

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **May 9, 2003**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Fred Towle - Chairman
Legislator David Bishop
Legislator William Lindsay
Legislator Andrew Crecca

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Joseph Caracappa
Legislator George Guldi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino II - Counsel to the Legislature
John Gallagher - Commissioner SCPD
James Maggio - Deputy Commissioner SCPD
David Fischler - SCDFRES
Dr. Jeanne Alicandro - SC Health Department
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office
Alan Otto - Sheriff's Department
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

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(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:35 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

We are going to call the meeting to order. If Legislator Bishop would lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

We're going to move the agenda first before we do our presentations so that some of the people who are here for the resolutions will be able to leave the meeting and not necessarily have to stay. So if Counsel would join us if he's in the building, that would be great. We're going to move to tabled resolutions, Resolution 1270, amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the repowering of police boats. The offset on this, Budget Review? Commissioner, do you want to join us on this or anybody from the police about this resolution. I know there were a couple of questions, I think, at the last meeting on the power boat.

LEG. CRECCA:

It looks like it's furniture and equipment.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

My recollection, Legislator Caracappa had question in reference to the fact that we had done this already within the last few years, and we're back doing it again. And I guess he was under the impression that we did it the last time and it would be some lengthy period of time before we'd have to do it again as far as repowering the boats.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I believe the paper work that explains Legislator Caracappa's answers to the questions is attached to -- it should be attached to the -- to the present resolution you have.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

It was added as back up or it was there originally?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

It was added.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

I haven't personally seen it, has any of the other members seen the back-up?

LEG. CRECCA:

I have a memorandum dated March 6, 2003, but that's from the Budget Director, so I don't know if that's the memo you're talking about.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Actually, you know, what this memorandum explained is that the cycle is a four year cycle for the repowering of the boats, and we place them two on the north shore and two on the south shore. But it's --

you know, the normal maintenance schedule calls for every four years.

LEG. CRECCA:

Why wouldn't it have been in the Capital Budget then to begin with, or was it?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

It was.

DEP. COMM. MAGGIO:

It was included in the 2003 Capital Budget.

LEG. CRECCA:

So in other words, we're just \$107,000 short, that's the reason for the amendment?

DEP. COMM. MAGGIO:

No, that's the original cost. The reason for the amendment is the change from pay as you go to bonding.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay.

LEG. CRECCA:

All right. It's under furniture and equipment.

DEP. COMM. MAGGIO:

It's equipment.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. So it's just the changing of the status from pay-as-you-go to bonding.

DEP. COMM. MAGGIO:

Correct.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. Motion.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by Legislator Crecca, second by Legislator Bishop to approve. There being any discussion? There being none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 2070 is unanimously approved. Thank you, gentlemen. Moving on to the rest of the agenda, Resolution 1280, approving the appointment of David Carrigan as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission. Are any of the members here? I had received a note that some of the appointment --

gentlemen, why don't you come up for a second. Good afternoon.

MR. CARRIGAN:
Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
If you could just identify yourself for the record, that would be great.

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MR. CARRIGAN:
My name is David Carrigan.

MR. CAPON:
My name is Kenneth Capon. I'm from Shelter Island.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
David, you have been a member of the FRES Board for a lengthy period of time, right?

MR. CARRIGAN:
The FRES Board?

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
The Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission.

MR. CARRIGAN:
No, sir. I'm just a new appointment.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
New appointment. Okay. And you are representing?

MR. CARRIGAN:
Suffolk County Fire District Office.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Okay. Gentlemen, any questions. There being none, motion to approve by myself, seconded by Legislator Bishop. Any discussion? There being none, all those in favor? Opposed? Resolutions -- or abstentions? 1280 is approved. We've move right on to Mr. Capon for a second. You're being reappointed; that's correct, right, Mr. Capon?

MR. CAPON:
Yes.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

And you said you're from Shelter Island, right?

MR. CAPON:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Any questions, gentlemen? There being none, motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Bishop to approve 1282. There being no discussion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstention? 1282 is approved. Congratulations. I also understand that Mr. Carpenter is here, which is a resolution a little further down. Why don't we call you up if you don't mind. Ed, how are you?

MR. CARPENTER:

Fine, thank you. And you, sir?

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Why don't you tell us about yourself.

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MR. CARPENTER:

I'm Ed Carpenter from Sayville, Long Island.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

And you are being considered today for what, Mr. Carpenter?

MR. CARPENTER:

I'm sorry, sir.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

You're being considered for an appointment to the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board, correct?

MR. CARPENTER:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

And you are representing what group?

MR. CARPENTER:

Fire Service.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

All right. Gentlemen, any questions? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Carpenter. We're going to move on to your appointment shortly. Counsel has informed me that we need Legislator Lindsay to join in order to have a full quorum for the meeting. So until he gets here, we're going to have to move on to the presentations as opposed to completing the agenda. It's not a problem. It's not your fault. Thank you, Mr. Carpenter. There should be no questions. If there are no questions by the committee members, we'll move to approve your appointment before we leave today.

MR. CARPENTER:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Thank you. This afternoon we do have a presentation from the Police Department, from Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, and from EMS in reference to Suffolk County's response to homeland security. Commissioner Gallagher, do you want to come up first and make a presentation to the committee with your staff?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Joe, you want to join us?

MR. MICHAELS:
Yes.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Great.

MR. MICHAELS:
Good afternoon. My name is Joseph Michaels. I'm Assistant Deputy County Executive for Public Safety. At Legislator Towle's request, I have asked the three major first responders to make a presentation this afternoon for your benefit to show our preparedness in light of the recent 9/11 incident. I just historically would like to put this all into perspective for -- for those who may or may not know. Over the last -- over the last 40 years that I've been involved in law enforcement and first responder-type programs, Suffolk County has always been touted as one of the best in the nation. It has been -- it has responded to things in the '60s such as civil disorders, and in

the '70s, the draft -- draft riots for Vietnam, and recently, Gulf War, the first Gulf War, it had prepared itself properly.

In the last -- just to show how well Suffolk County has been preparing itself, prior to 9/11, in 1998, and this was sent out from the Justice Department indicating that Suffolk County had been rated as one of the top 20 geographical areas that quite possibly could sustain some type of a terrorism attack. At that particular point in time, there was little or no belief that this nation was vulnerable to any type of attack. However, along with this missive, there was an RFP or a request for a proposal to apply for government funds with regard to bio-terrorism and radiological terrorism. At a particular time, the County Executive directed that we put together a committee to develop an RFP and submit it to the federal government for funding to acquire equipment for first responders in the country -- in the County. The -- the committee was put together made up of the Police Department, the Health Department, the RAP team from Brookhaven National Labs, several fire districts and the FRES -- the FRES Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service people and the EMS people.

A proposal was put together and submitted to the federal government. And as I said, historically Suffolk County has always rated highly in this procedure. We were awarded, outside of New York City, the highest amount of funding to purchase first responder-type protective equipment. This first application, we received \$495,000 to buy equipment to distribute to our first responders. For following year 1999, another request for proposal came out, and we again applied and we were again awarded an additional \$389,000. This example shows how well Suffolk County has done and is recognized in the national -- national manner. We are now -- and I can tell you at that particular point in time, it was very difficult to convince people of the sincerity of buying this type of equipment. We were not -- we had not experienced 9/11. We were -- when 9/11 occurred, because of our reputation in the New York Metropolitan Area, we were one of few counties that was -- that provided services to New York City, and it was known by the federal authorities that Suffolk County did have within their possession equipment that might will be of use to them, and we were put on notice that we might have to use this equipment in New York City for response purposes.

Since 9/11, the County has continued to develop its resources for first responders for chemical, biological and terrorism. All of the agencies involved, all of our first responder agencies involved, the police, the EMTs and FRES have joined together and are working in a team effort to protect the citizens of Suffolk County. And today, you

will see from the presentation of the Police Commissioner, the Director of EMS and the Commissioner of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services precisely what they have been doing since 9/11 to increase and protect the security of the citizens of Suffolk County. With that, I turn the microphone over to Commissioner Gallagher.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Joe, I appreciate your overview. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Thank you. What I'm going to do is give you an overview of what's happened in the department subsequent to the September 11th, 2001 and what decisions we made as far as admission changes that took place within the department and the forward motion that we've been involved in every since then. One of the first things I had to decide after the shock of the World Trade Center was to decide how we were going to conduct ourselves in response to a new mission that was being obviously put upon all local Police Departments, ourselves included, and that is how to prepare for major incidents that were or are terrorist related, or in addition to natural disasters and/or man made disasters, these could be terrorist disasters, and how to prepare for counterterrorism -- how to prepare for the County to protect itself against terrorism activity in Suffolk County.

I turned to the Criminal Intelligence Bureau, CIB, which is one of the detective units assigned -- you know, that has long standing status in the department. And this bureau has had a traditional role of organized crime and gang activity. They are the surveillance and intelligence gathering center for information about both of those operations. They also have traditionally done dignitary protection for visitors in the County, such as President Clinton's two visits out to the East End. It's like misplacement, this too -- the JTT, the Joint Terrorist Task Force, that's under the auspices of the FBI, that should be actually over here too, because prior to 9/11, we were involved in that with detectives assigned to that Joint Terrorist Task Force, which is an intelligence gathering -- information gathering service that covers the -- the whole north eastern, especially the New York region. I decided on Criminal Intelligence as the repository of this new mission, because I realized that the basic thing that would be done since 9/11 is information gathering. Information leads to knowledge, and knowledge leads to power over what you know about. And intelligence is probably -- intelligence information gathering and analysis, especially the analysis section of intelligence or analysis aspect of it is probably the most important thing that goes on in counter terrorism. If you know ahead of time what's going on, you are well ahead of the game in protecting yourself and the citizens that you are sworn to protect from that kind of activity.

So we added to the original mission of the organized accurately

Criminal Intelligence Bureau we added to -- another addition we put on was HIDTA, and HIDTA is an acronym for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. Throughout the country, the federal government years ago broke down the -- America in several regions for a drug traffic intelligence gathering service and mission, and they put together -- the process was to put together multi agency centers where intelligence is gathered, where information is analyzed, data bases are provided for

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police agencies throughout the region that the center serves. We are part of the New York HIDTA. We have had for some time a presence in there, and we are inspired to increase and make more permanent presence after 9/11. And we'll see a little more about HIDTA, but the federal government decided that rather than reinvent the wheel, after the World Trade Center Attack, they decided to use HIDTA since it already was in place, it had an infrastructure, it has over 62 data bases, HIDTA, the drug trafficking intelligence area. They're obviously not just -- not just related to drug traffic, but they also are related to general criminal activity and decided to build on that a counterterrorism intelligence gathering operation.

We also put under our Intelligence Bureau our liaison to the New York State Office of Public Security that was founded as a counterpart to the United State Office of Homeland Security. The United States Attorney General has created an Attorney General's Anti-Terrorism Working Group in each of the Attorney General judicial districts. And we again put our presence in that under the Criminal Intelligence Bureau. We also use that bureau to join the United States Marshals Task Force, which is a fugitive retrieval operation. Again, it's basically a criminal intelligence operation, but it can be used and has been used in other parts of the country for retrieval of terrorist information too, terrorist -- using information to retrieve fugitives wanted for questioning in terrorist activities.

Finally, homeland security, as you're going to see, we'll go briefly over what -- these thing were developed as part of the Criminal Intelligence Bureau's expanded mission. We decided that after looking at HIDTA in New York, the New York Regional HIDTA, which we are part of, and after extensive conversation with the Director of the New York HIDTA and with the Chief Offices that operate out of that center in the lower west side of Manhattan, we decided that we would like to become a regional center for the same type of intelligence gathering and high level intelligence analysis, a regional intelligence center housed here in Suffolk County, operated by us in cooperation with several other federal, state and local departments. We would be the lead agency, but we would invite and certainly welcome the presence of

several other departments to staff this center. It would be a conduit for the communications that go on now with New York, except it would now -- for Long Island, for our region, a communication with those intelligence sources, those data bases, those banks of information that are constantly working at gathering information and assessing anything that you come in with by way of your requirements, your requests as a local law enforcement agency that we would be the conduit for those kinds of communications for Long Island. And it will focus not only on terrorism, as I said, but just as HIDTA started out as a drug trafficking intelligence operation and criminal -- general criminal intelligence analysis section of the federal government, this will be a day-to-day operation in criminal intelligence too.

We've already gotten the -- the bussing of the regional HIDTA in New York. In fact, the Director of the regional HIDTA has encouraged us to go ahead and create this regional center as a subset of the New York HIDTA. So it's underway, and I hope in the fairly near future you will be hearing more about it. We'll be having a formal --

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actually, we're putting into place the data base and the data base that's common to all of the HIDTAs, a software system known as Orion is being put into place in our Intelligence Bureau Office in Yaphank. And shortly, we should have some formal announcements about the HIDTA Center for Long Island.

The New York State Office of Public Security as I said, opened a regional zone and regional operation throughout the state. The initial Director of that was James Kalstrom, who we all perhaps remember from TWA 800 days. When Jim Calstrom took that job on at the request of the Governor, he asked for support from local departments. He specifically called us, and we gave him Inspector Mark White who has been in the office of the Fifth Precinct and has now after a tour with the New York State of Public Security was named Chairman of the Security -- the overall committee that is the governing committee of our zone, Zone One. And Detective Lieutenant James Rooney who is the commanding officer of our Criminal Intelligence Bureau was Chairman of Zone One Intelligence Committee. Lieutenant Rooney was also assigned to the start up phase of the New York State Office of Public Security.

The US Attorney General's office has not yet generated a lot of activity, but we're participating to what degree, you know, we're asked to, we are participating in that program. Now, intelligence is the first leg, if you will -- if you think of this as, you know, you can't stand on one leg, well, intelligence has to be the first prime

mission of any anti-terrorism activity. You start with intelligence gathering, because through intelligence you analyze and you help -- God willing, you help to prevent anything that can happen in your own jurisdiction or anything that's been developed in your jurisdiction for attack or terrorist incident elsewhere. The other side of it is to prepare, major incident preparedness. You can never really prepare enough for these things, you can never do enough drills. And what we've done since the World Trade Center is we've created this coordinated respond group out of Suffolk County. We are the lead agency, but actually, it includes all agencies, law enforcement agencies in the county; state, county, town, village agencies. It provides for and is aimed at -- at actually drilling for a rapid controlled police response to any catastrophic event, whether terrorist or otherwise. The idea is to get the officers from all of these different agencies acquainted with each other as much as possible, get them used to in effect taking orders at times from other officers, other supervisors from other police agencies, also getting them used to a rapid, but yet controlled way of responding to the need for a massive police presence.

We ran our first drill under this coordinated response group plan that's being developed, a tactical plan -- we ran our first drill in October of 2002 at Brookhaven Airport under the leadership of the Suffolk County Police Department. Just recently, we conducted our second drill at Gabreski Airport out in Westhampton Beach, and that was led by Sheriff Tisch and the Sheriff's Department and Southampton Town Police Department coordinated that drill. The idea is that everybody in this group is going to be given a chance to participate, and leadership responsibilities are shared among the agencies in the group. The drills are simply ways of finding out how fast and how disciplined a response we can provide for a major incident taking

place here, or as happened in 9/11, a major incident where we're called in to provide assistance.

The second thing we've done under this preparedness is we've had for a long time what's called a field force operational drill concept in our department. It was a response to massive civil unrest back in the '70s and '60s. We've gone back to that whole field force book and rewritten it. We now look towards training, updating equipment and broadening the mission to include barricades, hostage incidents and massive responses from Suffolk County Police on the -- this is an internal operation, field force, a massive response to incidents taking place where we are the prime and perhaps sole agency responding to the incident. The field force, again, like the response group,

interagency response group, goes through drilling and drilling and drilling. The idea of getting officers who are pulled out from several different commands within the department to become the field force when and if the need arises.

We've also established an emergency talk group that will be utilized during a regional or national catastrophe in every department where it's possible to put this equipment we have. We have installed a universal band -- channel rather, within the radio bands that we can all go to and talk to each other. There are some exceptions to it, some departments do not have the 800 megahertz system, so we can't install in those departments, we have to continue to go to a two radio system with them. But the vast number of department, the vast majority departments out here have 800 megahertz. And we have, on our own as a department, gone out with our technical services people and installed this single communications link among all the departments so that we never have some of the problems that appeared at the World Trade Center with the lack of communications. I might add also that our helicopters, our emergency service and certain levels of supervision also have channel communications capacity with the Fire Services in the County also.

We've developed tactical plans. These are generic plans for weapons of mass destruction incidents, ferry or large boat collisions, barrier beach and sea tactical support if we need to for some reason get people in or out of the Fire Island, closing down the Long Island. That plan's been in place for sometime. Right after the September 11th we were part of a coordinated plan to close down a lane of the Expressway so that emergency equipment could come into and out of New York City. And we have -- we are part of the Suffolk County Disaster Medical Response Team procedures. We've developed tactical plans for those too. I think the Health Department will be talking more about that. So these plans are -- you know, they are in place, they're not gathering dust on a shelf. They're looked at, they're constantly being tested and revised. We also -- what they do give us is in the event of something happening, we have a very clear-cut tested response mechanism available to the commanding officers, no matter who they are, no matter what time of the day it is, no matter what else is going on. They know from the plan what they're supposed to do and how they're supposed to do it. We have detailed tactical plans. This is an outgrowth of actually Columbine days, the attack on the school, where we started to develop detailed plans in place towards colleges, universities, federal and state facilities, town and village

for, if any reason, we have to go in and secure those facilities, we have a plan to do so. And we've worked with the various agencies that run those institutions to have those plans in place.

We also have prepared a vulnerable incident -- entity assessment rather, where we've identified facilities -- it's over I believe 200 of them -- throughout the County that because of what they do or how they do it or the number of people that pass through them on a daily basis, facilities that could possibly be targeted to terrorism. We formulated responses for each of those in the event of an attack, we've concentrated actually -- pretty honest to say, we concentrated on the top -- if you will, the top 50 or 60 of those. And I sent a letter to each of the owners and managers of those top most sensitive areas, hand delivered by a detective, where they were given a letter which said, you know, in effect you have been identified not -- there's no imminent threat to you, but because of what you do, because of how you do it, you have been identified as a possible site for terrorist activity, we'd like, in effect, to get to know you better, get to work with you better, we'd like you to be -- feel very comfortable in contacting us, if anything goes on that you are not sure of, let us know, you know, things that happen that seem out of line to you, the normal things that you would think of. In an industrial fertilizer sales office, requests for large amounts of industrial fertilizer that are paid for in cash or with someone that you don't know that hasn't bought this kind of -- this kind of material before or in the amount that's being requested, you know, give us a call.

Our message to them is if anything seems -- no matter how trivial you think it is, it just seems a little strange to you, don't worry about it. The fact that you thought about it, means you should call us, just let us know, and we'll take it from there. We also have gotten from them plans of their, you know, their various facilities. Sector cars, we get them approval to let our sector cars move in and out of the facilities freely at different hours of the day and night. We do a sector car patrol check on these highly sensitive areas everyday. And we have 24 hour response telephone numbers and names of people we can call at whatever time of the day or night we need to reach somebody. We also have up-to-date high resolution aerial images of the entire County, and those are used as part of this vulnerable entity assessment. The image it left is the terminal section of Mac Arthur Airport. And actually, you know, under circumstances that if it was to be used say by emergency services, they can call up a much more detailed image of that.

Deployment training also allows for rapid response in certain critical situations. This is back to what I said before about the Columbine-type school event. Some years ago, I went out to the superintendent of schools throughout the County, met with them -- Suffolk County Schools Superintendents Association and asked for their

cooperation. And I pressed that with letters and phone calls to follow. I asked them to provide me with building plans, building plans on the -- in the computer format JPEG so that they could -- those plans could placed into a computer -- with facility, put into a computer format. And the JPEG plans that they sent back, some, not

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all of them could send them in that format, but we got them all formatted in JPEG.

We now -- as of the last time that this was reviewed, we have 100% compliance from the school districts in the Police District. So we have sample floor plans from all of the elementary and middle schools and high schools in the Police District. Those plans are used in coordination with their -- they're in the computer format so they are available to say emergency services units responding to an emergency. And they're used in conformity with -- in coordination with the aerial photos. So you can actually get sort of a three dimensional view, like a stack drawing of the building you are going into and each floor of the building.

In addition to those plans, we have put together a kit for each school which first responding officers would have showing the daily attendance roster, who's in that school by name for that day, which is generated every day in every school. We ask that those -- a copy be put in -- that daily copy into the kit, keys for emergency entrances that are normally locked on the inside where you normally couldn't gain entrance from the outside, locations of shut off valves for fire, alarm systems and sprinkler systems and any other sensitive areas where we might want to get into or might want to have to shut something off and telling us exactly where we could go to do that. Those kits would be available to the first responding officers in the event of a school emergency. And they are also -- again, there's drills that go on, our own officers go through what they call a diamond drill on how to respond to some kind of hostage situation such as you had at Columbine.

Normally, the best thing you would try to do is contain it until Emergency Service could show up with their specialized weapons and equipment. But if it's -- we have determined that if there's imminent loss of life and danger of loss of life, we will go in with the first responders too. This is a picture of the additional resources that have been added to the Emergency Service section. I included it because I thought it was a good picture of myself. And it's -- we've added additional supervisors and several officers. And we're going to see some of the added equipment.

And finally, I just -- one of the -- it's on the periphery, but I think it is part of our response to the emergency needs of the County would be the East End Helicopter service initiated in May of 2001, which of course, gives us both search and rescue and response to disaster capacity on the East End. This just shows you from phase one in May of 2001, the difference between East End medical calls and West End medical calls, East End search and rescue, West End, and then the current phase, where they are at now. So you can see the growth is obviously there for both medical and search and rescue calls on the East End. That's it.

Now, I'd like to show you in items of equipment that has been purchased in Emergency Services, the prime recipient, but we have several other pieces of equipment that are available to our officers. Right now, supervisor cars are the mobile labs, if you will, for a lot of this equipment that would be available on the scene in case of an

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emergency. But the most sophisticated of the response levels that we have are those levels where the officers have to go in a totally self contained environment. In effect, they have to create their own atmosphere around them. And these suits, I think the designation is Class A, correct?

AUDIENCE MEMBER:
Right.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
These are so called Class A suits, we have some members of the Emergency Service sections that are here today. And two things I'd like you to see is how -- you know, how these suits look when they're put on, and also the rather intense preparation that has to go into being able to function in these suits, the training an environment that has to be around the officer as these suits are both, you know, applied, as you put them on and as you work in them. So I'll turn this over to the Emergency Service people. This is Deputy Inspector Tom Brandon, who is commanding officer of Emergency Service and two of his officers here. I'll let him introduce them.

MR. BRANDON:
We have with us Officer Ed Irving and Officer Bob Diddo from the Emergency Service section. They're going to demonstrate -- Officer Diddo is going to put one of the Level A protective suits on. It includes a self contained breathing apparatus. As the Commissioner said, he has to carry his own air supply into the incident with him.

That suit is good for total vapor protection and splash protection against any kind of chemical or biological agent that the officers may encounter, weapons of mass destruction or any other kind of HAZMAT incident.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I might add that this -- what you are seeing are the suits that would go for those officers who have to actually get into -- right into what would be called, you know, a hot zone or a zone where normally you would not enter unless you are fully protected from whatever agent you are dealing with inside that zone. To go in other than with that kind of protection means that you become part of the problem, not part of the solution.

MR. BRANDON:

Most the equipment that you see before us is on patrol on a regular basis on an Emergency Service vehicle for rapid response. All the officers in the Emergency Service section are trained as hazardous materials technicians. In addition to that, they've been to form Fort Mc Clellan in Anniston, Alabama where they've trained with live chemical agents. We're in the process of cycling all the officers through the radiological training center out at the Nevada test site to respond radiological incidents.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

In addition to Class A, we have other class levels of suits that are available on a broader basis to officers in the Patrol Division. But I might stress that any suit, whatever level it's at, requires some previous training and some acclimation on the officer's part to the

fact that they're going to be enclosed in a rather tight area or closing in the suit itself. But Class A, as it implies, is like the highest level of protection.

MR. BRANDON:

Most of the equipment you see before you was purchased with the grant money and with the county funding that Deputy County Executive Michaels referred to early in the presentation. The primary mission of the officers in the Level A suits would be to go in and rescue any victims that are caught up in the weapons of mass destruction attack. The first priority would be life safety of rescuing people. After that, they would be going in looking to eventually gather evidence and begin the criminal investigation portion of the incident. If there are any questions, now would be a good time while they're getting dressed.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

I think the committee members are looking for a copy of that photo the Commissioner autographed. I notice you didn't try to put the suit on. I made a good observation on that.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I'm too short. And if you believe that, I have some other things I'd like to sell you. Actually a good point is that just to use these, the officer has to be in pretty top physical condition. You know, you're actually screened before you can be trained in these suits to make sure you're in proper physical condition to operate inside of them. I understand it's not easy to work inside of these suits under any conditions. I think the inspector too, while he ran over those things briefly, it's an indication of kind of both the support system that's available to us from the federal and national levels really, the schooling that we go through and that we send our officer to, goes all over the country really on being trained not just to use these things, not just to be able to get them on, but what to do when you're in them, what types of chemical and hazardous materials to use -- to look for, how to -- you know, how to develop a response to each one of them, and how to operate in this confined environment.

The other thing about the whole area of chemical and hazardous biological weaponry and materials, we've equipped -- we've provided each of our officers, every -- every officer in the Patrol Division has now a palm card that they carry in their memo book, which gives them certain symptoms to look for, concern conditions to be attentive to if they come upon what seems to be some form of a disaster scene and also reminding them what to do and more importantly, what not to do as first responders, you know, what to not perhaps follow as basic instinct, which is to go in and help, but to stay back if it's a type of material that would only cause them to be another victim if they go in. We try to, you know, make it clear to them, stay out of the way and wait for help and get one of these -- get into one of these protective suits whether it's A, B, or C level depending on how far into the hot zone they're going to go.

MR. BRANDON:

One of the first things that the Emergency Service Officers on the scene of a weapons of mass destruction of other kind of terrorism

incident would be looking to do would be to try to identify the type of agents that was used by the terrorist. On the table before you are two different types of meters that were also purchased through some of

those funds we discussed, designed to detect the presence of different chemical agents at such a scene. Again, these meters are out on patrol right on our emergency Service vehicles to give us as quick a response as possible. They're good for both chemical, and in some cases, there are some radiological capabilities here. We have other radiological devices that are out on patrol at this time also to determine if any radiological materials have been dispersed.

One thing to point out, and the Commissioner eluded to it, it's an ongoing process, the officers are being given basic training, advanced training and then retraining. It's not just a one shot deal. They are being constantly being refreshed and retrained in these procedures. Just when we come up to a concern point of training, the terrorist come out with another thing that we have to be aware of and train for. So it's a constant ongoing process with both our specialized officers and our patrol officer and investigators.

MR. MICHAELS:

Just going along with that also, the type of threats that Suffolk County has been advised of, we constantly try to meet with new and advanced technology. Recently, Congress had passed a funding bill, which has put out monies for communities to seek. And again, Suffolk County is approaching that, and we'll have an application -- or filed an application as recently as today with the federal government to seek additional funding for certain types of equipment that the Police Department will need to defend our coastline and the like. So we are constantly involved in that kind of seeking of funding to benefit the citizens of Suffolk County.

MR. BRANDON:

Once that zipper is up, this officer would then be ready to go in and either effect the rescue of any injured or incapacitated victims or determine what type of agent was used or commence the criminal investigation, whatever the priority was at that given point in time. Right now, that meter is sampling the air as Officer Diddo walks through the area.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

We don't want to know the results.

MR. BRANDON:

I was just thinking we'd be in trouble if it goes off.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Probably will. The luck we all have here.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Just to stress again, the training and the equipment that goes into a Class A suit responder is limited as it should be to those officers that are fully able to handle this kind of equipment and fully able to

operate under these rather difficult conditions. As you get down further away from the so-called hot zone, then the number of officers would be given suits available to them to operate in mass etcetera

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expands down to our patrol officers, the actual sector patrol officers, who don't use these suits but another kind of protective gear that they would use if they were on the periphery of the hot zone.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Commissioner, right after 9/11, we had a number of anthrax scares and you folks went out and collected them, is that what an officer would have to outfit himself in order to collect a sample?

MR. BRANDON:
No, we were able to use, and I believe Commissioner Fischler's personnel will be a showing a Level B suit, which is a little bit less. It's still -- we still chose to use the self contained breathing apparatus in one of the other suits up there. It's a different type of hazard. We were able to scale it down a little bit. We still went with a relatively high level of protection because even though it was suspected to be or threatened to be anthrax, we're relying on the terrorist to tell us it's anthrax. It still could have been other things. So we still went with the very high level of protection with that.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Other questions by members of the committee? Commissioner, I appreciate your presentation, very thorough.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Deputy Commissioner Michaels, could you just hang on one second, because one of the committee members needs to leave before four o'clock. I just want to do the agenda very quickly, then we'll go back to Fire, Rescue and EMS. We're going to go back to the agenda.

TABLED INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1270-2003. Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and

appropriating funds in connection with the repowering of Police Patrol Boats. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. Any discussion? There being none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1270 is APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1280-2003. Approving the appointment of Davis Carrigan as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Moving on to 1280. Motion by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by Legislator Crecca. Any discussion? There being none, all in favor?

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Opposed? Abstentions? 1280 is APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1281-2002. Approving the reappointment of Edward Walsh as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Bishop. Any discussion? There being none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1281 is APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1282-2003. Approving the reappointment of Kenneth Capon as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by Legislator Crecca, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. Any discussion? There being none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1283-2003. Approving the reappointment of Vincent Bologna, Jr. as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by Legislator Bishop, seconded by Legislator Crecca. Any discussion? There being none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1284-2003. Approving the reappointment of Richard Keller as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by Legislator Crecca. Any discussion? There being none, all in favor? All those opposed? Any abstentions? 1284 is APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1308-2003. Appointing Edward A. Carpenter, Jr. as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board. (LINDSAY)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by myself. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1308 is APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1322-2003. Accepting and appropriating 100% federal pass-through grant funds in the amount of \$295,664 from the NYS Emergency Management Office for the "All Hazards Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning Program" administered by the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant related agreements. (COUNTY EXEC)

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CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by myself to approve and place on the consent calendar, seconded by Legislator Crecca. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1322 is APPROVED and placed on the Consent Calendar. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1323-2003. Accepting and appropriating 100% New York State grant funds awarded by the NY Division of Criminal Justice Services for the purchase and installation of mobile data computers for the Sheriff's Office. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Motion by myself to approve and place on the consent calendar, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. Any discussion? There being none, all in favor? Opposed? Any abstentions? There being none, 1323 is APPROVED and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

1379-2003. Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the second floor construction, Special Patrol Bureau-Police Department. (COUNTY EXEC)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

This is the aviation unit in Islip. Motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Bishop to approve.

LEG. BISHOP:

No, no. I have a question. What's the --

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Will you second for the purpose of discussion?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Seconded by Legislator Bishop for the purpose discussion and possible approval. Offset from BRO is what?

MR. SABATINO:

Red light camera offset.

MR. DUFFY:

Red light.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

The red light camera offset. Is there money left in that fund or was money the used?

MR. DUFFY:

I believe there's money left in the fund.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

What's the other bill, Legislator Lindsay, do you know?

MR. SABATINO:

IR 1380 uses the same offset.

LEG. LINDSAY:

We took some money for the AEDs, and we also took some money to finish

Raynor Park.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Budget Review, if we approve the resolution along with the other items that were mentioned by Legislator Lindsay and possible 1380 that's mentioned by Counsel, is there going to be enough money to do all those things?

MR. DUFFY:

I'll have to check.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Obviously I know the answer to the question, but we have to put it on the record. The answer is you don't know.

MR. DUFFY:

I don't know.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

We'll do a motion to table then until we figure out what's going on with the offsets. Motion by Legislator Bishop, seconded by myself to table 1379 due to the fact that there is a conflict obviously with the offsets. Any discussion? There being none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1379 is TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

I'd ask that County Executive's staff, Mr. Michaels, if you'd work with Budget Review just to make sure we have an offset there that's going to work. I'm assuming the conflict, Counsel, is also the same with 1380.

1380-2003. Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the renovation, construction and additions to the Sixth Police Precinct (COUNTY EXEC)

MR. SABATINO:

Yes, same offset.

LEG. BISHOP:

Same motion.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Okay. Same motion. Any discussion? There being none, all those in favor? Opposed? 1380 is TABLED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

INTRODUCTORY SENSE RESOLUTIONS

Prime Sense 31-2003. Memorializing Resolution requesting equitable distribution of federal World Trade Center medical screening aid.
(LINDSAY)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Legislator Lindsay, motion to approve I'm assuming?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Second by myself. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Sense 31 is APPROVED. (VOTE: 4-0-0-2) (Not Present; Legis. Caracappa and Guldi)

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Commissioner Fischler, we'll move back to you. Do you want to do it by yourself or with EMS, Commissioner, whatever is good for you? No problem.

DEP. COMM. MICHAELS:

Just let me say before he begins, I want to make it clear that any of the references to the federal government funding do not override the fact that this Legislature has been more than generous to help law enforcement in Suffolk County. I don't want to sound like we're laying it all on the feds giving us money.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

No. It's about time they pay the bill though.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Thank you. Begin with, talk about the Suffolk County Terrorism Response Task Force. It was formed 1999, co-chaired by myself and Chief Tom Compitello, Chief of Patrol Tom Compitello from Suffolk County Police. One of the things I think you will hear time and time again between police, ourselves and EMS, the Health Department and other agencies that no one agency could do a response to terrorism by themselves. It's a team effort, and that's the way we've been addressing it within Suffolk County. The members of the Terrorism Response Task Force include county, local, state and federal partners. It involves law enforcement -- law enforcement emergency response and

Health. So -- and could include in that our partners from Nassau and New York City, because we look at it as a regional approach. Terrorism is beyond the boundaries of our County when we look at the Metropolitan New York Region.

It was already talked about, the grant, but just to continue to review them quickly, to apply for those grants, we had to do a risk assessment, we had a look at the capabilities of our first responders, and then the retirements to increase those capabilities. We had to identify that for law enforcement, health and EMS and for Fire, Rescue Services. The grants -- federal grants as Deputy County Exec Michaels indicated, we received the fifth largest in the country of the combined grants, the two years grants, the largest in New York State,

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which was really good, because we really actually got \$114 more than New York City, so that's always nice to see. But those grants were strictly for equipment, did not include any training, any other planning monies, but strictly for purchase of equipment. That equipment, as you've already seen some of the demonstrations today, included detection of monitoring equipment, response equipment, such as those suits, decontamination equipment, places that we could not only decon the civilian populations, but also the first responders. And we do a large amount of it similar to the meters you saw here today, the meters that were demonstrated by the Police Emergency Services, those meters also went out to HAZMAT teams that we have recognized in Suffolk County. Those include the Town of Babylon, Towns of Islip, Brookhaven, Southampton and East Hampton have met certain criteria to be considered a full time response capability HAZMAT team. They received those chemical agent monitors that were demonstrated.

In addition, it's interesting to know we received the second largest order in the country of one of the monitors, AP2C. And that second largest order -- the first largest went to the FBI, and we took the second largest order. Right after the second year of grants, the direct funding grants municipalities were stopped by Congress. And they became block grants to the states. The states received the money and then funneled the money locally. The problem was that many of the states in the initial two grants did not receive money. It was based on a formula in which high population areas with the risk assessments added to it were listed with the top 157 and started to receive those direct grants. But obviously there were concerns in other parts of the country where first responders were getting no money, therefore, all states received money through the Congressional Act, and that money has continued to flow that way through the state, and the state

then takes a portion of it and passes the rest down to local government. But they don't pass in terms of hard dollars, they pass it forward in terms of buying equipment and giving us the equipment. And the rationale behind that is that anywhere in the state, there will be standardization of equipment. Therefore, if we responded to Nassau, if we responded to Buffalo, we would be working -- those response groups should be working with the same type of equipment so that we don't have to say we've never used that before.

That was one of the things showing during the World Trade Center response particularly with some of the urban search and rescue teams did not have similar equipment and could not match and marry the different types of equipment, doing the same function. So the need to standardize really became important. The Governor's WMD Task Force allots that money -- excuse me -- allots that equipment to local municipalities. We've been very successful. We've received five trailers with similar equipment that was mentioned before; detection, response, monitoring, decon. And those trailers are being strategically placed throughout Suffolk County. We are the largest county to receive Level A trailers, which is the highest level of trailer capability giving us monitoring -- giving us the most sophisticated equipment.

The only other area in New York State that received more trailers than we did is New York City. So we received five trailers that are

strategically going to be placed. We've received already three, two will be delivered in the next few weeks, and they will be strategically placed throughout the County for response. These trailers because they are coming from the state also are available to respond anywhere in the state. And similarly, if we needed them, we can reach out and have trailers from other parts of the state respond here with the same equipment. The police -- with this task force, the police will be getting a one -- one total containment bomb unit. And then the next segment that they have just initiated is going to be pouches, and in those pouches are going to be air purifying respirators, protective suits and gloves. Every police officer in the county, not only Suffolk County Police, but all the other jurisdictions will be receiving a pouch. In addition, those pouches will be placed on EMS vehicles. Currently, they won't be going any -- going to the Fire Service, because Fire Service already maintains -- has the self contained breathing apparatus. That project will be an extensive project based just on the sheer numbers of our Fire, EMS and Police Officers in the County.

Post 9/11, Suffolk County continued to lead our fight against terrorism and being prepared for terrorism response. This Legislature, during that budget process immediately after 9/11, included \$2 million of dedicated funds to FRES, Police and Health. And that allowed us to really jump head and get many of our needs addressed. We purchased in FRES eight trailers for response and decontamination equipment, again, to be strategically placed in areas throughout the County, available to all County residents and emergency responders. Additionally, we purchased an additional three trailers just for decontamination. Specialized Fire Service teams are being formed with specific training in hazardous materials and the use of chemical protective clothing to perform victim extraction from a chemical incident.

Two of my fire marshals, Senior Fire Marshall Ed Springer, Fire Marshall Joe Kuethen -- I'm not going to make them dress, you've seen it, the dressing's the same. I guess there's only one person watching us. Hold up the suit. And Inspector Brandon referred to this before, the dressing is similar to -- this is a one Level B suit, what you saw before was a Level A suit. This is a Level B suit. It involves basically the same dressing requirements. The difference is that the breathing apparatus is worn on the outside, therefore, there is a limitation, but the same boots. The material is limited in two exposures, and it can be put on. It involves the same requirements; they have to be physically fit and meet certain hazardous material OSHA requirements and FDA requirements. Okay. You can put it down. Thanks.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Is that a negative air respirator or self contained?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

It's a self contained breathing apparatus, and it's positive pressure. So you create a positive pressure within the mask. The teams that are being formed, there are eight teams that are being formed throughout the County, they are coming from the Fire Service who will respond to the scene, then suit up, and the dressing will take the same time.

You ever to realize the response and the number one obligation is that our personnel go home safe at the end of the tour. We realize that there are going to be victims, but we have to ensure that our personnel who are going into the hazard areas are well protected and they do not become a victim themselves. These teams will be there to do suit rescues similar to what has occurred in other jurisdictions where they've developed chemical protective clothing units, fire

units. But not every unit will have it, certain ones will receive a level of training. When the training is completed, we will have close to one thousand first -- Fire Service first responders capable of responding to perform this function.

Pre 9/11, the County Legislature and the County Exec's Office had been again proactive in providing funding for purchase of a tractor trailer decontamination unit with male-female capability. It also has outside hose capability for washing people down. Suffolk County Fire Academy has been approved and funded by the US Department of Justice to teach emergency response to terrorism. The multi-agency bomb exercises we've been doing -- the first one was at the Dennison Building. We did smaller scale ones thereafter. Suffolk County Fire Academy together with the Department of Health's EMS Division developed a fire EMS course in donning and doffing personal protective equipment and medication administration.

Federal Emergency Management Administration has funded two major table top exercises and development of additional smaller table top exercises for multi-jurisdictional response to chem bio incidents. The -- along with that, we have developed a group of facilitators. The facilitators work as a team of personnel from my office, Police and EMS to coordinate these table top exercises. We do is we go into either precinct areas or townships out east, we bring in together the first responders.

All of us as bosses can be the best in the world, but if it isn't the police officer, the first due firefighter on the first due engine, the first due ambulance crew, if it isn't for them having the training, making those critical decisions early on, our level doesn't mean anything. There the ones who really need to have that experience. We bring them together in a table top format to address how they would handle, we give them a scenario of a chemical exercise or a biological exercise, let them start working in a multi-jurisdictional approach, working with each other to address the issues. These are the people that with going to be there for first half hour to an hour, these are the people who are going to set the tone, as we saw in the TWA crash where the tone was set early on by the precinct sergeant who grabbed control and started putting a perimeter on there and controlled the situation early on. If we don't train our lowest level of personnel in each of our agencies to handle these incidents early on, we will lose control of them, it will take us a while to catch up, as we've seen in adjacent areas when they've had mass casualty incidents. We've also had within -- based on federal funding at no cost to the County, US Department of Justice as administered and presented by the Texas A&M University in weapons of mass destruction, incident command, EMS and WMD. And the one in June we'll be presenting is a DPW response to terrorism.

The Department of Defense has given us hand-off out courses to our Fire Academy and to EMS and then all of us, law enforcement, fire, EMS have participated in federal, state and local drills including New York City and Nassau County exercises in terrorism response. As I said none of us could stand alone. We need to have -- work as a regional approach and together in items of response. We have intermunicipal coordination, mutual aide plans, technical support and just simple meetings to work put what we do. Part of the -- what the task force does, we do notification advisories on a periodic basis from the agencies that Commissioner Gallagher eluded to before, some of intelligence gathering agencies, periodically, we put for advisories for Emergency Service Personnel making them aware of certain threats or certain concerns that they should have in the response. The task force puts that out to the members of emergency response community.

And finally, what we've done at the Terrorism Response Task Force has been to develop a policy and procedure for the Fire EMS personnel to respond, and these are just representative examples of this; bomb threats, bomb response, gross decontamination and other SOP unified commands; sick building syndrome and syndromic monitoring. Basically, that's the overview of what Fire and Rescue has been involved in, particularly interacting with the Fire Services and EMS members, but -- you know, with the development of these chemical protective clothing units to do suit rescue, which is going to definitely make a difference in the event that we ever had to respond. Any questions? Thank you. And now, I'll let Dr. Alicandro.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Thank you, Commissioner.

DR. ALICANDRO:

Thank you. I'll try to be brief because some of it is overlapping, and I'll skip over the redundancies. But we do a lot of intergraded planning and training and response protocols together as well as the Health Department involving not just EMS but other first responders, such as Public Health, which plays a large role, particularly in biologic, the environmental lab persons, medical examiner, information systems, administration, patient care, pharmacy has been involved and public information officers.

Just going to give you an overview today. And Commissioner Fischler mentioned the Terrorism Response Task Force, which we participate in and also have participated in several work groups that were engendered by this County group. These included a hospital decontamination

subcommittee, which developed a planning guide for hospital patient decontamination cognizant of the fact that many patients historically self refer to hospitals, and they need to be prepared as well as first responders. They actually become first responders, so we spend a great deal of time training and coordinating with our hospitals.

We have a BT, Bio Terrorism Subcommittee that has multiple work groups, including pharmacy dispatch, surveillance, environment sampling, coordination of a volunteer pool that we're developing and training of those individuals and emergency procurement procedures we we're on. And that's in conjunction with FRES and Police, etcetera,

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we all work together. We have developed field triage and decontamination triage guidelines for our first responders. We've coordinated with the Police Department, with our public health personnel to enhance the EPI investigations such that the chain of custody is preserved and evidence is preserved, and that's ongoing, and also worked with police on security plans for points of distribution and receipt of the national pharmaceutical stockpile, which I'll talk about in a minute.

We started meeting monthly with our Hospitals in November of 2001 after September 11th and meet also with FRES personnel and these groups the second Friday of every month, and the military's been involved as well. And we've had multiple discussions and presentations on biological, chemical, radiologic agents, incident command structure and communications. And it's a really good forum to hear what they have to say and what their needs are as far as training, etcetera, that we can work on. After the smallpox vaccine program began, we've included also infection control practitioners and some of the medical societies who are assisting us with that and other programs. We also participate in a New York City Metro area bio-terrorism work group that involves Connecticut, New Jersey, Westchester and Nassau as well as New York City. That's developed some standardized epidemiologic investigations forms, surveillance strategies and notifications interregionally and communication for biologic events.

We're working currently with the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and several of the hospital groups on various issues as well including standardized treatment protocols for victims of weapons of mass destruction including biologic and chemical agents and training and education for medical professionals. And we also just started working with Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and two of our regional resource hospitals, which are Stony Brook and North Shore in planning for surge

capacity, which is a big thing to plan for in a weapons of mass destruction event because of the current status of hospitals in our region.

We're also working with the State Medical Advisory Committee, BT work Group, on developing standardized state-wide protocols, which we've completed for nerve agent exposures, cyanide exposures and pediatric dosing for those agents. We are looking at -- we actually looked at and developed standardized awareness training for hospital personnel and EMS providers that was disseminated, and our ongoing work is on personal protective equipment for hospitals once patients arrive there, destination determinations and decontamination at the hospitals. The County Executive has formed a long term planning committee that many of the individuals here participate on that work with Nassau for bi-County response, and that's also broken into work groups at this point.

We've done a couple of self-assessments including a CDC self-assessment document and have submitted our draft bio-terrorism plan to the state, also developed a smallpox response plan that was submitted to the state in February of this year. Training is the key to any weapons of mass destruction response because the individuals who's first to encounter the situation needs to recognize, keep

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themselves safe and commence the cascade of response that we're talking about. So it's really key to train all the individuals who may be the first on scene or to encounter in their office or hospital a victim of a biologic or chemical release. So we've undertaken training on a large scale in multiple venues. The Department of Health Services personnel themselves have been trained in multiple areas and have provided focus training to public health physicians, nurses and analysts, sanitarians, environmental lab, medical examiner personnel and patient care division have all been trained on awareness.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Doctor, just a question. Who's been doing the -- just to go over it.

DR. ALICANDRO:

Mostly public health -- for the public health personnel, Dr. Graham, Dr. {Mysner}, who's the BT coordinator and myself. Bob Delagi, Carl Klug from EMS have been doing EMS personnel and some of the fire councils, etcetera.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Now, what about the fire department's ambulance companies, particularly those fire departments that do EMS and fire together?

DR. ALICANDRO:

We're going to get to that. We've included the many --

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

Okay. I'm jumping ahead. I'm sorry.

DR. ALICANDRO:

That's okay. We've included WMD awareness training in all of our EMS training courses as a standard part of original and refresher training. We have a stand-alone CME non core class in awareness, which last year, trained 350 students. And we've going to the fire councils and EMS councils on BT issues. We've also sent out mailings on approach of infectious patients and smallpox vaccine response and also SARS recently. Public health received training in smallpox vaccination clinic, education and vaccinator training and delivered a clinic here for Department of Health Service personnel and hospital personnel. We and EMS presented an overview and vaccine overview to EMS leadership and fire leadership and instructor groups in the County. And also, the Police Department received some training from public health.

We also presented an overview class to Medical and Dental Societies. The Dental Society is one of our volunteer groups, funeral directors, EMS instructors, hospitals, law enforcement groups, community and business leaders. And we're currently looking at a hospital training needs assessment to go forward with further hospital training. So this is just the module that we developed that's in all the EMS certification classes and other courses that are offered to EMS agencies including fire based EMS agencies, besides WMD awareness, EMS incident command and multiple casualty incident management, crime scene management and HAZMAT awareness for EMS.

The -- Commissioner Fischler eluded to the field decon triage and medical treatment of a chemical exposure class that was developed with EMS and Fire Academy, this is a nine hour course, it's very intensive. There's a medical component as well as a suit training decon component that we cooperatively offer, that's a pretty intensive big time commitment. So we're working on that. We have trained 135 students in that class and an additional 80 in the medical component that we're going to proceed with suit training. And that includes antidote administration for nerve agents, that's something we're working on.

We offered a radiologic response training for hospital personnel, a three day course from the REACTS group out of Tennessee that was very well received, and that's on hospital approach to contaminated radiologic victims.

We've also provided fit testing training for N-95 masks, which we have one over we can pass around, but that's for biologic exposures. It requirements fit testing. We've done a train the trainer for EMS and fire personnel so they can train their -- fit test and train their persons in use of this to be used for suspected smallpox, SARS, things like that, and police have also been trained in this -- use of this mask. And again, we've done multiple mailings that I've talked about. And we're setting up training for each hospital for a core responder group for HAZMAT response in each hospital, such that their approach to contaminated victims will be uniform. Eight of the hospitals have already been done, we're bringing them all up to speed. We had to just department-wide biologic event table tops for our medical directors in different divisions to bring them all up to speed as well. And FRES mentioned the drills they did. The ME also had multiple drills, the last one included Nassau for mass -- mass fatality events, and we've participated in metro regional drills as well.

The table tops you heard about. We recently has a RACES, an amateur radio communications drill with all our hospitals, points of distribution, the EOC and the Department of Health Services Building, we had that -- we had that in March, and that was a success. In August we're holding a county-wide hospital and County department drill that will include infection control, emergency department personnel, security and administration from each hospital as well as County Emergency Management structure, and that will be a biologic event, simulated. Surveillance, as Commissioner Fischler eluded to, has had mechanisms in place since '99, and before that with public health even on a daily basis. Daily 911 calls are tracked as well as detail ME reports, four sentinel hospitals report daily on different syndromes and volume and unexpected deaths. And public health actually phones daily each hospital to inquire about different syndromes and unusual occurrences that they might have seen.

School districts also report absenteeism. We went to daily on that last year. We participate with the health information network from the state, which provides alerts and also reporting mechanisms for the different regions. We -- specific notifications, we send out to hospitals, EMS agencies and also have included dispatched most recently with the SARS outbreak. A veterinarian link has been established for them to report anything they might see, and there's a biostatistician currently working on trying to coordinate all this

data into one data base to develop baseline and triggers. Broadcast FAX capabilities exist for EMS and fire agencies, hospitals and physician practitioners for notifications. And we're exploring expanding that notification capability with a high speed computer based system and also a reversed 911 system, which is in place, we're working on that.

And we've facilitated access to the state-wide health information network for the Department of Health Services personnel and partners, such as FRES, police and nursing homes, etcetera. The Health Department and EMS have websites where notifications are posted for public and EMS for EMS agencies and fire agencies. Public notification procedures are in place that are being refined. And the EOC in Yaphank and hospital links is via EMS and medical control should an incident unfold. We're working on additional hospital notifications. They have VHF radios in place, 800 megahertz radios, which has been on ongoing project, is nearing completion and making good progress now with several hospitals completed. Those 800 radios are also in ambulances and besides FRES and police, DHS personnel also have 800 megahertz capability now. The RACES group I mentioned have been established, that's the amateur radio group and MOUs have been established for their use in hospitals and points of distribution should mass prophylaxis be necessary.

Department of Health Services also continues to explore procuring an ETEAM, which a command and control software for hospitals to be able to link to the EOC, and we're continues to work on that. FRES has that in place at the EOC. We're also interdepartmentally looking at other communication capabilities. And again, I think some of these where mentioned, but several standard operating procedures are in place including chemical expose, suspected anthrax, radiologic, multiple casualty incidents, mass decon, sick building syndrome. The DMRT is a Disaster Medical Response Team, which is a physician group of 12 volunteer physicians, who have agreed to participate in mass casualty incidents. We do training with them and they're a part of a notification plan as well. And a protocol for nerve agent exposure locally was developed as well.

You heard about FRES's equipment that they procured. We also have procured nerve agent antidotes, and those have been deployed, I'll show you in a minute. Also additional patient care supply, such as oxygen administration supplies, triage materials and chemical PPE for the physician group I spoke about and Department of Health Services personnel. Okay. This ongoing training for antidote, nerve agent antidote, is crucial and is very time intensive. We're now going to start targeting EMS agencies who have requested use of these kits for this training and the DMRT members are also getting trained. The

Mark I kits have been distributed regionally to each hospital for rapid deployment to a region and also for use in victims that may self-refer. The Medivacs have both been equipped and trained in the use of these kits. The ESU Emergency Services Unit that you heard about, all three vehicles are equipped and trained and staff members from the, three staff members, have also been outfitted with cases of these kits for deployment to the scene. And the training that was contingent with receiving these kits has been delivered to hospitals as well as the agencies I just spoke about. For mass prophylaxis

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we're -- we have ongoing planning, we have identified distribution sites should that become necessary. MOUs were executed with those sites. Site security has been addressed by the Police Department, traffic plans have been developed by the Police Department and additional sites were identified should the incident warrant increased capacity, such as in a smallpox incident that would require prophylaxis.

Medical history forms have been developed and flow diagrams for running of these clinics, fact sheets and algorithms are being worked on. We did have some limited antibiotic stockpiling for prophylaxis locally. And planning for repackaging those and transportation is underway. The Nation Pharmaceutical Stockpile, which is a large cache of pharmaceuticals, ventilators, intubation equipment, things of that nature, a site has been identified for receipt and breakdown of these supplies, and planning is under way for distribution to hospitals and points of distribution. Biologic PPE was procured for epidemiologic teams, points of distribution personnel who will be working there, and as I mentioned, a BT coordinator was hired in public health. We've also had a pool of personnel identified with -- as to capability; physician, nurse, etcetera and language translation that they can provide, and we are refining the recall mechanism, I spoke about.

I talked about the smallpox vaccine clinics that were provided. The last clinic was held March 13th. So each hospital has a smallpox educator in place, and 32 vaccinators have been trained and vaccinated in the County. There was a clinic plan for April 15th that was put on hold because of the cardiac complication fears. I hear that there's another one being planned now, two hospitals have come forward for vaccinator training. A volunteer pool, we're also working with Nassau County on developing a volunteer pool of non physicians, other health personnel, credentialing and cross-credentialing between hospitals and subject matter experts for resourcing. Lab capability was expanded. We had some difficulty after the anthrax scares where the turn around time was quite prolonged from up in Albany, so MOUs are in place with

Nassau County Health Department for testing as well as contract with a Connecticut lab, and the state was investigating a regional lab that -- is in progress.

Response dispatch for specific incidents have been developed as they come up like SARS, and those are disseminated. Dispatch is being worked on -- worked with for notification, we've presented that at the 911 Commission to look at training and triggers at dispatch level, to coordinate resources and to improve EMS and hospital interaction and notifications and preparedness. Mass fatalities, there's an excellent plan in place. PPE and fit testing for staff has been done, and they're looking for storage and legal issues. Radiation, we have a response plan in place. Potassium iodide was provided for Fishers Island, part of which is within the ten mile radius of Millstone. Planning is ongoing for mass casualty incidents, however. And detection equipment was requested from the state including individual dosimeters for EMS personnel who may be exposed to an incident so they can keep track of exposure.

Mental health has sites in place through Project Liberty for counseling and referral, our part of the plan for mass prophylaxis for

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on-site mental health. And there's a critical incident stress management team in place for Public Safety responders. Current thing we're working on that's the biggest nut to crack is mass care. Looking at personnel sites, alternate sites, bed allocation, matrix and things of that nature, supplies and communications. Any questions?

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:
No.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:
Dr. Alicandro, thank you very much for your thorough presentation. Mr. Michaels, anything else?

MR. MICHAELS:
I just wanted to say that this is just a tip on the iceberg. I hope that this gives you a comfort zone in terms of knowing that the County -- the County has been preparing as best we know how to protect the lives and safety of the public. And we -- we understand your concerns and are willing to listen to any recommendations you might have to

proceed in the protection of life and limb in Suffolk County.

I also would like to say that although we've named the three primary providers of safety -- first responders, there are many other agencies within Suffolk County that in a time of crisis have been trained and will loan their manpower to assist. For example, our Probation Department loans the manpower to assist us in communications during -- during any type of disaster. The Sheriff's Department is well -- agency --excuse me -- is well aware of their role and has, as was noted, takes part in the emergency response. The volunteers across the County, the hospitals and so on are all very much up to speed, and we will keep them up to speed as long as we find ourselves in this dilemma. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN TOWLE:

We appreciate your time. The Sheriff's Office has given me a briefing on their involvement with the task force. And we'll give them an opportunity when we do our Capital Program for them to make that presentation. Today we just wanted to focus on the three lead agencies, so to speak. Obviously, I thought today's presentation was extremely helpful for the committee members, particularly as we move toward the Capital Budget hearings, and I think to better understand some of the needs and requirements of each of the agencies. And I appreciate your office coordinating everything. We have no other cards before the committee, so we will stand adjourned at 4:05. Thank you.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:05 P.M.*)

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