

**STATE OF MAINE
122nd LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Interim Report of the
Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security
Needs**

December 2005

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs ("Task Force") was established during the Second Special Session of the 122nd Legislature by Resolve 2005, Chapter 126. This document is the Task Force's interim report.

Resolve 2005, Chapter 126 established a Task Force that would meet over a two year period to review Maine's homeland security needs in areas, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, emergency preparedness, public health, port and airport security and sensitive-target security. The resolve also requires the Task Force to examine the current state of homeland security preparedness, current spending priorities and to identify any gaps between available resources and identified needs in such areas as personnel, equipment and training, including review of the impact of Maine National Guard and Reserve deployments abroad on Maine's emergency preparedness.

The resolve provided that the Maine Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA") would fund the Task Force for fiscal year 2005-06 and 2006-07. The Task Force is authorized to hold four meetings each fiscal year and at least two of its meetings must be held outside of Augusta, where an opportunity for public comment is provided.

The Task Force convened its first meeting at the State House on October 17, 2005 in Augusta, Maine. It has held a total of four meetings, which includes one public hearing, that were held in Augusta, Brunswick, Oxford Hills and Rockland. The Task Force has received permission from the Legislative Council to hold three additional off-site meetings to travel to other parts of the State. The Task Force plans to utilize these three meetings to facilitate the gathering of relevant information and to provide a forum for the continuation of the dialogue among Task Force members, MEMA, first responders and the broad array of individuals working in the homeland security and emergency preparedness arena. The Task Force is authorized to hold four more meetings in fiscal year 2006-07, which it plans to use as work sessions to compile the information gathered and determine where any legislative action may be necessary to improve Maine's level of emergency preparedness. The Task Force will submit its findings, recommendations and any proposed legislation in its final report due November 1, 2006.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs ("Task Force") was established during the Second Special Session of the 122nd Legislature by Resolve 2005, Chapter 126. A copy of the resolve is attached as **Appendix A**. The eleven member Task Force includes six legislators and five public members representing the public interest who are directly involved in emergency preparedness or homeland security. The Task Force membership roster is listed in **Appendix B**.

The Task Force was charged with the following duties:

1. Review Maine's homeland security needs in areas, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, emergency preparedness, public health, port and airport security and sensitive-target security;
2. Review the current state of homeland security preparedness, spending priorities and any gap between available resources and identified needs in such areas as personnel, equipment and training, including review of the impact of Maine National Guard and Reserve deployments abroad on Maine's emergency preparedness;
3. As part of its review of needs and preparedness, receive a report on the status of the Maine's Homeland Security Task Force report on its vision and plans and the status of those plans as of May 2005;
4. Hold at least 2 of its meetings outside of Augusta and provide an opportunity for public comment at those meetings; and
5. Review ways to improve the flow of information to the Legislature and the general public about Maine's homeland security needs and preparedness.

Resolve 2005, Chapter 126 requires the Task Force to submit an interim report on its findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature. At this time, the Task Force is continuing the process of information gathering and plans to hold three additional meetings in other parts of the State. Accordingly, the Task Force does not have any recommendations or proposed legislation at this time. As required by the resolve, the Task Force plans to submit its final report by November 1, 2006, which will include findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

II. MEETINGS

A. First Task Force Meeting and Public Hearing

The Task force held its first meeting and public hearing at the State House in Augusta, Maine on October 17, 2005. The agenda for the October 17, 2005 meeting is

attached as **Appendix C**. This first meeting focused on gathering information from federal, state and county officials on the State's ability to protect its citizens and respond effectively in the event of a major disaster.

This meeting consisted of four panel discussions with federal, state and local emergency preparedness and homeland security experts, which was followed by time for public comment and a brief planning discussion among Task Force members to prepare for the next meeting.

The first panel focused on state and county level planning for defense and emergency preparedness and consisted of the following experts:

1. *Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management: General Libby, Commissioner;*
2. *Maine Emergency Management Agency: Art Cleaves, Director;*
3. *Department of Public Safety: Michael Cantara, Commissioner;*
4. *York County Emergency Management Agency: Robert Bohlmann, Director; and*
5. *Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency: Vernon Ouellette, Director.*

The second panel focused on issues relating to law enforcement and fire-rescue issues and consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine State Police: Colonel Craig Poulin, Chief;*
2. *The Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Public Safety: John Dean, State Fire Marshal;*
3. *Maine Chiefs of Police Association: Chief Jerry Hinton, Brunswick Police Department;*
4. *Maine Sheriff's Association: Mark Dion, Cumberland County Sheriff and former President; and*
5. *Maine Marine Patrol, Department of Marine Resources: Major John Fetterman, Deputy Chief.*

The third panel focused its discussion on the level of preparedness of Maine's emergency medical services and its public health officials. This panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine Emergency Medical Services: Jay Bradshaw, Director;*
2. *Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Dora Anne Mills, Public Health Director and State Health Officer; and*
3. *Southern Maine Red Cross (and liaison for MEMA): Suzanne McCormick.*

The fourth panel discussed provided the federal perspective on homeland security plans and initiatives, as well as federal goals for emergency preparedness. This panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *United States Attorney's Office, District of Maine: Paula Silsby, USA; and*

2. *Senator Collins' Office: Jon Nass, Counsel to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.*

Members of the public were invited to speak at the public hearing following the panel discussions.

B. Second Task Force Meeting

The Task Force held its second meeting off-site at the Brunswick Municipal Meeting Facility on November 17, 2005. The agenda for the November 17, 2005 meeting is attached as **Appendix D**. The meeting consisted of two panel discussions on the issues of communications, the value of interoperability and the level of emergency preparedness at the county and regional level. The panel discussions were followed by time for public comment and a brief planning discussion among Task Force members to prepare for the next meeting.

The first panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine Emergency Management Agency: Art Cleaves, Director;*
2. *State Office of Information Technology: Richard B. Thompson, Chief Information Officer;*
3. *Cumberland County Manager: Peter Crichton;*
4. *Brunswick Town Manager: Don Gerrish; and*
5. *Homeland Security Coordinator for City of Portland: Fred LaMontagne, Fire Chief.*

The second panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine Emergency Management Agency: Art Cleaves, Director*
2. *Regional HAZMAT Director: Clark Labbe;*
3. *Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency: Rusty Robertson, Director;*
4. *Brunswick Police Department: Jerry Hinton, Chief of the Brunswick Police Department; and*
5. *Brunswick Public Works Department: John Foster.*

Members of the public were invited to speak at the public hearing following the panel discussions.

C. Third Task Force Meeting

The Task Force held its third meeting off-site at the Oxford Hills High School on November 21, 2005. The agenda for the November 21, 2005 meeting is attached as **Appendix E**. The meeting consisted of two panel discussions which focused on the response planning of local hospitals, regional resource centers, schools districts and rural emergency responders and their focus on an all-hazards approach for emergency management. The panel discussions were followed by time for public comment and a brief planning discussion among Task Force members to prepare for the next meeting.

The first panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine Emergency Management Agency: Art Cleaves, Director;*
2. *Maine Medical Center: Steven Trockman, Director Southern ME Regional Resource Center;*
3. *Stephens Memorial Hospital: Kathy Bonney, Vice President of Performance Improvement;*
4. *Bridgton Hospital: Pam Crawford, Emergency Room Manager; and*
5. *Bridgton Fire Department: Thomas Harriman, Chief.*

The second panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine Emergency Management Agency: Art Cleaves, Director;*
2. *Oxford Hills School District: Mark Eastman, Superintendent;*
3. *Oxford County Emergency Management Agency: Scott Parker, Director;*
4. *Otisfield Fire Department: Gary Dyer, Chief; and*
5. *Rumford Fire Department: John Woulfe, Chief.*

Members of the public were invited to speak at the public hearing following the panel discussions.

D. Fourth Task Force Meeting

The Task Force held its fourth meeting off-site at the Rockland City Hall on November 29, 2005. The agenda for the November 29, 2005 meeting is attached as **Appendix F**. The panel discussion focused on Maine's unique harbor and coastal security issues, the preparedness of mass care agencies, county emergency responders, as well as newly proposed federal initiatives to increase the security of the national coastline. The panel discussions were followed by time for public comment and a brief planning discussion among Task Force members to prepare for the next meeting.

The first panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine Emergency Management Agency: Art Cleaves, Director;*
2. *Hancock County Emergency Management Agency: Ralph Pinkham, Director;*
3. *Knox County Emergency Management Agency: Sylvia Birmingham, Director;*
4. *Center for Emergency Preparedness and Eastern Maine Regional Resource Center: Kathy Knight, Director; and*
5. *Office of U.S. Senator Susan Collins: Kathy Kraninger, Professional Staff.*

The second panel consisted of the following experts:

1. *Maine Emergency Management Agency: Art Cleaves, Director;*
2. *United States Coast Guard: Captain Stephen Garrity;*
3. *Rockland Harbor Master: Ed Glaser;*

4. *American Red Cross of Southern Maine: Suzanne McCormick, Chief Executive Officer and State Liaison; and*
5. *Knox County Regional Communications Center: Linwood Lothrop, Director*

Members of the public were invited to speak at the public hearing following the panel discussions.

III. Agenda for Future Meetings

The Task force plans to continue its work of gathering material information on Maine's homeland security needs and determining the critical issues involved in assessing Maine's overall level of emergency preparedness. The Task Force has received permission from the Legislative Council to hold three additional off-site meetings to travel to other parts of the State. The Task Force plans to utilize these three meetings to facilitate the gathering of relevant information and to provide a forum for the continuation of the dialogue among Task Force members, MEMA, first responders and the broad array of individuals working in the homeland security and emergency preparedness arena. The Task Force plans to hold four more meetings in fiscal year 2006-07, which it plans to use as work sessions to compile the information gathered and determine where any legislative action may be necessary to improve Maine's level of emergency preparedness. The Task Force will then submit its findings, recommendations and any proposed legislation in its final report due November 1, 2006.