

Homeland Security Report

Gainesville Police Department

September 2005

Overview

Post 9-11, the Governor of the State of Florida charged the Florida Department of Law Enforcement with facilitating responses to incidents of terrorism. Regional Domestic Security Task Forces were created and were regionally aligned with the current FDLE regional offices. There are a total of seven (7) regions within Florida. Responsibilities under the Governor's Executive Order #01-300 included:

- Coordination of Training
- Collection and Dissemination of Investigative and Intelligence Information
- Facilitate Responses to Terrorist Incidents in Each Region
- Coordinate Efforts amongst State, Local and Federal Resources

The Gainesville Police Department is a member of the Region Three Domestic Security Task Force (Northeast Region). Each of the seven Regional Task Forces are Co-Chaired by the Supervisory Agent in Charge of the FDLE Region and a Sheriff identified by FDLE. Each Region is broken down into the following components:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Rescue
- Health and Medical
- Emergency Management and Regulatory
- Education
- Infrastructure

Each component is chaired and committees established addressing training, funding, etc.

Regional Response Team

The Gainesville Police Department provides personnel who are designated as part of a 100 person Regional Response Team. This Team exists to provide support to agencies within the Region who may experience an incident of terrorism in their jurisdiction and are in need of additional resources. GPD has been involved in Regional exercises to include preparation for last year's Super Bowl in Jacksonville.

Airport Operations

The GPD Airport Unit's primary responsibilities include:

- Sole Law Enforcement Representative
- Enforce State Law, City Ordinances and Airport Rules and Regulations
- Provides Security of the Terminal, Grounds and Airfield
- Monitors and Responds to the Transportation Security Agency Operated Passenger Security Screening Checkpoint
 - Federal Agency
 - Tasked with Security Screening of Passengers and Luggage
 - Civilian, Non-Sworn, Federal Employees
 - No Arrest Powers

Department Training

The Department has provided its personnel the following training:

- Critical Incident Response (response to active violence)
- Weapons of Mass Destruction – Awareness Level
- Hazardous Materials – Provided by GFR
- Mobile Field Force (civil disobedience)
- Incident Command System
- Regional Response Team
- Participation in Regional Exercises and Table Top Scenarios
- National Incident Management – NIMS
- Special Team Training

The NIMS component is mandated for agencies seeking various Federal funding following FY 2006. The on-going training related to NIMS is extensive.

Continuity of Operations Plan and the City's Emergency Management Plan

The Police Department, as well as other City Departments, was involved in establishing a Continuity of Operations Plan (**COOP**) for the City and the addition of a Terrorism Annex in the existing City Emergency Management Plan.

Alachua County Unified Command Operations Group

This group is comprised of the Public Safety Entities within Alachua County, to include Public Works, Health and the School Board. The group utilizes an Incident Command template with the concept of Unified Command in addressing issues of:

- Planning
- Training
- Coordination
- Communication

Equipment

The Gainesville Police Department has received two rounds of funding from the Office of Domestic Preparedness. The first was a direct award to GPD in the amount of \$5,190 and was utilized for equipment related to our Special Weapons and Tactics Team. In the second, GPD served as a sub-grantee for a direct award to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and received \$34,924.64 out of a total of \$428,919 given to ASO. This was again utilized for SWAT equipment needs. We are anticipating approximately \$40,000 in ODP funding and approximately \$50,000 from Homeland Security after October 1st, 2005 to be used for specialty equipment such as breathing apparatus.

In addition, we have received 250 sets of personnel protective gear inclusive of gas masks and Level C suits. These have been issued to our frontline personnel and supervisors for use in first response.

The overall equipment received has not been to the level of some other County Sheriff Offices in our region.

Other Funding

We applied for and received 43,869 in grant funding from the COPS Office to be utilized for overtime expenditures when the Threat Condition elevated to Orange on several occasions over the past two years. The City matched a percentage of this funding for a total of \$58,492.

Community Education

Members of the Community Resource Division produced a power point presentation regarding Homeland Security and the Department's level of involvement in issues pertaining to it. The presentation also educates the public on steps they should take and things they should be aware of. This presentation has been given to various community groups in a variety of forms.

Intelligence Center

The Department is completing an Intelligence Center in a renovated area of the existing building to provide access to law enforcement databases, identify local and regional crime trends and dissemination of information regarding Homeland Security issues. The Center will utilize high end technology equipment and software enabling real time information to be provided to line personnel. It is anticipated the vast amount of

information regarding Homeland Security will be more efficiently received and provided utilizing this Center.

Summary

Homeland Security will continue to be a dynamic facing law enforcement at every level. The directive (Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5) establishing a National Incident Management System (NIMS) will increase the need for training and formally adopting NIMS through resolution or ordinance at the municipal level. Federal funding will be contingent on compliance. NIMS is not just a law enforcement issue and affects all public safety entities, as well as Public Works. Although acts of terrorism are usually directed at some high profile or symbolic target in a highly populated area, the preparation for the attacks often occur in more remote or smaller communities over a significant period of time. Gainesville is a smaller community with some potentially high profile targets. Vigilance is required at all levels of government and at all levels of community.

*Prepared by Captain Richard Hanna
Submitted by Chief Botsford, GPD
Presented to Public Safety Committee on 11/17/05*