Washington State Homeland Security Program

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Background

The impact of Islamist terrorism was felt as early as 1983 when a truck bomb demolished the Marine headquarters in Beirut killing 241 servicemen. The number of terrorist attacks directed against Americans rapidly grew during the decade of the 1990's culminating with the attacks on 9-11-01.

Overview

In January 2000, the Washington State Emergency Management Council (EMC), at the direction of Gov. Gary Locke, formed the Committee on Terrorism (COT). Following 9-11-01 attacks, the COT was restructured during 2003 and designated the Committee on Homeland Security (CHS). The CHS, in concert with the Washington Military Department develops and recommends statewide homeland security strategies to the EMC and provides a statewide forum that fosters dialogue and information sharing between members representing a broad range of state and local emergency management, responder and private sector agencies, organizations and associations. The state's homeland security regional configuration is based on nine regions to facilitate a statewide approach to planning, equipping, training and exercising our capabilities and building capacities. Each region is made up of one or more counties that include cities, towns, unincorporated areas and tribal nations within the regional geographic boundaries.

Analysis and Planning

- Implementation of CHS long-term strategic planning;
- Implementation of the *Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan.*

Training and Exercise

- On-line distance learning initiative for homeland security, CBRNE and hazardous materials related training;
- Implementation of a *State Three-Year Exercise Strategy*;

Equipping

- Statewide selection, acquisition, and distribution of over $10M in standardized and interoperable equipment though Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants;

Programmatic

- Management and oversight of over $150,000,000 in homeland security grants
- Management and oversight of the CHS activities
- Liaison with and coordination of 9 homeland security regions

Operations

- Development of the National Incident Management System Implementation Plan for Emergency Management Division and Washington State

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