continue to integrate new allied agency data into the NFIN, with the goal of integrating two new agencies into the system in 2014. Nebraska Bomb Squads continue to face the challenge of acquiring grant funding for equipment and training. All the Bomb Squads are part time squads with the HDTs having other primary duties within their respective agencies. This creates challenges in maintaining monthly training hours in accordance with national standards/guidelines. This part time status also challenges the Bomb Squads in equipment maintenance and proficiencies. Law enforcement in general, but specifically the Bomb Squads are challenged in the enforcement of explosive/IED related statutes. Nebraska currently has outdated and contradicting statutes with regards to explosives and/or IEDs making effective prosecution and public safety a challenge. The HDTGG and associated Bomb Squads will address new challenges as appropriate to aid in facilitating appropriate explosive related responses and public safety.

Investment Justification #6: Nebraska Citizen Corps Program



The Nebraska Citizen Corps program prepares individuals and communities to be self-sufficient during natural disasters and terrorist incidents, and trains them to assist first responders in a volunteer capacity in the wake of such incidents. The state program is housed in NEMA, with a full-time coordinator employed to organize and advocate for Citizen Corps Councils across Nebraska. The Citizen Corps Program is made up of eight regions. In total, the Citizen Corps Program consists of 13 Citizen Corps Councils, 12 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), 8 registered Volunteers in Police Service units, 8 registered Fire Corps units, 7 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units, and 231 registered Neighborhood Watch units.

In 2013, Citizen Corps funds were utilized for state management of the Nebraska Citizen Corps Program, for technical assistance to local Citizen Corps Councils, to strengthen the 13 Citizen Corps Councils, for training and exercise opportunities, and to assist with the continuing development of a State Citizen Corps Council. Federal funds were distributed to the Citizen Corps Program Regions to:

1. Strengthen Citizen Corps Councils in Nebraska

2. Strengthen intra-regional and inter-regional collaboration
3. Promote community preparedness and National Preparedness Month
4. Support partner programs with funds for training materials and exercises
5. Organize and plan an annual Nebraska CERT conference
6. Purchase equipment for local Citizen Corps Councils to help sustain their programs.

The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program continues to recruit volunteer regional points of contact for the eight regions across the state. We currently have points of contact in six regions. The State Citizen Corps Council, along with NEMA will work to extend Nebraska's Citizen Corps Program to cover those areas that have a limited Citizen Corps presence.

Investment Justification #7: Nebraska Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

The MMRS program is specifically targeted to the metropolitan areas of Lincoln and Omaha. Specific funds were identified for Lincoln and Omaha to address the medical response to an all-hazards environment and link the MMRS system to the state's homeland security program.

In 2013, the Lincoln MMRS (LMMRS) focused a major portion of its funds on the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteer EMS and first responders. Additional evacuation resources for hospitals, updated radiation detection equipment for Lincoln Fire and Rescue and LLCHD's HazMat responders as well as equipment to address the needs of EMS providers to transport bariatric patients and improve patient care was also purchased. The Omaha MMRS (OMMRS) continued to focus on hospital evacuation plans and its Hospital Evacuation Network System (HENS) plan. OMMRS conducted a full-scale evacuation exercise, testing floor-by-floor evacuations, transportation of patients, and communications capabilities among hospitals and emergency management.



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Funding, sustainment of current resources and ensuring that programs have trained personnel is always a challenge. The MMRS grant is now a part of the SHSG program, and as such, changes in spending priorities and decreases in staffing create a reality to which both must adapt.

Conclusion

The Office of the Lt. Governor, and the Homeland Security Policy Group, continue to lead the overall homeland security efforts for the state of Nebraska. Due to the composition and complexity of the DHS grants, many of the grant activities for FY2013 are just beginning to be implemented. However, some of the current funding is already being used to enhance and sustain existing programs. The Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security program is integrated into the Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy, and focused on long-term accomplishments and capabilities. Planning for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating natural and manmade disaster is not a one-time event. It is not just a box to be "checked off"; it is an ongoing process designed to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury, and loss of life and property associated with disasters and emergencies.

The state's homeland security program has matured a great deal since the events of September 11, 2001. This can be seen in the development of the Nebraska Intelligence and Analysis Center under a collaborative environment between the NSP and the Lincoln and Omaha Police Departments, the build-out of the state communications system, the enhancements to local communication systems and the enhanced hazardous material response systems across the state. However, we anticipate the critical decisions that were made over the past decade to come under increased scrutiny at the federal level in terms of funding support. We believe the state of Nebraska made good decisions that resulted in increased security and readiness for the entire state.

When the Nebraska program was established, decisions were made to support the program through existing state agencies, and consolidate the executive requirements for homeland security under the Office of the Lt. Governor. The current budget environment at the federal level leads NEMA, as state administrative agency for the state's homeland security funds, to expect significant reductions in the level of program and administrative support to the state.

Currently, funds received by the state support 100% of the state's administrative homeland security program and 50% of the costs to programmatically carry out the state's homeland security and emergency management program. These funds also support up to 50% of the local emergency management programs across the state.

In late 2013, the federal government passed the FY2014 federal budget, which included an increase in total funds allocated to the states. We are anticipating a slight increase to Nebraska's allocation, however this won't be known until the fall of 2014. With the current political environment centering on deficit reduction and sequestration, however, the possibility that the state will face budget reductions, that will impact our state and local programs, remains.

It is almost certain that in future budget cycles, the state will be asked to determine the level of support we should continue to give toward the state's homeland security program, based upon the changing environment for funding support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This will eventually lead to extended timelines for the completion of on-going local communication projects and reductions in homeland security programs within NEMA, negatively affecting the state's ability to enact and carry out the state emergency management and homeland security program.

Major General Daryl Bohac
Adjutant General

Al Berndt
NEMA Assistant Director
DHS State Administrative Agent

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Attachments:

Acronyms and Terms

Nebraska PET Regions/MOU Hazardous Materials Response Teams Regional Map

2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program Totals

Executive Order 12-01

Executive Order 08-03

Executive Order 08-04

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Acronyms and Terms

CBRNE: Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosive

CCP: Citizen Corps Program

DHS: United States Department of Homeland Security

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fusion Center: an intelligence-gathering and analysis center used to promote sharing of information among local, state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental business partners

Haz Mat: Hazardous Materials

HDT: Hazardous Device Technician

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP): a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning¹

Homeland Security Policy Group: led by the lieutenant governor, this group assesses strategic alternatives and recommends broad courses of action for the development of comprehensive homeland security strategies

HSGP: Homeland Security Grant Program

IED: Improvised Explosive Device

Incident Command System (ICS): consists of a standard hierarchical organization and procedures used to manage incidents

Investment Justification: method by which the state explains its planned use for Homeland Security grant funds

MMRS: Metropolitan Medical Response System

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

National Incident Management System (NIMS): a framework used in the United States for both governmental and non-governmental agencies to respond to natural or manmade disasters at the local, state, and federal levels of government

National Planning Scenarios: Fifteen all-hazards planning scenarios for use in preparedness activities. They represent the range of natural and manmade disasters

National Preparedness Goal: The President directed the development of a National Preparedness Goal (or Goal) in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8. The Goal reorients how the Federal government proposes to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Goal establishes a vision, capabilities, and priorities for national preparedness.²

¹ HSEEP Website, <https://hseep.dhs.gov/>

² National Preparedness Goal, iii

National Priorities: 8 national priorities that are to be used to help guide preparedness goals and reflect major themes and issues identified through national strategies ³

NEMA: Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

PET: Planning, Exercise and Training

SHSP: State Homeland Security Program

State Homeland Security Strategy: identifies a strategic direction for enhancing the State of Nebraska’s capability and capacity to detect, prevent against, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or incidents of terrorism, disasters, and major emergencies.⁴

Target Capabilities List: 37 specific capabilities that communities, the private sector, and all levels of government should collectively possess in order to respond effectively to disasters.⁵

UASI: Urban Area Security Initiative

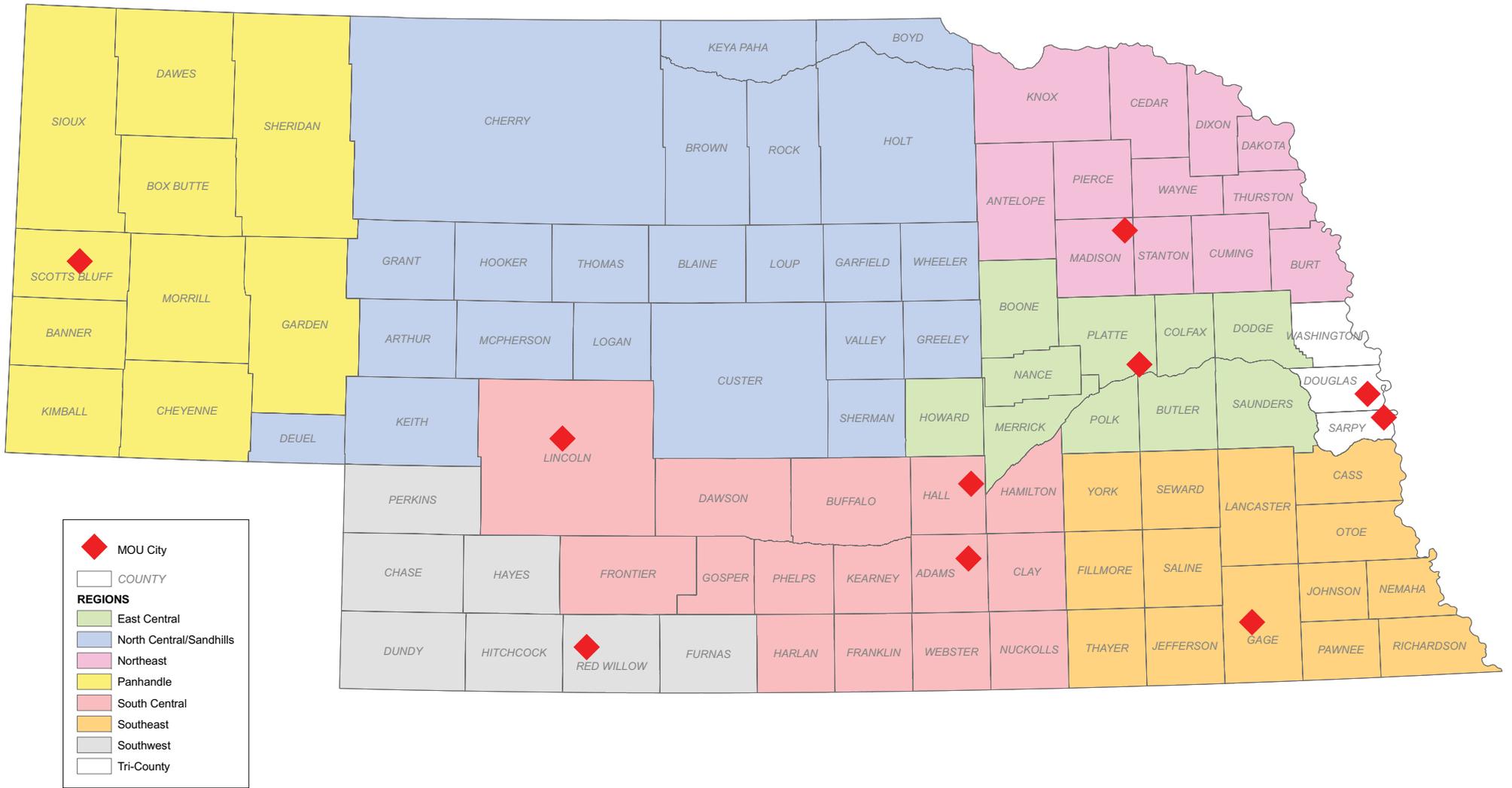
Universal Task List (UTL): 1,600 unique tasks that can facilitate efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from the major events that are represented by the National Planning Scenarios. It presents a common vocabulary and identifies key tasks that support development of essential capabilities among organizations at all levels.⁶

³ National Preparedness Guidelines, 1

⁴ 2009 Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy and Goals, 1

⁵ National Preparedness Guidelines, iii

⁶ Ibid

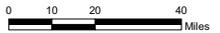


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MOU Regional PET - Communications



Data Source: NEMA
 Date: October 2008

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2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program

Region	Hazmat MOU Team(s)	IED/Fusion	Comm/PET	Total
Southeast	\$ 20,000	\$ 93,494	\$ 128,769	\$ 242,263
South Central	\$ 60,000	\$ 78,031	\$ 107,472	\$ 245,503
East Central	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,207	\$ 55,376	\$ 115,583
Northeast	\$ 20,000	\$ 44,304	\$ 61,020	\$ 125,324
Panhandle	\$ 20,000	\$ 61,134	\$ 84,200	\$ 165,334
North Central		\$ 95,422	\$ 131,424	\$ 226,846
Southwest	\$ 20,000	\$ 23,690	\$ 32,627	\$ 76,317
Tri-County	\$ 40,000	\$ 106,720	\$ 266,985	\$ 413,705
NHIT	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000
NRIN*			\$ 906,778	\$ 906,778
MMRS**			\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
CCP**			\$ 109,838	\$ 109,838
Total award to local units of government				\$ 2,767,491

(*Funds transferred via MOU to the NRIN project from the East Central Region)

(**Funds transferred via MOU to the CCP and MMRS projects via the Southeast Region)

Remaining 20% kept at the state level per grant guidance

\$ 691,873

NEMA: \$518,905 (funds allocated to the PET program and Maintenance and Administration)

NSP: \$172,968 (funds allocated to the Nebraska Fusion Information Network (NFIN))

Total Award Amount

\$ 3,459,364

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EXECUTIVE ORDER
No. 12-01
ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS –
Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

WHEREAS, Nebraska recognized the importance of public safety and protection of public and private property throughout the state: and

WHEREAS, efficient emergency response is paramount to the safety of Nebraska's citizens and visitors, and for the protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders commonly rely upon radio frequencies and technologies that are often not planned or configured to be interoperable with other systems; and

WHEREAS, interoperable public safety communications between and within jurisdictions is critical to the mission of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the attainment of interoperable communications requires statewide coordination and leadership,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Nebraska, I hereby establish the "Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (hereinafter "NPSCC"). The NPSCC will function as a Council to operate under the guidance and direction of the State Homeland Security Director / State Wireless Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) with the following purposes and charges:

1. Provide for the policy level direction related to the planning and decisions regarding development, operation and sustainability of inoperability in the State of Nebraska;
2. Provide leadership regarding the development of public safety communications within Nebraska;
3. Adopt bylaws for the operation of the Council;
4. Promote interoperability for public safety communications within Nebraska, and with border states;
5. Provide recommendations for the development of protocols, standard operating procedures and guidelines for use of public safety communications systems in Nebraska;
6. Coordinate and provide planning, training and exercise opportunities related to communications interoperability for all necessary and authorized public safety practitioners;
7. Establish working groups, as required, to meet the needs of providing interoperability within Nebraska. NPSCC will provide guidance on recommendations that come from these working groups; and
8. Develop recommendations and strategies for best utilization of public funds, including grants, to improve public safety communications in Nebraska.

The NPSCC shall be comprised of a representative who has been vested by the appointing authority to represent the following agencies or organizations:

- a. A Nebraska State Patrol representative, who shall be appointed by the Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol;
- b. A Nebraska Game and Parks Commission representative, who shall be appointed by the Commission's Executive Director;
- c. A Nebraska Fire Marshal representative, who shall be appointed by the State Fire Marshal;
- d. A Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer representative, who shall be appointed by the Chief Information Officer;
- e. A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency representative, who shall be appointed by the Adjutant General;
- f. A Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) representative, who shall be appointed by the NPPD Chief Executive Officer;
- g. One Representative of each Nebraska PETCom Regions, who shall be appointed by their respective region;
- h. A Nebraska League of Municipalities Representative; and
- i. A Nebraska Association of County Officials Representative.

No members serving in any capacity on the NPSCC shall be entitled to any compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred due to their membership on the NPSCC.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will provide administrative support to the NPSCC. The NPSCC shall prepare an annual report for the Governor and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. Such report shall contain a current assessment of the status of interoperability of public safety in Nebraska, as well as recommendations regarding improvements and enhancements to Nebraska Public Safety Communications.

I hereby order and direct that Executive Orders #08-03 and #08-04 be rescinded, effective as of 12:01 a.m. on October 18, 2012. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 18th day of October, 2012.



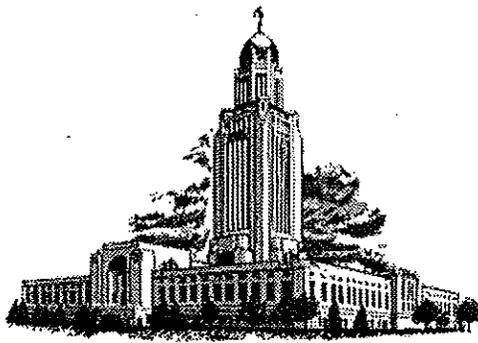
Dave Heineman

Dave Heineman, Governor
State of Nebraska

Attest:

John A. Gale

John A. Gale, Secretary of State
State of Nebraska



STATE *of* NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER
No. 08-03

ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS – Nebraska Wireless
Interoperable Network

WHEREAS, Nebraska recognized the importance of public safety and protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, efficient emergency response is paramount to the safety of Nebraska's citizens and visitors, and for the protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders commonly rely upon radio frequencies and technologies that are often not planned or configured to be interoperable with other systems; and

WHEREAS, interoperable public safety communications between and within jurisdictions is critical to the mission of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the attainment of interoperable communications requires statewide coordination and leadership,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Nebraska, I hereby establish the "Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network (hereinafter "N-WIN")." The N-WIN will function as a Council to operate under the guidance and direction of the Lt. Governor and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group, with the following purposes and charges:

1. Provide for the governance and policy level direction related to the planning and decisions regarding development and operation of the N-WIN;
2. Provide leadership regarding the development of public safety communications within Nebraska;
3. Adopt bylaws for the operation of the Council;

4. Develop strategies and recommendations to improve operations of the N-WIN, including consultation with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) regarding the use of new technology as it becomes available;
5. Promote interoperability for public safety communications within Nebraska, and with border states;
6. Provide oversight for the development of protocols, standard operating procedures and guidelines for use of the N-WIN;
7. Coordinate and provide planning, training and exercise opportunities related to communications interoperability for all necessary and authorized public safety practitioners;
8. Establish the terms of agreements and enter into agreements for public safety entities to operate on the N-WIN, in conjunction with the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO), when such arrangements are practical and in the best interests of the State and the regions; and
9. Develop recommendations and strategies for best utilization of public funds, including grants, to improve public safety communications in Nebraska.

The N-WIN shall be comprised of a representative who has been vested by the appointing authority to represent the following agencies or organizations:

- a. The Chairman of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network, who shall be appointed by the Governor
- b. A Nebraska State Patrol representative, who shall be appointed by the Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol
- c. A Nebraska Game and Parks Commission representative, who shall be appointed by the Commission's Executive Director
- d. A Nebraska Fire Marshal representative, who shall be appointed by the State Fire Marshal
- e. A Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer representative, who shall be appointed by the Chief Information Officer
- f. A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency representative, who shall be appointed by the Adjutant General; and
- g. A Nebraska Public Power District representative, who shall be appointed by the NPPD Chief Executive Officer.

In addition, two members, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Nebraska Council of Regions, shall be appointed as non-voting, ex-officio members. The N-WIN may establish such subcommittees or temporary working groups as are deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Network. No members serving in any capacity on the N-WIN shall be entitled to any compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred due to their membership on the N-WIN.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the Division of Communications/OCIO will provide administrative and technical support to the N-WIN.

The N-WIN shall prepare an annual report for the Governor and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. Such report shall contain a current assessment of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network, including recommendations regarding the operation of and enhancements to the system.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this ___ day of December, 2008.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dave Heineman".

Dave Heineman
Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John A. Gale".

John A. Gale, Secretary of State
State of Nebraska

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STATE *of* NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
No. 08-04**

ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS – Local Communications Regions

WHEREAS, Nebraska recognized the importance of public safety and protection of public and private property throughout the state: and

WHEREAS, efficient emergency response is paramount to the safety of Nebraska's citizens and visitors, and for the protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders commonly rely upon radio frequencies and technologies that are often not planned or configured to be interoperable with other systems; and

WHEREAS, interoperable public safety communications between and within jurisdictions is critical to the mission of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the attainment of interoperable communications requires statewide coordination and leadership,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Nebraska, I Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, direct that the Nebraska Council of Regions (hereinafter "NCOR") be established and authorized to function in compliance with the following sections of this order:

1. The name of the Council is the Nebraska Council of Regions. The NCOR shall report to the Lt. Governor as Nebraska Homeland Security Director and to the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group.

2. The NCOR is created to provide oversight and integration for the eight local public safety communications regions of Nebraska and to coordinate with the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network. The NCOR is responsible for developing and implementing the State Communications Interoperability Plan.

4. The ten-member Council shall be comprised of one member of each of the eight local communications regions, who shall be appointed by each region; one representative of the Nebraska Public Power District, who shall be appointed by the NPPD Chief Executive Officer; and one member of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network, who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Network.

5. The NCOR shall foster collaboration among stakeholders at the local, federal and state level. The Nebraska Council of Regions shall:

- Provide policy level direction and coordination related to the planning and decisions regarding regional integration with the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network (N-WIN).
- Adopt bylaws for the operation of the NCOR.
- Develop strategies and recommendations to improve operations of the Nebraska wireless communication network, including the use of new technology as it becomes available.
- Promote interoperability for public safety communications within Nebraska.
- Provide for the development of protocols, standard operating procedures and guidelines for use of the local Nebraska wireless communication network.
- Establish the terms of agreements and enter into agreements for public safety entities to operate with the Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network (N-WIN), in conjunction with the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO), when such arrangements are practical and in the best interests of the State and the regions.

6. The NCOR may establish sub-committees and temporary working groups to address operating procedures and special projects.

7. The NCOR will be administratively and technically supported by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency ("NEMA") and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

8. Representatives appointed to serve on the NCOR shall serve for a term of two calendar years at a time. No members serving in any capacity on the Nebraska Council of Regions shall be entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred pursuant to Council duties.

9. The NCOR shall prepare an annual report for the Governor and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group. Such report shall contain a current assessment of the Nebraska Regional wireless communication networks, including recommendations regarding the further development and operation of the system.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this ___ day of December, 2008.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dave Heineman".

Dave Heineman
Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John A. Gale".

John A. Gale, Secretary of State
State of Nebraska

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