



## Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday, December 2, 2015	
	<b>TIME</b>	9:30 A.M.	
	<b>LOCATION</b>	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Training Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89701	
	<b>METHOD</b>	Video-Teleconference	
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Karen Hall	
<b>Commission Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Legislative &amp; Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others</b>	<b>Present</b>
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Derek Armstrong	X
Joseph Lombardo	X	Laura Bucheit	X
Chuck Allen	X	Karen Burke	X
Gregory Cassell	X	Caleb Cage	X
Lisa Christensen	X	Gonzalo Cordova	
Robert Fisher	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia	X	Michael Roberson	X
Frank Gonzales	X		
Mark Hutchison	X	Samantha Ladich – DAG	X
Ikram Khan	X	Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
Tom Lozich	X		
William McDonald	X		
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis			
Troy Wade	X		
Bill Welch	X		

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security called meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary in both the northern and southern venues. Sheriff Mike Allen of Humboldt County voiced concern over the potential impact of negative events within his county and the process of approval,

distribution, vetting, and rural county representation regarding the funding opportunity process under the Homeland Security Grant Program.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) meeting held May 15, 2015. Robert Fisher, Broadcaster, requested that Paragraph 2, under Agenda Item #5 be amended to emphasize the request of Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, of increasing outreach efforts pertaining to security funding. Additionally, Gregory Cassell, Fire Chief, Clark County Fire Department requested that an error on his name within the attendance section of the minutes is changed to reflect Gregory Cassell, not Robert Cassell. Motion to approve provided by Robert Fisher, and a second provided by Adam Garcia, Director, University of Nevada Reno Police Services. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Governor Sandoval spoke to the recent and tragic events regarding the mass shooting in San Bernardino, California. A moment of silence was observed for the victims of this tragedy. Additionally, the Governor welcomed the new members of the Commission including Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison, Assemblyman Derek Armstrong, and Senator Michael Roberson.

**5. UPDATE ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chief Caleb Cage, NDEM/HS briefed the Commission on the recent meeting of the Finance Committee on November 9, 2015, including the nominations of Stacey Giomi, Nevada Health Centers and Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) as the new Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the Committee. Chief Cage reported on the Committee's approval of Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Project NCHS-116 in which LVMPD requested a change of \$63,271 for a mobile camera platform and mobile camera fueling trailer. Additionally, Chief Cage indicated that a request was made by the new membership of the Finance Committee to agendize the HSGP process at the next meeting.

**6. REQUEST TO REALLOCATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) FUNDS**

Chief Cage, NDEM/HS briefed additional information on HSGP Project NCHS-116, requesting Commission approval based on the Finance Committee recommendations to approve the project. Sheriff Lombardo spoke to the dollar figure for this project emphasizing the successful technique employed with cameras on the Las Vegas strip.

A motion to approve was presented by General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales, NV Energy, and a second provided by Director Garcia. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. UPDATE ON FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND 2015 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) AND URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) GRANT PROGRAM FINANCIALS.**

Chief Cage, NDEM/HS provided an update on current allotments and expenditures for FFY 2014 and FFY 2015 HSGP and UASI programs. Chief Cage reported that \$1.1 Million had been expended out of the \$3.54 Million allotted to Nevada. The expenditure of funding at the state level is on track to be expended by the end of the performance period in March 2016.

**8. OVERVIEW OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 2015-32 RE-ESTABLISHING THE NEVADA HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP (HSWG)**

Chief Cage, NDEM/HS provided an overview of Executive Order 2015-32 re-establishing the HSWG as a body tasked with ensuring statewide collaboration in the development and implementation of security and emergency management preparedness initiatives in Nevada. Emphasis was placed on the importance of this long-standing working group by Governor Sandoval. Director Garcia encouraged consideration of a member from the Nevada system of higher education is placed on the working group, with no opposition from the Governor on the suggestion. Additional commentary and discussion on the purview of the Working group ensued, with discussion presented by Lt. Governor Hutchison and Chief Cage providing the specific functions of the working group.

**9. UPDATE ON THE BEATTY INDUSTRIAL FIRE**

Chief Cage, NDEM/HS provided an update on the recent fire at the Beatty Low-level Radiation Waste Site on October 8, 2015. Emphasis was placed on the extraordinary multi-jurisdictional response efforts on a statewide basis culminating in an investigation of the site. The test site was purchased in 1961 by the state, and closed in 1992. The location identified as Trench #14 contained steel drums and boxes of low level waste, with deterioration and corrosion causing leaching into the immediate area of metallic sodium which interacted with ground water causing the explosion. No release of radiological waste was detected upon investigation nor was there any injuries reported. The Governor thanked the first responders on the remarkable response noting the cooperation between all entities involved in addition to expressing concern for the residents of Beatty and an inquiry on what the future risk assessment will be with this site. Chief Cage indicated he will be working with private, local, state, and federal partners to address this situation on an ongoing basis.

Jon Bakkadah, Radioactive Material Program Supervisor for the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health provided an update on the management of the incident indicating on-site visits every other week currently being performed including local and state entities, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, United States Geological Survey, Desert Research Institute (DRI), and several others on a federal basis supporting plans for a permanent resolution. Temporary repairs have been put in place, and reports are being generated for updates on the situation. Reports will most likely be available within 60-90 days.

Sheriff Lombardo inquired on the number of operational sites in the area, with Mr. Bakkadah indicating Beatty was the first, however there are five other sites. Additional sites have been added, but fall under different regulations. The sites are regulated differently now than in the past and discussion ensued on the cataloguing of site waste

and the process of going through archived records to identify materials and the location of those materials. Mr. Bakkadah indicated that the response to the incident went very well noting that the training of first responders proved very beneficial.

Richard Perkins inquired about mitigation efforts as a result of this incident, with Mr. Bakkadah indicating the Fire Marshall's report will be used to increase the inquiry into this matter in addition to the continuance of information coming in from on-scene repair efforts. A final decision on how to prevent and prepare for this type of incident in the future will be produced as a result of the incredible input from local, county, state, and federal partners with emphasis on DRI on the clean-up. The Governor thanked the media input as well for their reporting of the information. Governor Sandoval inquired if waste was still delivered in drums and boxes, with Mr. Bakkadah indicating waste is now transported in Department of Energy and Department of Transportation approved containers.

Dan Schihofen, Nye County Commissioner thanked the Governor, Nye County Sheriff, and all first responders for their assistance with this incident. Chief Cage added additional gratitude to the Nye County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada Highway Patrol for their efforts as well. General (Ret.) Gonzales spoke to the concerns about plans and risk surveys for the state, and whether assurances have been given by other similar facilities concerning the safety of the citizenry. Hawthorne was presented as an example of aging facilities. Governor Sandoval asked Chief Cage to reach out to the relevant federal authorities for a response.

Robert Fisher spoke to the importance of reestablishing the Rural Committees Committee in an effort of outreach to rural needs, and to give the rural community a voice on issues affecting the state in which the Commission oversees.

## **PRESENTATION ON THE STATE REFUGEE PROGRAM, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA**

Carisa Lopez-Ramirez, State Refugee Coordinator, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada briefed the Commission on the Catholic Charities State Refugee Program providing a thorough overview of her agency as the federally recognized State Refugee Office since 1994. Refugees are matched by national agencies through local affiliates based on family reunification, language capacity, and capacity survey to include community strengths and challenges. Referencing the top populations seeking refuge, Ms. Lopez-Ramirez indicated that 2,213 refugees arrived in Nevada in 2015, noting Cuba, Congo, Iran, Eritrea, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria as originating countries. Success stories were shared noting exceptional individuals benefitting from this program. A special speaker was presented, Mr. Biar Atem, the Lost Boy of Sudan. Mr. Atem shared his life story with the Commission as a refugee. Governor Sandoval wished Mr. Atem the best of luck noting the incomprehensibility of understanding what Mr. Atem has been through in his life.

Governor Sandoval inquired on the screening process for Ms. Lopez-Ramirez's clients in addition for asking for more examples of success stories. Several individuals were presented by Ms. Lopez-Ramirez to speak to their experiences as well. Dr. Ikram Khan, President, Quality Care Consultants commended the work done by Catholic Charities, voicing concern over vetting procedures and the variance of those procedures for different populations. Concern was noted, with an additional request from Robert Fisher for a report on the vetting process within Nevada. Charles Moore, Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District spoke to his own family's immigrant heritage, and

inquired if Catholic Charities provided language and path-to-citizenship assistance. Ms. Lopez-Ramirez indicated that assistance was available according to guidelines after 5 years. Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison inquired on the longevity of government assistance to refugees in her program in addition to expressing some concern as to whether threats follow refugees coming from abroad. Ms. Lopez-Ramirez spoke to services through the Department of State, and a 30-90 day program for vetting. Derek Armstrong, Nevada Assemblyman inquired on the refugee capacity for the state, with Ms. Lopez-Ramirez referencing numbers from the resettlement office nearing 2,500 for calendar year 2015.

## **10. OVERVIEW OF THREAT ENVIRONMENT**

Director Anthony Frangiopane, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Southwest Region Field Operations provided an overview to the Commission on the state of the current threat environment. The Director spoke to the vision of the DHS in making sure the nation is safe and secure against hazards through specific objectives including understanding violent extremism, group extremism, and support of local communities. Noting that there is no direct intelligence that a “Paris-style” attack is imminent here, the Director indicated extremists are gaining battlefield experience with terrorist organizations, and there numbers are increasing. Speaking specifically about Syria, the Director noted that at least 5,500 westerners travel to that region from other countries, and hundreds come from visa waiver countries. There is an assessment of higher lethality ongoing. The Director also spoke to the registered Special Events documented for Nevada, and the federal support available for those events based on Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR), with 1 pertaining to the highest Federal involvement, and 5 pertaining to the lowest Federal involvement. The highest SEAR rating for events in Nevada currently is rated at 3, with the majority rated as 5. Most occur in Clark County, then Washoe County, and then nine other counties.

Discussion ensued regarding the vetting process for individuals entering the country, with Director Frangiopane indicating that vetting includes the use of databases, speaking specifically to the Department of Defense. Lieutenant Governor Hutchison inquired on which individuals show up in the Department of Defense databases while indicating concern on whether individuals of concern were in those databases. Director Frangiopane indicated that the database information may not contain all individuals of concern.

## **11. BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT CAPABILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA COUNTER TERRORISM CENTER (SNCTC) AND NEVADA THREAT ANALYSIS CENTER**

Captain Christopher Darcy, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department spoke to the capabilities and activities of the SNCTC emphasizing successes in several areas including the field liaison officers, the See Something Say Something campaign, the female engagement team, and emphasizing the addition of highly visible homeland security team training for terrorist threats. Captain Darcy spoke to the great partnership between the SNCTC and the Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC). Chief Cassell indicated the inclusion of an embedded fire captain within the SNCTC has enhanced the ability of street level interactions. Emphasis was placed on the effectiveness of blending agencies to confront the gathering and sharing of critical information.

Lieutenant Randy Jackson, NTAC spoke to the capabilities and activities of the NTAC emphasizing elements that are pertinent to effective information statewide including the attainment of such information through collaboration with other fusion and intelligence centers and local law enforcement. As with SNCTC, the NTAC also incorporates other agencies into their operations including the fire service. Noting the products the NTAC produces, Lt. Jackson spoke to advisories, situational awareness communications, and tip leads. Lieutenant Jackson emphasized the SSSS Campaign and the importance of input from the general public. With regards to education and outreach, there are numerous liaisons that report to the NTAC, and over 200 classes with participation from 600 students. Lieutenant Jackson stressed that Nevada is a multi-fusion center state. Lieutenant Governor Hutchison inquired on statewide integration with information sharing and communications. Lieutenant Jackson spoke to the cooperation between the fusion center, intelligence centers, and local law enforcement, and indicated that he could report back with information pertaining to interoperability at a later time. Robert Fisher discussed the Commission's past approval on a project allowing statewide telecast broadcast from the Guinn Room located at the State Capitol Building. Governor Sandoval indicated that ability still exists.

**12. UPDATE ON THE URBAN AREA WORKING GROUP (UAWG)**

John Steinbeck, Deputy Chief, Clark County Fire Department provided an update on the current activities of the UAWG speaking to FFY 2014 and FFY 2015 projects, emphasizing the increase in risk-profile standing from 29<sup>th</sup> in 2014 to 24<sup>th</sup> in 2015 as a result of a committed effort to keep elected officials prepared and informed. Deputy Chief Steinbeck emphasized many of the important projects funded noting the many benefits provided to the community as a result of that effort, and he hopes to remain on the funding list for 2016. Also discussed was the importance of working together with a unified voice to receive fair measurements from the Department of Homeland Security responsible for grading the state. Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to his appreciation for Chief Cage's efforts on all fronts regarding this process. Governor Sandoval stressed the uniqueness of the special process Nevada has to provide safety and security to the state and its first responders through the work of the stakeholders and the Commission.

**13. UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENTS IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, LVMPD presented a preliminary threat brief pertaining to LVMPD efforts surrounding counterterrorism and preparations for New Year's Eve in Las Vegas. Emphasis was placed on recent terrorist attacks, homeland threats, and investigative and assessment information surrounding a terrorism deterrence plan for the holiday season. The plan included enhanced intelligence collection and sharing, advance of current terrorism investigations, high visibility deployments, enhanced community awareness relationships, the promotion of "See Something, Say Something" messaging, and dignitary protection. Also emphasized was patrol enhancement with the sharing of pre-operational indicators suggesting terrorist activities in addition to recognizing the seven signs of terrorism.

Sheriff Lombardo thanked the Governor for his support in providing Nevada National Guard personnel for New Year's Eve. Lt. Governor Hutchison inquired how the threat level and preparation for this event compares to previous years, with Sheriff Lombardo

indicating that due to advisory system changes, the credible threat posture hasn't changed; however, there is more verbal concern with homegrown violent extremism. In his view, the Sheriff does not rely solely on the threat level, citing recent incidents in Paris, France, where there were no credible threats noted as well. Throughout this presentation, ongoing updates were given on the current status of the active shooter investigation in San Bernardino, California.

**14. PRESENTATION ON THE NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD'S VIGILANT GUARD 2017 (VG17) EXERCISE**

Lieutenant Colonel Cory Schulz, Nevada National Guard, presented an overview of the Vigilant Guard 2017 exercise with emphasis on the exercise's ability to improve cooperation and relationships with regional military, civilian, and federal partners in preparation for catastrophic and emergency events. The exercise will focus on identifying policy and capability shortfalls while working through a scenario of escalating earthquake events in southern Nevada and California.

Governor Sandoval inquired on the initial planning phase, and the importance of outreach to all agencies involved enhancing preparedness. Lt. Colonel Schulz indicated that this outreach is underway, and a forum to discuss this exercise with Emergency Management counterparts will be held December 15, 2015. Lt. Governor Hutchison inquired what tools were in place for Nevada to receive assets from California in the event of this scenario, with Lt. Colonel Schulz speaking to an existing memo of understanding between Nevada and California in providing assets when needed. Ownership of such assets resides with the state supplying the assets. Lt. Colonel Schulz indicated that other states are interested in the agreement between Nevada and California as well, in particular Oregon and Washington, as they are seeking to improve their capabilities. General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales, NV Energy stressed the aggressive scheduling and participation from the Guard's perspective in these exercises, noting that they take years to come together and require a large amount of resources not only statewide, but outside of the state. Governor Sandoval thanked military personnel noting that Nevada does its part in providing military heroes who make sacrifices to keep the public safe.

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary. Robert Fisher referenced the work done by the media, the long standing "See Something, Say Something" campaign, and acknowledged Mary Beth Sewald, President of Nevada Broadcasters Association congratulating her on her first year as head of that organization. Mr. Fisher thanked her for her support of the Commission in addition to expressing a final thought regarding the current struggles in the Golan Heights region. The President and CEO of Catholic Charities also expressed his thanks to the Commission for the opportunity to discuss the valuable services they provide.

**16. ADJOURN**

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Sheriff Lombardo and a second provided by Richard Perkins. Meeting was adjourned.