

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness
State of Louisiana**

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



WILLIE MARTIN
CHAIRMAN

1 July, 2016

Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards:

On behalf of the First Responder Subcommittee on Homeland Security and Emergency Management, it is my pleasure to provide this semi-annual report on accomplishments for the first half of calendar year 2016. The subcommittee met as a regular meeting of the First Responders' Subcommittee at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 in the GOHSEP Overwatch 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) for use 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 cross-organizational boundaries.

During this reporting period, the sub-committee discussed emergency preparation for all member organizations as well as the following topics:

GOHSEP - Christina Dayries presented an update on 2016 SHSP Project and Grant Allocations. She explained the dedicated funding and options as well as asked the FRSC to consider its Grant Allocation Committee's recommendations on how to disperse the 2016 SHSP grants. The FRSC unanimously approved the

recommendation of having a base for each parish and sharing the remainder based on parish population.

GOHSEP - Christina Dayries presented the 2015 SHSP Grant deobligations to the committee that advises GOHSEP on how to dispense the deobligated funds. GOHSEP requested using the funds to purchase response items such as sand bags, super sacks(2,000lb sandbags), LWIN-related expenditures, etc. All members voted in the affirmative to return the deobligated funds to GOHSEP for purchase of similar response items as deemed necessary.

LA-SAFE – CPT Chuck McNeal gave a threat brief based upon current issues. He discussed the nationwide threats from Islamic Terror groups such as ISIS and their locations in the homeland. He further discussed the increase of reported suspicious activities received entered into the FBI Guardian system. CPT McNeal then discussed the number of persons leaving the U.S. to become foreign fighters and the concerns that this phenomenon poses.

He went on to discuss the increase in gang activity involving the Arian Brotherhood, as well as various Black and Hispance gangs.

He also reported on the rise in the use of heroin.

He addressed the question of “Sovereign Citizens” in the state, how they are identified, and the recent increase in their numbers.

He then spoke regarding the growing interests in Syrian refugees being allowed to come to Louisiana.

The ever-growing Cyber threat was brought up for discussion. CPT McNeal discussed methods of recent ransomware attacks and our responses.

GOHSEP Intel Officer/Fusion Center Liaison – B. Ric Moore presented a brief regarding the 2016 DHS Relative Risk Assessment and its changes compared to 2015. He also presented an update on the 2015 Louisiana Risk Survey and the analytical findings that may be used to rank the parishes, regions, as well as specific incidents by risk, consequence, vulnerability, and threat.

He further discussed the continuing analytics that indicate a lack of awareness of available prevention and response entities as well as the effect on the relationships of threat, preparedness, and vulnerability, particularly in the area of Cyber crime. In order to address this issue, all LA-SAFE partners have developed an extensive briefing to be delivered regionally. In addition, the LA CBRNE and Louisiana Food/Agriculture and Water Working Groups are continuing their efforts of awareness as well.

Adjournment:

Chair Sheriff Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. on a motion from Mark Stewart; seconded by Paul Edmonson.