



Homeland Security

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Fire & Rescue

Regional Public Safety Center

- 55-acre parcel; I-215 @ Hualapai (Ward-6)
- Partnership with allied jurisdictions
- Regional emergency operations center (EOC)
- Regional intelligence fusion center
- Regional police-fire-EMS 9-1-1 center
- Regional public safety training center

Intelligence Sharing – Fusion Center

- Specialized center designed to collect, analyze and disseminate intelligence
- Goal: Detect and prevent terrorist acts
- Staffed by intelligence experts from police, fire/rescue and public health
- Federal goal for FFY-2007 to develop nationwide network of fusion centers

Communications Interoperability

- Technical interoperability =
equipment standards
- Operational interoperability =
standard procedures & training
- Goal: By year-end 2007 all city
1st responders will have 100% technical
& operational interoperability.

Homeland Security Grants

- FFY-2001 thru FFY-2006 city received \$13 million for equipment, exercises & training.
- Grants equate to general fund savings
- Homeland security grants require a “regionalized” benefit and currently may not be used for new construction.

Pandemic/Avian Flu Plans

- Health experts predict a widespread pandemic but cannot pinpoint when.
- All city departments have been engaged in planning.
- Preserve continuity of government/operations (COG/COOP).
- Citizen and employee education
- Assisting critical vendors to develop plans

Items for Consideration

- Support the Regional Public Safety Complex (RPSC).
- BDR-751 - Seeks funding for the specific development of the intelligence fusion center, a component of the (RPSC) in Clark County.
- BDR-19-489 - Seeks to provide representation for the city of Las Vegas on the Nevada State Homeland Security Commission (NHSC).



City of Las Vegas

Homeland Security

White Paper

**Prepared by:
Office of Administrative Services
Department of Fire & Rescue
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Executive Summary

The city of Las Vegas provides and continually seeks to deliver an integrated, comprehensive emergency management system, which prudently allocates resources to help manage risk to local residents and neighboring communities. By collaborating with local, state and federal emergency management agencies; health care and educational systems; and other stakeholders, the city is able to leverage available resources to meet strategic priorities of preventing and/or reducing potential dangers to residents.

The central themes of this White Paper will address the following four strategic issues, in which the city of Las Vegas is engaged to help local and neighboring communities mitigate and respond to disaster.

1. City's collaborative efforts with local, state and federal agencies to design and construct the Regional Public Safety Complex
2. City's alignment with local, state and federal emergency management and specifically, the Office of Homeland Security to provide a more efficient heterogeneous network in the reduction of vulnerability and damage to our community
3. City's collaborative efforts with local, state and federal agencies in the development of interoperability communications systems
4. City's cost-saving efforts through local, state and federal grant funding avenues to support emergency management initiatives
5. City's general planning efforts in response to the possible pandemic flu outbreak

Discussion

1. Regional Public Safety Complex (RPSC): Currently, the Las Vegas/Clark County region lacks a comprehensive public safety complex for the area's multiple jurisdictions to perform collaborative counter-terrorism planning, training and general emergency management activities. This gap often results in fragmentation of service delivery and failure to leverage the equipment, materials and personnel resources that each jurisdiction in the region has to offer to create an integrated emergency management system.

To address this void, the city, Clark County and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) are spearheading a regional initiative to design and construct a complex that will provide a multitude of public safety capability enhancements including a state-of-the-art emergency operations center (EOC), a regional "intelligence fusion center," a combined police-fire-EMS communications center (9-1-1 dispatching) and a regional training facility for public safety personnel.

The intended site for this project is a 55-acre parcel of city land located near the intersection of the 215 Beltway and Hualapai Way in Ward 6. A strategic focus of this initiative is to engineer an integrated, regionalized approach to Southern Nevada's emergency management system. The city and Metro are seeking participation of all other cities in the region, as well as other public and private agencies involved in emergency incident management.

Federal Legislative Efforts: In October 2006, city staff and representatives of the state and other allied jurisdictions met with Senator Harry Reid to present the project and garner his support. The city is in the process of commissioning a consultant to develop a comprehensive business plan for the project. Senator Reid has indicated interest in the project and requested a copy of the business plan upon its completion in January, in order to pursue federal support for the project on behalf of the city and region.

2. Intelligence Sharing and Fusion: Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) have been formed across the country by the FBI to maximize interagency cooperation and coordination to create cohesive units capable of addressing terrorism problems within the United States. The mission of the JTTF is to organize federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in a coordinated manner for the purpose of sharing information to help detect, prevent and respond to domestic and international terrorist organizations; or to individuals, who may threaten or attack United States citizens or interest abroad; or who may conduct criminal activity within the United States.

In late summer 2006, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue became the first fire department in the state of Nevada to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to become liaison members of the joint terrorism task force (JTTF). This partnership has enhanced the ability to share intelligence, including Top Secret information, which may result in the detection, prevention or apprehension of terrorists.

“Intelligence fusion centers” are similar to JTTFs, but are focused more directly on how the intelligence affects the state and local region. Construction of an intelligence fusion center is a key component of the Regional Public Safety Complex. This center will be a specialized facility and will be staffed by a partnership of intelligence experts from law enforcement, fire/rescue and public health to collect, analyze and disseminate information about potential terrorist threats against the community.

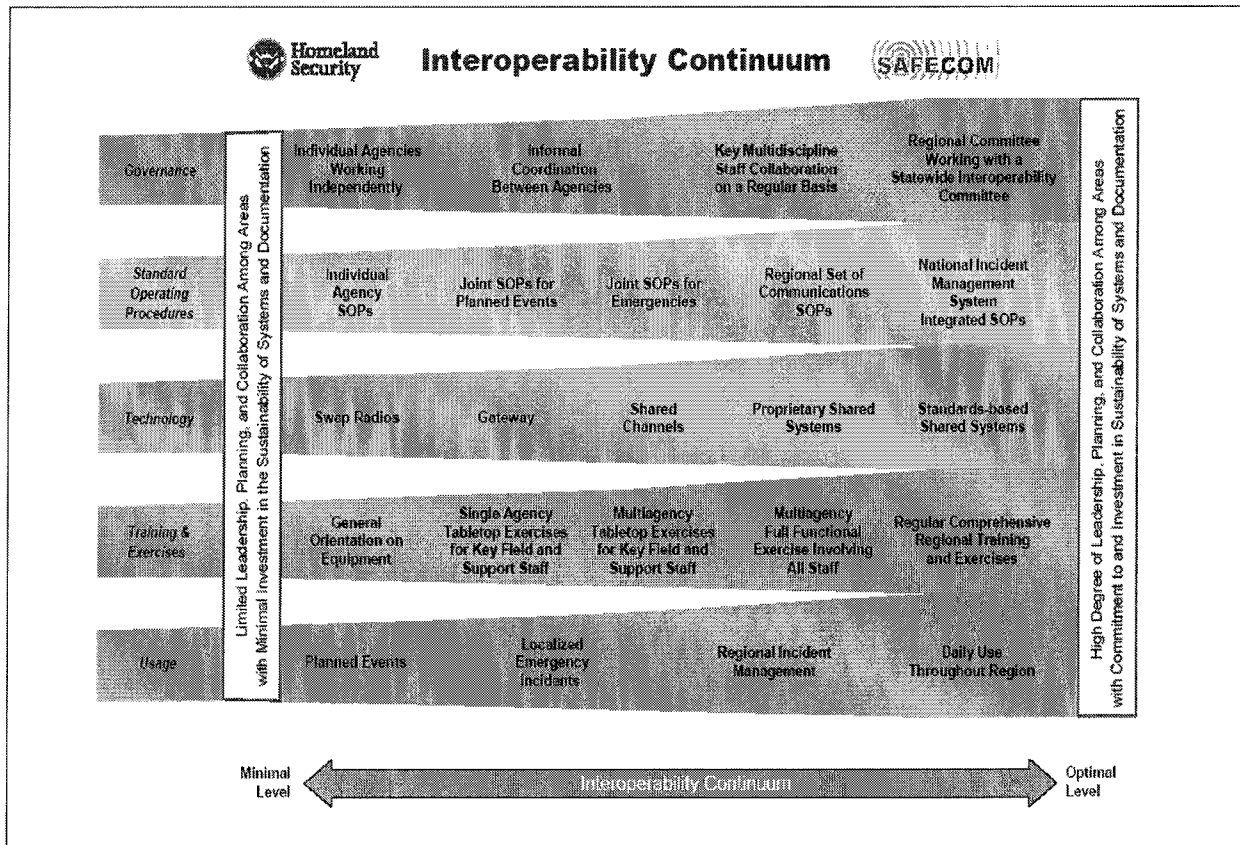
Development of a national fusion center network is consistent with federal goals and is a key focus of the FFY-2007 United States Department of Homeland Security grant program. The Las Vegas Fusion Center will serve the southwest region of the country and will be directly linked to other centers in the nation facilitating the sharing of intelligence, both nationally and internationally.

In the first quarter of FY 07, the city of Las Vegas continued to address its critical role in the maximization of intelligence interagency cooperation by creating the Management Analyst II position (Intelligence). The candidate will be an integral part of a team, which will analyze criminal and terrorist intelligence activities in local and surrounding jurisdictions.

State legislative efforts: In the upcoming 2007 state legislative session, BDR-751 seeks funding support for the development of a fusion center in Clark County; and, BDR-19-489 seeks to provide representation for the city of Las Vegas on the Nevada State Homeland Security Commission. Passage of these bills will support the city's efforts on the sharing of intelligence information and will enhance the city's emergency and homeland security programs.

3. Communications Interoperability. During an emergency or disaster, firefighters need to talk to Deputy Marshals, who need to talk to Metro, and so on, in order to share pertinent and emergency information. The need for compatible communication processes and equipment is referred to as *interoperability*.

Interoperability is measured in levels from one to five, with five being optimal communication. Achieving optimal levels of communication is a function of two factors: equipment (technical) and training (operational). The following chart represents the functional levels of interoperability, beginning with minimal (Level I) and progressing to optimal (Level 5).



Designated city personnel are equipped with 800 MHz radios that allow for seamless communication and coordination between city departments, public safety agencies and other non-traditional safety partners.

The city works annually with public, private and charitable organizations to train city staff and practice response techniques. For example, Detention and Enforcement and Fire and Rescue staff have completed specialized training through the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

NIMS is the nationally recognized and mandated incident management tool; a core set of doctrines, principles, standardized terminology and organizational processes to facilitate effective, efficient and collaborative incident management across all jurisdictions and all levels of government. NIMS is broken down into six core components:

- Command and management
- Preparedness
- Resource management
- Communications and information management
- Supporting technologies
- On-going management and maintenance

In a concerted effort to provide the best method of communication during disasters and other emergencies, the city participated with regional partners to develop a nationally mandated Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TIC Plan) for Southern Nevada. Regional emergency exercises provide for adjustments to the plan.

Membership in the Southern Nevada Area Communications Council (SNACC) provides Level 5 Technical Interoperability with regional entities, such as Clark County Fire Department, the cities of North Las Vegas and Henderson, Clark County School District Police, Southern Nevada Water Authority and McCarran International Airport. Also, as of 2004, local ambulance companies, hospitals and the region's medical helicopter provider were integrated onto the SNACC system.

The use of shared radio channels allows city radio users to have Level 3 Technical compatibility with Metro. Metro is replacing its current radio system and anticipates an increased level of interoperability, which will help yield a better response time to assist community residents during emergencies.

In Fiscal Year 2004, only 50 percent of city radio users had Level 5 Technical Interoperability through membership in SNACC. At the same time, the NIMS program was in its infancy stages and was just being implemented nationally; therefore, few first responders had completed the training.

The city's progress to date includes:

- 94 percent of the city's first responders have Level 5 Operational Interoperability training through the NIMS Program
- 70 percent of city radio users have Level 5 Technical Interoperability through membership in SNACC

The city's goal is to complete NIMS training per federal standards by Oct. 1, 2007, to allow for the highest level of interoperability possible. By the end of 2007, 100 percent of city radio users will have participated in the training, thus allowing all city radio users to achieve Level 5 Technical Interoperability.

4. Homeland Security Grants. Participation in grant programs translates into direct fiscal savings for the city. Equipment, personnel and programs funded through grants would otherwise cause additional draw on the general fund or would disallow for any additional, essential programs for the improvement of homeland security.

Since federal fiscal year (FFY) 2001, the city of Las Vegas has been eligible for federal grants through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). These grants are designed to fund specialized equipment, training and exercises for the city's public safety departments, as well as citizen preparedness initiatives through the U.S. Citizen Corps (e.g. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training). Beginning in FFY-2006, all programs funded through the HSGP must be coordinated with both local and statewide strategic plans in order to fully leverage the various projects and initiatives.

Since FFY-2004, the Las Vegas/Clark County region has been a designated participant in the Federal Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program designed to provide funding to the nation's cities at highest risk to terrorist threats. The city of Las Vegas is the designated "core city" by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Since 2004, this program has provided the city \$1,378,665 to fund many of the initiatives outlined in this report, as well as a wide array of training and equipment to our allied agencies, including the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. In November 2005, the DHS announced that Las Vegas would be ineligible for this program beginning in FFY-2007. This ineligibility subsequently resulted in significant lobbying efforts at the federal level to overturn that decision. At the time of this report, the 2007 UASI city list has not been published by DHS.

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Depicted below is a summary table of homeland security grants awarded to the city.

Homeland Security Grant Summary – city of Las Vegas		
Fiscal Year	Program Description	Amount
FFY-01	Terrorism/WMD equipment, training & exercises	\$280,000.00
FFY-01	Emergency management program/preparedness planning	\$62,503.00
FFY-02	Contingency planning & training	\$46,250.00
FFY-02	Citizen preparedness/community emerg. response teams	\$67,528.00
FFY-02	Bomb squad robotics	\$161,025.00
FFY-02	Emergency management program/preparedness planning	\$62,503.00
FFY-03	Interoperable communications	\$5,900,000.00
FFY-03	Bomb squad equipment and personal protective equipment	\$1,802,389.00
FFY-03	Emergency management program/preparedness planning	\$64,503.00
FFY-03	Citizen preparedness/community emerg. response teams	\$62,353.00
FFY-04	Emergency management program/preparedness planning	\$167,253.00
FFY-04	Citizen preparedness/community emerg. response teams	\$221,614.00
FFY-04	Critical infrastructure protection – city jail perimeter gates	\$58,000.00
FFY-04	Regional mobile animal shelter	\$225,000.00
FFY-04	Terrorism/WMD training & exercises	\$250,000.00
FFY-04	Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)	\$400,000.00
FFY-04	Bomb squad and hazardous material response equipment	\$908,732.00
FFY-04	Videoconferencing and telecommunications equipment	\$395,750.00
FFY-04	Emergency management program/preparedness planning	\$179,592.00
FFY-05	Citizen preparedness/community emerg. response teams	\$100,000.00
FFY-05	Bomb robotics and emergency response equipment/vehicles	\$745,000.00
FFY-05	Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)	\$227,592.00
FFY-05	Emergency management program/preparedness planning	\$179,592.00
FFY-06	Bomb squad/explosive device training	\$276,354.00
FFY-06	Citizen preparedness/community emerg. response teams	\$276,750.00
FFY-06	Emergency management program/preparedness planning	\$179,592.0
FFY-06	Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)	\$232,330.00
Total Awarded to City		\$13,532,205.00

5. Pandemic/Avian Flu Preparedness. National health care experts are unable to provide a consensus for the anticipated severity or timeframe of the next influenza pandemic. However, experts do agree that another influenza pandemic will occur. Therefore, throughout 2006, all city departments have been engaged in pandemic/avian flu planning, in order to develop contingencies to ensure the continuity of operations (COOP) and continuity of government (COG) in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak in the region.

Specific steps of preparation include:

- a. Analysis of potential levels of employee absenteeism
- b. Identification of critical functions that must be performed so that essential city services continue
- c. Identification of vendors that provide critical goods and services to the city and assisting those vendors to develop business continuity plans
- d. Employee training and exercises have been incorporated into the process to validate the plans
- e. Dissemination of public information through the city's web site and distribution of other print mediums at city facilities.

A final pandemic plan is scheduled for completion by January 2007 for incorporation into the city's all-hazard emergency operations plan.

Conclusion

While many more activities are in-progress than are itemized in this White Paper, the five strategic issues that have been outlined represent the core elements that serve as the framework of the city's current emergency preparedness and homeland security initiatives. In the upcoming 2007 state legislative session, it will be crucial for the city to support BDR-751, which seeks funding support for the development of a fusion center in Clark County; and BDR-19-489, which seeks to provide representation for the city of Las Vegas on the Nevada State Homeland Security Commission. Passage of these bills will support the city's efforts in the sharing of intelligence information and will enhance the city's emergency preparedness and homeland security programs. Working with Senator Reid and the rest of Nevada's federal delegation in Washington, D.C., will also be important to secure support for the development of a new Regional Public Safety Complex (RPSC), which will serve as the central axis of collaboration, cooperation and coordination of the multiple jurisdictions and public safety agencies serving Las Vegas/Clark County.