

National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan

MEDIA TALKING POINTS

- In a landmark regional off-site on June 9, 2005, senior leaders from across the National Capital Region (NCR) gathered to review and approve the collective vision, mission, goals, objectives, and guiding principles that will constitute the *2005 National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan*.
- This document, the *2005 National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan*, will be the nation's first integrated and comprehensive regional strategic plan for homeland security, resulting from efforts among the various public and private communities that make up the NCR Homeland Security Partnership.
 - *The NCR Homeland Security Partnership is comprised of the region's local, state, regional, and federal governments, citizen community groups, private sector, non-profit organizations, and non-governmental organizations.*
- The NCR has long collaborated on emergency preparedness, whether at the governmental, business or household level. For example, local governments have had mutual aid agreements in place for decades, allowing first responders to help each other. Working together toward a safe and secure region for all who live, work or visit here takes a continuum of efforts that foster a culture of collaboration, respect, communication, innovation and mutual aid.
- This *2005 National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan* is the latest element of the ongoing regional planning efforts. It identifies a direction for managing risk and enhancing regional capability and capacity to prevent and reduce vulnerability of the NCR from major threats or events. It builds upon the efforts of the NCR assessment in 2003, giving focus to the emergency support functions while allowing for an appropriate level of coordination and information exchange to deal with a variety of situations. Dissimilar from past planning efforts, it utilizes a more collaborative, consensus-based approach to decision-making while also leveraging, strengthening, and creating numerous homeland security partnerships throughout the region.
- In recognition of the specific security needs of large urban areas, substantial resources have been dedicated through the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program to selected urban areas across the country. The NCR has received nearly \$170 million in UASI grants since FY 2003.
- The *Strategic Plan* will provide strategic guidance to UASI funding allocations, as well as other operational and strategic decisions that will support a wide range of emergency preparedness and response activities, including planning, training, exercise and equipment.

- The *Strategic Plan* will provide an organizing framework to align and integrate a broad array of policies, programs and activities for the enhancement of homeland security and first responder capabilities in the NCR. The *Strategic Plan* will also guide, integrate, and ensure the efficient spending of homeland security grant and budget dollars throughout the NCR; and provide a means for measuring the actual improvements made to the safety and security of the NCR.
- The NCR Homeland Security Partners will abide by the seven guiding principles below in the development and execution of the *Strategic Plan*:
 - *Strengthen regional coordination among all partners to gain synergy while sustaining jurisdictional authority and enhancing capabilities.*
 - *Implement homeland security policies and programs while maintaining our constitutionally-based society, particularly the civil rights and civil liberties of the NCR's diverse population, including persons with disabilities.*
 - *Prepare for "all-hazards", including man-made and naturally occurring emergencies and disasters.*
 - *Advance the safety and security of the NCR in ways that are enduring, relevant, and sustainable.*
 - *Foster a culture of collaboration, respect, communication, innovation, and mutual aid among all homeland security partners across the NCR.*
 - *Adopt best-practice, performance-based approaches to staffing, planning, equipping, training, and exercising for all homeland security partners.*
 - *Strive for an optimal balance of preparedness capabilities across the NCR that recognizes differing risks and circumstances, and leverages mutual aid agreements.*
- In the coming weeks, the NCR Homeland Security Partners will mature and define specific measurable initiatives and action items under the *Strategic Plan*'s organizing framework, while concurrently maintaining high-level performance of their daily operational duties to ensure the safety and security of the NCR.

Note: The 2005 National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan is expected for public release in September 2005.