



Secretary Ridge tasked the Office of State and Local Government Coordination & Preparedness (SLGCP) with preparing America for acts of domestic terrorism. Under the strong leadership of C. Suzanne Mencer, Executive Director of SLGCP, we are developing and implementing a national program to enhance the capacity of state and local agencies to respond to incidents of terrorism, particularly those involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents, as well as natural disasters, through coordinated training, exercises, equipment acquisition, and technical assistance.

### **HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE-8**

In Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 (HSPD-8), President George W. Bush directed our office to aggressively implement a plan to improve national preparedness. The plan brings together experts from federal, state, and local government, as well as the private and non-profit sectors, to define a national preparedness goal and integrate federal preparedness programs into a more coordinated system to achieve our goal of a better prepared America. The national preparedness goal will enable members of the homeland security community to compare current capabilities to national targets, identify needs, establish priorities and, ultimately, focus our collective efforts to ensure that our homeland is secure.

### **OFFICE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION (SLGC)**

The Office of State and Local Government Coordination—headed by Joshua Filler—was established to serve as a single point of contact for facilitation and coordination of Departmental programs that impact state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. The Department of Homeland Security brings together various organizations that provide support to state, local, territorial, and tribal government organizations and associations—this Office helps to coordinate this support. SLGC is responsible for coordinating the programs and policies of the Department as they relate to state and local governments, including funding issues and information sharing.

### **OFFICE FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS (ODP)**

#### **Grants and Technical Support**

The State and Local Operations Division in ODP distributes grants to 56 states and territories, as well as to ports, transit authorities and other homeland security stakeholders. In FY04, ODP disbursed over \$4 billion in grants for emergency preparedness personnel to protect and defend our nation's security against the threat posed by terrorism through programs such as the Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative. These grants include:

- ***Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)***: HSGP provides planning, equipment, training, exercise, and management and administrative funding to emergency prevention, preparedness, and response personnel in states and territories;
- ***Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)***: UASI grant programs address the unique equipment, training, planning and exercise needs of large high threat urban areas. Funding is also provided for ports and transit systems;
- ***Citizen Corps***: Citizen Corps is the Department of Homeland Security's grassroots initiative that encourages citizens to play a role in hometown security through personal preparedness. Citizen Corps provides local opportunities to channel citizen action through preparedness, training, and volunteer service opportunities coordinated by over 1,200 local Citizen Corps Council nationwide;

- ***Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program:*** The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program helps local fire departments purchase firefighting equipment, fund firefighter health and safety programs, enhance emergency medical services programs, and conduct fire education and prevention programs;
- ***Information Technology and Evaluation Program (ITEP):*** ITEP is a competitive program intended to foster and evaluate uses of existing, “state-of-the-market” information technology that will demonstrate how to remove barriers and improve information sharing and integration;
- ***Competitive Training Grants Program:*** This program provides funding for training initiatives to further ODP’s mission of preparing the nation in the event of a terrorist incident;
- ***Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG):*** The EMPG program supports comprehensive emergency management at the state and local levels and encourages the improvement of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities for all hazards; and
- ***Transportation and Interoperability Grants:*** These grants provide funding to enhance security at port and transit facilities, as well as interoperability communication.

Other services include the ***Homeland Security Preparedness Technical Assistance Program*** which provides direct assistance to state and local jurisdictions to improve their ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive weapons. In addition, we work with states and other jurisdictions to develop their homeland security strategies, vulnerability assessments and other planning tools.

## Training

ODP draws upon a coalition of "Training Partners" in the development and delivery of its state-of-the-art training programs. This coalition is composed of government facilities, academic institutions and private organizations, all of which are committed to providing a variety of specialized, training for emergency responders across the country. Since September 11, 2001, we have trained over 450,000 first responders.

Other training components include the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), through which ODP identifies, develops, tests, and delivers training to state and local emergency responders. The NDPC membership and functions include:

- ***ODP's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP):*** Conducts live agent training in Anniston, Alabama;
- ***New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT):*** Tests high energy explosives and develops suicide bomber prevention;
- ***Louisiana State University (LSU):*** Trains for biological mobile weapons and law enforcement awareness;
- ***Texas A&M University System, Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX):*** Develops and conducts national WMD preparedness training for all emergency response disciplines as well as courses in incident management/unified command, threat and risk assessments, operations for public works and WMD operations for emergency medical services. TEEX also conducts a structural collapse technician course to build state capabilities for urban search and rescue operations; and
- ***Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site (NTS):*** Conducts radiological and nuclear testing.

ODP also partners with David Paulison and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) to provide the nation’s emergency response and management leaders with critical preparedness training courses.

## Exercises

ODP exercises train first responders so that they can practice prevention, reduce vulnerabilities, and hone recovery capabilities in a risk-free environment. The goal is to help states and localities gain an objective assessment of their capacity to prevent or respond to and recover from disaster so that changes can be made before a real incident occurs. These programs include:

- ***National Exercise Program (NEP)***: Based on HSPD-8, NEP serves as the primary vehicle for training national leaders and agency staff members, and for promoting collaboration among partners at all levels of government for assigned homeland security missions. These national-level exercises provide the means to conduct full-scale, full-system tests of collective preparedness, improve interoperability, build strong teams across all levels of government and the private sector, as well as strengthen international partnerships;
- ***Top Officials Exercise (TOPOFF)***: TOPOFF is the cornerstone of the national performance-based exercises. TOPOFF is a biennial program that includes a functional expertise in the first year and a full-scale exercise in the second, with continuity provided by a series of seminars. The next TOPOFF exercise is planned for 2005; and
- ***Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)***: ODP developed HSEEP to help homeland security professionals identify planning, training, and equipment needs and to provide the necessary tools to plan, conduct, and evaluate exercises in efforts to improve overall preparedness.

ODP's Exercise Division has conducted over 390 exercises.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/>.