

**TESTIMONY TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON APPROPRIATIONS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

**BY**

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## INTRODUCTION

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It is an axiom of emergency management that every disaster is local. As local as every disaster is, the effects of a disastrous event are often national in scope. During Hurricane Gustav in 2008 the Governor of Maine contacted the Governor of Louisiana wanting to know if Maine’s gas prices were going to increase because of a disruption in the refining and distribution of gasoline in the State of Louisiana, as occurred during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. During the recent flooding events along the Mississippi River there was fear that river traffic would be halted with a multi-billion dollar effect to commerce. For example, forty percent (40%) of all fertilizer used in the mid-west farm belt flows through the Port of New Orleans. The response to this axiomatic problem is an emergency management process that thoroughly integrates all levels of government and the private sector to support the “local” emergency management process. For this to be effective we must build and maintain a robust and resilient emergency management capability at the local level.

For those in the emergency management business, this is not a novel concept. On March 30, 2011, Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8, National Preparedness, was published and it recognizes this concept in the statement “Our national preparedness is the shared responsibility of all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the individual citizens.” In PPD-8, the President directs the development of a national preparedness system which shall include “resource guidance”, and shall provide “equipment guidance aimed at nationwide

1 interoperability;...national training and exercise programs...and guidance to  
2 support preparedness planning for businesses, communities, families, and  
3 individuals.” What is confusing is that at the same time this guidance is  
4 published, we are notified of a significant cut to the Homeland Security  
5 Grant Program, which is a key resource for state and local governments to  
6 develop the type of resilience that is envisioned in PPD-8.

7 On behalf of the State of Louisiana, I would like to thank this committee for  
8 the opportunity to discuss initiatives we have taken over the last several  
9 years, many of which have been identified in the emergency management  
10 community as best practice, and the anticipated disastrous effects the  
11 HSGP cuts are going to have on Louisiana’s ability to continue these  
12 initiatives.

13 Louisiana is in fact a laboratory for emergency management. Since FEMA  
14 started keeping statistics in 1953, Louisiana ranks 6<sup>th</sup> amongst the States in  
15 declared Stafford Act type events. In recent years, this includes Hurricanes  
16 Katrina and Rita in 2005 (combined, over four times larger than the next  
17 largest disaster in U.S. history), followed by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in  
18 2008 (direct impact to public infrastructure of over a billion dollars), followed  
19 by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010 (although not a Stafford Act  
20 event - the largest oil spill in U.S. history spilling 205.8 million gallons of  
21 crude oil just 48 miles from Louisiana’s coastline with severe economic  
22 impact to oil production and the fisheries industry), and most recently, the  
23 record level flooding of the Mississippi River (flooding 1,482 homes, camps  
24 and business in Louisiana alone to date; placing almost 3 million sandbags  
25 and 9 miles of HESCO Bastions). This count does not include the myriad  
26 of other emergency events that are significant at a local level that include

1 scenarios like tornadoes, water shortages, wildfires, hazardous cargo spills,  
2 oil well fires, winter weather storms, flooding, and the like. As not all these  
3 events require a federal response, not all have required a state response  
4 because of the preparedness of the local government. At the state level,  
5 Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
6 Preparedness (GOHSEP) has responded to over 130 emergency events in  
7 the last three years , 44 of which have activated the State Emergency  
8 Operations Center (EOC) for a total of 519 days during that period. With  
9 this experience Louisiana has become a living laboratory for disaster  
10 innovation which has given rise to several key innovations since our  
11 experiences in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The below will discuss  
12 actions Louisiana has taken to enhance the emergency management  
13 process in the state and highlight innovations we have implemented.

14

### 15 Statutory Initiatives

16 Louisiana amended its Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and  
17 Disaster Act in 2006 to re-organize the principle state agency responsible  
18 for emergency management (GOHSEP) and have that agency report  
19 directly to the Governor. Each Parish is required to have an equivalent  
20 office and it is a primary function of GOHSEP to support the activities of the  
21 Parish emergency management office. As discussed below, eighty percent  
22 (80%) of HSGP dollars are distributed to the Parishes to support activities  
23 of those emergency management agencies and local law enforcement.  
24 Without these resources it will be very difficult for local governmental  
25 entities to continue the planning, preparedness and response activities

1 necessary to maintain capability at the local level given their limited  
2 resources and the high risk for emergencies such as Hurricanes Katrina,  
3 Rita, Gustav and Ike in 2005 and 2008, last year's DEEPWATER  
4 HORIZON Oil Spill, and the recent flooding event along the Mississippi and  
5 Atchafalaya Rivers.

6 Recognizing the importance of communications and interoperability, in  
7 2008 the Legislature amended the Homeland Security Act and created the  
8 Office of Interoperability within GOHSEP. The stated legislative intent was  
9 to create solutions for a secure and interoperable communications system  
10 accessible to public safety agencies and personnel, first responders,  
11 decision makers, and the public, allowing for clear and efficient exchange  
12 of voice, data, image, and video information for emergency management  
13 purposes. Again, this effort, as discussed below, depends heavily on the  
14 HSGP for implementation.

15 During Hurricane Gustav in 2008, Louisiana conducted the largest single  
16 evacuation in U.S. history, evacuating over 1.9 million people from coastal  
17 Louisiana prior to landfall of the storm. At a cost of over \$100 million of  
18 federal and state funding, some 25,000 people were sheltered out-of-state.  
19 This experience brought home the inherent disruptive nature of sheltering  
20 citizens in other states and the difficulty of rapidly bringing a community  
21 back when its citizens are gone. By Act 353 of the 2009 Legislative  
22 Session, the State Legislature declared its intent that Louisiana shall  
23 become "shelter independent" by the year 2014. We have targeted two  
24 goals to achieve this independence. One, encourage Parishes to clearly  
25 identify sheltering requirements, especially for those categorized as "critical  
26 transportation needs" individuals (CTNs). In this endeavor we have

1 encouraged Parishes to create point-to-point agreements with other  
2 Parishes that are likely not going to be greatly impact by the most common  
3 weather disaster (hurricanes/flooding). Secondly, the state has identified  
4 the need to be able to provide up to 50,000 CTN shelter spaces and is  
5 working to identify suitable state facilities for that purpose. The state has  
6 appropriated \$7.5 million to develop and upgrade facilities to meet  
7 sheltering standards. We have requested FEMA to allow the use of  
8 Stafford Act Hazard Mitigation funding for the development of multi-use  
9 facilities that can be used for sheltering in an emergency. The logic is that  
10 the use of available Hazard Mitigation funds to provide for long term shelter  
11 needs will be a logical and efficient expenditure of federal dollars and save  
12 the federal government millions of dollars in future Hurricane Gustav type  
13 events.

14 We anticipate that the decrease in HSGP grant dollars will impact our  
15 ability to support in-parish or in-state evacuation and sheltering plans.  
16 Additionally, many of our host states rely on federal preparedness grant  
17 dollars (SHSP, EMPG, and HM) to support planning, preparedness and  
18 mitigation efforts to support evacuees who may be sheltered in their state.

19  
20 Recognizing the success of the support between states provided by the  
21 Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) process, Act 1035  
22 of the 2010 Legislative Session provides for the establishment of an  
23 Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC) within the State of Louisiana. We  
24 have recognized that too often states default to FEMA and other federal  
25 agencies to source requirements, and this is logically more expensive to a  
26 response than sourcing locally. The IMAC process will provide an

1 organized and deliberate method to ensure that resources within the state  
2 are used effectively and efficiently before requesting other states or federal  
3 agencies for those same resources.

#### 4 5 Interoperability

6 During Hurricane Katrina there were multiple disparate systems at the local  
7 and state level that failed causing a significant failure in communications  
8 greatly hampered the emergency response. While the State was able to  
9 bring up the existing analog system fairly quickly, the system was never  
10 designed for the amount of users that had to depend on it as a lifeline to  
11 coordinate operations. As a result there was considerable congestion and  
12 busy signals, impeding operations throughout the immediate period  
13 following Katrina landfall. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, State and  
14 local officials came together to focus on a single statewide system that all  
15 emergency response officials could use. This system was the first  
16 statewide system based on the recently released 700 MHz spectrum and  
17 replaced the State's existing analog system with a Project 25-compliant  
18 digital system. Using \$29 million in Federal recovery dollars, the system  
19 was initially designed to encompass the Greater New Orleans area.

20 However, by leveraging approximately \$40 million of Federal grant funding  
21 from multiple sources, to include HSGP funding, as well as \$30 million of  
22 State funding, the State was able to build what is now the largest statewide  
23 radio system in the country which provides daily voice communications to  
24 more than 60,000 users at the Federal, State, local, and non-profit levels.  
25 Of these users, more than 70 percent are from local jurisdictions. The  
26 system, called the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN), is fully  
27 maintained by the State, at a cost of \$9 million annually, and charges no

1 fees to its users. LWIN was put to the test during Hurricane Gustav and  
2 the use of the system greatly facilitated the evacuation of 1.9 million  
3 people, the largest single evacuation in U.S. history. Pivotal to the success  
4 of this evacuation was the ability to achieve multi-jurisdictional and multi-  
5 agency coordination through a single shared radio system. During the ten  
6 day operational period of Hurricane Gustav, LWIN supported more than 1.2  
7 million push to talk communications with less than 500 busies.

8  
9 LWIN was also leveraged during the DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill by  
10 serving as the backbone to link six other systems along the Gulf Coast  
11 which allowed the United States Coast Guard and other responders to  
12 have seamless interoperable communications from Galveston, Texas to  
13 Pensacola, Florida.

14  
15 LWIN, when completed in September 2011, will provide 95% portable on  
16 street radio coverage throughout the State through 118 individual sites.  
17 LWIN is also providing 95% in-building coverage to the nine largest  
18 metropolitan areas in the State. In calendar year 2010, there were more  
19 than 95 million push-to-talk communications which utilized more than  
20 114,000 hours on LWIN. Out of the 95 million push-to-talks, users only  
21 experienced 16,446 busy signals or “busies.” Today, LWIN is experiencing  
22 a major capacity expansion that should eliminate virtually all busies and  
23 allow sufficient capacity to continue expanding and adding new users over  
24 the next ten years.

25  
26 While the state has achieved great success in voice interoperability, the  
27 State is now embarking on compiling data that can be used to establish

1 data interoperability through a common operating picture that is accessible  
2 to federal, state and local users. Virtual Louisiana is a Google Earth  
3 Enterprise platform that provides secure access to the first responder  
4 population throughout the state. GOHSEP is currently in the process of  
5 geocoding all infrastructure facilities throughout the state through the use of  
6 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. The Geospatial Project in the  
7 first eight months of implementation has allowed GOHSEP to map out 25%  
8 of the state's infrastructure and has seen more than 20,000 facilities  
9 mapped. Each facility has been mapped, photographed and has  
10 associated attribute data based on the critical infrastructure/key resource  
11 layers identified by the Department of Homeland Security. Louisiana has,  
12 for the first time, photographed the entire state using 6" high resolution  
13 imagery, and the dated layers created by the Geospatial Project can be  
14 overlaid on this imagery for high resolution viewing. Both the imagery and  
15 the data are available to the first responder community through Virtual  
16 Louisiana. Upon the completion of this project, Louisiana will have the most  
17 extensive GIS database in the country

18

### 19 Individual Communication and Social Media

20 As important as the interoperability activity discussed above, is the ability to  
21 provide good planning information to the general public before a disaster  
22 and the ability to quickly communicate at the individual level during a  
23 disaster. GOHSEP has worked extensively to encourage Louisiana  
24 citizens to have their own family plan. Beginning in 2008 GOHSEP initiated  
25 the Get a Game Plan campaign which encourages self reliance and  
26 preparedness. A major effort of this initiative has been the Public Service  
27 Announcements (PSA) that have been aired throughout the State with high

1 profiled individuals such as Governor Bobby Jindal, LSU Football Coach  
2 Les Miles, the band Better Than Ezra, and football players from the World  
3 Champion New Orleans Saints creating messages encouraging our  
4 citizens to be prepared for any type of disaster by having a personal family  
5 plan. This year we have added two new components to the campaign.  
6 The first is the Get a Critter Plan which encourages our citizens to have a  
7 plan for their animals during disasters. Donna Douglas, a Louisiana Native  
8 who starred on the long running comedy hit “The Beverly Hillbillies” as Ellie  
9 Mae Clampett, has become our ambassador for this initiative and has  
10 appeared in a PSA to promote pet preparedness. The other new  
11 component introduced this year is the Get a Game Plan App which is now  
12 available to download to a cell phone through iTunes. The Get a Game  
13 Plan App contains all the content on the Get a Game Plan website, to  
14 include checklists, evacuation maps, and links to other state and private  
15 partners who provide information to the public during disasters. The intent  
16 is to provide information that encourages family and personal preparedness  
17 to lessen the effects of a disaster and create resiliency. As an example of  
18 the “Whole Community” approach to preparedness and response promoted  
19 by FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, GOHSEP has also engaged in  
20 public/private/nonprofit partnerships for the Get A Game Plan Campaign  
21 including projects with Walmart, Red Cross and the United Way. GOHSEP  
22 utilized all of the Walmart pharmacies in coastal Louisiana, at no cost to the  
23 State, to distribute hurricane checklists and information about our website  
24 with each prescription that was filled at a pharmacy. As a result, over  
25 600,000 prescriptions included information on how to prepare for the  
26 hurricane season and contact information on our all encompassing website.  
27 The Red Cross and the United Way continue to help fund our hurricane

1 evacuation guides that are made available to residents from coastal  
2 hurricane impacted parishes.

3

4 GOHSEP has been very proactive in the area of social media and was an  
5 early adopter of Facebook and Twitter to leverage our ability to  
6 communicate to the citizens of Louisiana.

7 Louisiana has the largest amount of “likes” (followers) of any of the 36  
8 states that have official Facebook pages. We have recently identified over  
9 11,015 followers. The second highest state is Mississippi which has 5,759,  
10 followed by Alabama with 4,371. There are only 9 states that have more  
11 than 2,500 followers with the average number of followers being 1,638.

12 Likewise our use of Twitter has been very successful. We have the fifth  
13 largest following of the 36 states that have official Twitter accounts, at  
14 4,196. There are only eleven states with 2,500 or more followers and the  
15 average account for the states is 2,067. During the Deepwater Horizon Oil  
16 Spill GOHSEP's Twitter account was considered one of the most influential  
17 Twitter accounts as determined by a Klout score of 79 out of 100.

### 18 Private Sector Initiatives

19 As FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate will tell you, ordinarily the private  
20 sector is a missing team member at the table when involved in the planning  
21 or response to an emergency event. That lesson was brought home to  
22 Louisiana during Hurricane Gustav. We planned on the availability of  
23 Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to provide food for shelters and to distribute to  
24 those without power. Because of the size of the event, the FEMA logistics  
25 pipeline for MREs hit a snag. Concerned about providing affected

1 individuals with food, the Louisiana Division of Administration turned to the  
2 Louisiana Restaurant Association to determine what capacity they might  
3 provide. For the next several days, the restaurant industry activated mobile  
4 kitchens that provided over 500,000 hot meals to needy individuals. The  
5 surprise came after the event when we calculated the cost. The private  
6 sector provided hot meals for less than \$6 a meal, compared to the cold  
7 meals we would have acquired from FEMA at a cost of over \$9 a meal.  
8 Louisiana realized it had to bring the private sector (literally) to the table.

9  
10 In response, the Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LA  
11 BEOC) was established through a partnership among the Louisiana  
12 Economic Development Agency, GOHSEP, Louisiana State University's  
13 Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (LSU SDMI) and the National  
14 Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute at  
15 University of Louisiana at Lafayette (NIMSAT). The LA BEOC is both a  
16 physical and virtual structure which houses key representatives from the  
17 business community and volunteer organizations, such as Volunteers  
18 Active in Disasters, along with government counterparts from GOHSEP  
19 and LED. The LA BEOC facility, which is interconnected to the State EOC,  
20 is housed on the LSU South Campus in Baton Rouge and seats up to 40  
21 business leaders, industry trade associations and organizations across  
22 several of the DHS-identified 18 Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource  
23 sectors. When activated, the LA BEOC supports the State's Emergency  
24 Operations Center and its representatives make recommendations to LED,  
25 GOHSEP, and the Unified Command Group from the Private Sector  
26 perspective. It has the ability to quickly access resources of the private  
27 sector to support response and recovery needs during an emergency

1 event. It also assists in coordinating volunteer and nonprofit needs during  
2 a disaster with donations made by private industry. It provides political  
3 leadership important information about the economic impact of a disaster to  
4 businesses, which information is important to identify recovery needs. This  
5 innovative government-industry-university collaboration provides the state  
6 numerous advantages including efficient and economical access to needed  
7 response and recovery resources, enhanced resilience of businesses and  
8 the critical infrastructures that support their supply chains; rapid recovery of  
9 the business community to facilitate the rapid recovery of the community –  
10 all resulting on less reliance on federal and out of state resources.

11 The LA BEOC was activated in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
12 and the current Mississippi River Flood Fight to provide economic impact  
13 analysis and manage the many offers, vendor proposals, and response  
14 suggestions being received from the active private sector. Additionally, the  
15 LA BEOC assisted in the creation of technical interfaces with  
16 DEEPWATER HORIZON, along with the coordination of a scientific review  
17 panel to review proposed technical solutions. The LA BEOC has been  
18 recognized by FEMA as a model for the public private partnership. During  
19 the Mississippi River Flood Fight the LA BEOC WebPortal provided an  
20 exchange of information between the emergency management community  
21 and the private sector. Over 1200 businesses have registered with the LA  
22 BEOC to receive situational awareness reports and respond to resource  
23 requests. The development of the LA BEOC concept and its continued  
24 implementation has been supported by both SHSP and EMPG grant  
25 funds. Decreased grant funds will severely impact Louisiana's ability to  
26 continue this innovate project.

1 To support the resilience of the private sector, GOHSEP and the LSU  
2 SDMI will soon announce the Louisiana Pilot for an International Center for  
3 Small Business Preparedness and Resiliency in order to promote a cultural  
4 shift in the understanding and promotion of small business preparedness.  
5 Currently, the field of preparedness research lacks the baseline metrics  
6 and business benchmarks needed to promote the values and business  
7 case of preparedness to small businesses. LSU SDMI will engage  
8 researchers, agencies, trade associations, chambers of commerce, existing  
9 service providers, and delivery networks across the nation to promote  
10 programs focused on small business preparedness and disasters. This  
11 initiative will integrate identified best practices of preparedness, and the  
12 results of economic impact studies, surveys, and focus groups will form the  
13 content for mitigation and preparedness practices to be used by small  
14 businesses. A high level summit was convened in Baton Rouge, Louisiana,  
15 this year with DHS, FEMA and other major stakeholders, which identified  
16 four areas around which to develop an actionable framework, as follows:

- 17 • research and a clearinghouse for coordination;
- 18 • messaging and marketing activities;
- 19 • communications and message delivery; and
- 20 • the development of a business justification for small business  
21 preparedness.

22 One of the outcomes from this endeavor is the current development by  
23 GOHSEP of a iTunes downloadable business application similar to the  
24 individual application for Get A Game Plan that was released this hurricane

1 season. The development of both the individual and business application  
2 is being funded by homeland security grant funding.

### 3 4 Command College

5 As stated earlier, every disaster is local. Thus local emergency managers  
6 and first responders must be well trained professionals and clearly  
7 understand the process and terminology of sound emergency management  
8 practices. GOHSEP and LSU SDMI have partnered to provide a  
9 comprehensive leadership and training certification program for emergency  
10 management and homeland security professionals – the Louisiana  
11 Command College. The Command College is currently focused on  
12 delivering quality training to meet the needs of local and state-level  
13 emergency management personnel, to include state and parish executive  
14 leadership, and the private sector and non-profit organizations. The  
15 training will result in the establishment of standardized, best practice  
16 emergency management practices, knowledgeable political leadership who  
17 would not otherwise have an opportunity to be exposed to emergency  
18 management concepts, and a resilient private sector which understands  
19 the need for preparedness and its role in the response and recovery  
20 process. The goal of the Command College is to evolve into a regional  
21 certification institute around which the federal, state, local, private sector  
22 team can coalesce.

### 23 24 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R)

25 In response to the aforementioned disasters that have affected Louisiana  
26 and the Gulf Coast Region, Louisiana has invested in a comprehensive  
27 equipment cache and a robust training matrix that currently supports the

1 state US&R task force. Louisiana has built three core teams in the New  
2 Orleans area, Baton Rouge area, and the Shreveport/Bossier area and has  
3 six additional State Regional Teams capable of making up a FEMA type I  
4 US&R team. Each Louisiana task force has been modeled in accordance  
5 with FEMA guidelines and is capable of supporting the National US&R  
6 Response System. Moreover, Louisiana's central geographic location is  
7 ideal to support the Gulf Coast Region where a gap in coverage currently  
8 exists.

9 Since 2005, Louisiana has experienced four major hurricanes related  
10 federally declared disasters and across the Gulf Coast States during that  
11 time period there have been over 68 declared emergency events in which  
12 US&R capabilities could have been critical. These events required the  
13 deployment of US&R teams from as far away as California to assist in  
14 search and rescue activities. Given the frequency of these presidentially  
15 declared disasters in the Gulf Coast Region requiring the deployment of  
16 FEMA National US&R Teams, our task force in Louisiana proves to be a  
17 highly effective resource for the citizens of our nation by lowering the cost  
18 of deployment and providing coverage to an area that statistically requires  
19 US&R response all while reducing the time of response to an incident.  
20 Most recently, the Louisiana US&R teams deployed to Alabama based on  
21 an EMAC request to assist in Tuscaloosa Tornado Incident. This was far  
22 more cost effective than a request through FEMA for a FEMA National  
23 US&R team. The removal of grant funding to this program will cut needed  
24 training and exercises that threatens the safety of the responders and the  
25 welfare of the public.

26

27

1 Homeland Security Grant Program Funding

2 The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently notified the State of  
3 Louisiana, through GOHSEP, that Louisiana is losing Homeland Security  
4 Program funding. The loss of funding to Louisiana will directly impact the  
5 National Preparedness System intended to protect this nation, as outlined  
6 in PPD-8.

7 The Department sent notice that GOHSEP will receive \$17.8 million less in  
8 federal grant funding than last fiscal year, a cut of 57%. The notice was  
9 part of a larger budget cut that randomly eliminated \$780 million in  
10 homeland security funding to the states for fiscal year 2011 (FY11). Funds  
11 from the FY11 grants were expected to be received in August 2011.

12 As stated, the cut will have significant impact on Louisiana's local  
13 governments and drastically impact the innovative programs discussed  
14 above. More than 80% of the federal homeland security grant funding that  
15 the GOHSEP receives is passed down to local governments to build and  
16 enhance national preparedness capability.

17 New Orleans and Baton Rouge were also determined by DHS to be a low  
18 risk of attack and were among 33 cities across the country to arbitrarily lose  
19 their Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funding. DHS will continue  
20 to fund 31 cities this year. The FY11 UASI grant allocated 82% of funding  
21 to the eleven tier one cities, 18% to another 20 cities prioritized by size and  
22 risk, and eliminated all other cities from the program. This formula  
23 completely exposes the underbelly of this Nation. The interdependencies  
24 of the national economy flow through Louisiana and the regions that have  
25 been discarded as low risk of attack.

1 Last year, the New Orleans UASI Region, comprised of Jefferson, Orleans,  
2 Plaquemines, and St. Bernard parishes received \$5.4 million in federal  
3 funding and the Baton Rouge UASI Region, comprised of East Baton  
4 Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, East Feliciana, West Feliciana,  
5 Iberville, Livingston, and Ascension parishes received \$2.9 million.

6 The UASI funding is awarded to cities to address the unique planning,  
7 organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-  
8 density urban areas, and assists them in building an enhanced and  
9 sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover  
10 from acts of terrorism. GOHSEP is required to ensure that 25% of the total  
11 award is dedicated to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities.

12 Louisiana no longer has any UASI regions or funding to provide a  
13 continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising,  
14 evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective  
15 coordination during incident response as defined by the National Incident  
16 Management System (NIMS). This preparedness cycle is one element of a  
17 broader National Preparedness System intended to prevent, respond to,  
18 recover from, and mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and  
19 other man-made disasters throughout the Nation.

20  
21 GOHSEP has used the majority of the states portion of the UASI funding to  
22 support the Louisiana Wireless Interoperability Network within the regions  
23 and the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Urban Search & Rescue Task  
24 Force program. Both investments directly support local government and  
25 their regions. Other investments include the hardening of security sites,  
26 security assessment initiatives and the creation of a regional fusion center

1 in New Orleans. UASI funding has sustained core all hazard capabilities  
2 within these two geographic areas. Our approach to emergency  
3 management and homeland security is based on an all hazard approach.  
4 Thus, significant cuts to these grants impact the local jurisdiction's ability to  
5 prepare and respond to a variety of incidents.

6

7 Two other federal grant programs, the Buffer Zone Protection Plan (BZPP)  
8 grant, and the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program  
9 (IECGP) were completely eliminated in Louisiana. Last year, Louisiana  
10 received \$1.4 million in BZPP funding that went directly to local law  
11 enforcement to protect the states critical infrastructure and \$945,500  
12 in IECGP funding to improve interoperable emergency communications, to  
13 include communications in collective response to natural disasters, acts of  
14 terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

15 Louisiana received a 12.3% cut to the \$1.1 million Metropolitan Medical  
16 Response System Program grant and a 19.6% cut to the \$161,434 Citizen  
17 Corps Program grant.

18 Louisiana has only been awarded \$6.9 million from the State Homeland  
19 Security Program (SHSP) funding, a 50% cut from last year's award.  
20 Again, the cut will have significant impact on local government homeland  
21 security initiatives. The GOHSEP awards 80% of the total award directly to  
22 local governments and just like the UASI award is required to ensure that  
23 25% of the total award is dedicated to law enforcement terrorism  
24 prevention activities.

1 GOHSEP has used this funding to support state homeland security  
2 programs, equipment, planning, training, exercises, and other innovative  
3 initiatives, as discussed above. The SHSP funding allows GOHSEP to  
4 proactively support and protect the states critical infrastructure and fund  
5 homeland security stakeholders to prevent, protect against, respond to, and  
6 recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

7  
8 Programs at risk of being completely or partially cut include: Planning,  
9 Training, Exercise, and Management personnel, Command College  
10 (Louisiana's Training & Exercise program), three Urban Search & Rescue  
11 teams, Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange (Fusion Center) in  
12 Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Cyber Assurance and Defense Center, Louisiana  
13 Wireless Interoperability Network, state and local interoperable  
14 communications, Virtual Louisiana, Get-A-Game Plan, See Something Say  
15 Something, LA Agro-terrorism and Assessment Teams, Louisiana  
16 Business Emergency Operation Center (public/private partnership),  
17 Maritime Special Response Team, Swift Water Rescue Team, HazMat and  
18 Radiological Response, Terrorism Rapid Response Teams, Critical  
19 Infrastructure Assessment Team, Public Health and Medical Services,  
20 Citizen Corps, the hardening of critical infrastructure, and intelligence and  
21 information sharing initiatives.

22  
23 In addition to local government, the GOHSEP has awarded homeland  
24 security grant funding to numerous stakeholders in support of the states  
25 homeland security initiatives. Those agencies include: Louisiana State  
26 Police, Attorney General's Office, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,

1 Department of Agriculture, State Fire Marshal, Louisiana State University,  
2 University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Secretary of State, House of  
3 Representatives, Senate, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, Louisiana Chiefs  
4 of Police Association, Louisiana National Guard, Division of Administration,  
5 and the Cyber Innovation Center.

6

### 7 Closing Comments

8 All of the initiatives discussed above, many of which are considered  
9 nationwide best practices, would not have been made possible without the  
10 funding provided through the Homeland Security Grant Program. Reduced  
11 funding and, in the case of UASI, BZPP and the IECGP, eliminated  
12 funding, will greatly impede our ability to not only maintain what we have  
13 been able to accomplish but significantly curtail if not eliminate our ability to  
14 continue moving forward as we strive to provide our emergency  
15 management community with the resources necessary to ensure they are  
16 able to respond to man-made and natural disasters as well as  
17 communicate to our citizens as a whole as we encourage them to be self  
18 reliant, which ultimately allows us to focus our efforts on those within our  
19 communities that truly need assistance.

20

21 Louisiana exercises and activates so often that our systems are constantly  
22 tested and there is a natural continuous improvement methodology  
23 embedded into our state emergency management practice. We would  
24 argue that this warrants strategic investment of federal funds into these and

1 other innovative programs to leverage the “living laboratory” and those  
2 practices earned and learned during large scale activations.  
3 By tasking Louisiana as well as other critical resource risk states with these  
4 challenges (like evolving and expanding the interoperability, citizen  
5 preparedness, education for emergency managers, the LA BEOC and  
6 Global Small Business Preparedness Center), these battle tested  
7 innovations and outcomes can be shared quickly and broadly back out to  
8 the national community of emergency managers as best practice. These  
9 programs not only reduce loss of life and suffering but also engage  
10 individuals and the local private sector in disaster preparedness, response  
11 and recovery; which in turn reduces federal costs for FEMA and other  
12 responding federal agencies, reduces critical interruptions to local  
13 economic activities and the tax bases, and establishes a resilient nation.  
14 Remember, every disaster is local and resources should be focused to  
15 increase the effectiveness of the local emergency manager and first  
16 responder.

17