



Larry Hogan | Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford | Lt. Governor

Russell J. Strickland | Acting Secretary

FROM: Maryland Department of Emergency Management

November 15, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Bldg, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Luke H. Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Office House Bldg, Room 101
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Bldg, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Office House Bldg, Room 121
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Joint Chairmans's Report - State Operating Budget Bill Domestic Terrorism Taskforce

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair McIntosh, Chair Smith, and Chair Clippinger,

In accordance with the 2022 Joint Chairman's Report budget section D50H01 which requires the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to submit a report of the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism, please accept this letter as a fulfillment of the required notification.

The ad hoc Task Force met on Tuesday October 26 at 100 Community Place in Crownsville, Maryland. Participants included representatives from the legislature, the Executive Branch, and other interested parties as required per the Joint Chairman's Report. Participants were also consulted throughout the preceding months to gather information on current and emerging initiatives, and the current use of Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds in Maryland.

Our task was to detail how HSGP funds received by MDEM have been expended to support programs to counter domestic terrorism and the extent to which that spending aligns with the recommendations of the task force. This letter is to update the committees with the findings of the Task Force and any other recommended



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actions to counter domestic terrorism.

The meeting agenda included:

- The origin of the "Task Force"
- The history of grant funds in combating Domestic Terrorism
- Current expenditures-tracing the funds
- Current capabilities-systems/structures
- Perspective from subject matter experts
- Conclusions and recommendations

In Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY21) the HSGP award for Maryland is \$11,595,897. These funds flow to sub-awardees throughout Maryland and must target expenditures approved by the US Department of Homeland Security. This grant becomes a component of the overall funding and in-kind services provided for state and local homeland security and emergency management programs to prevent, detect, to prepare for and to respond to, domestic terrorism and all-hazards caused by threats and hazards identified in Maryland.

These grant funds resulted in, along with a blend of other funding sources, the acquisition and sustainment of the following sample capabilities discussed and identified by task force members (note-not all items on this list are funded exclusively by HSGP funds):

- Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC)
- Anti Terrorism Advisory Council-US Attorney for Maryland
- Joint Terrorism Task Force
- Maryland State Police and State Fire Marshal (Hate Bias Report)
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)- Baltimore/National Capital Region; Work Groups (projects and capabilities)
- Maryland Active Assailant Interagency Work Group
- Domestic Violence Extremist Threat Analyst (2021 funding)
- National Homeland Security Conferences-Domestic Terror Track
- Maryland Incident Management Team
- Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) Prevention Preparedness Specialists (including cyber planning staff)
- LiNX (legal information exchange)



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- CCTV surveillance and event management
- DHS-CISA Protective Security Advisors (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency)
- Various academic initiatives/research partners/white papers to guide policy decisions
- Training/webinars/conferences/symposiums
- Other non-specified emergency management and public safety tools, equipment, and personnel for prevention, protection, detection, planning, response, and recovery activities

After reviewing the various capabilities directed toward domestic terrorism, the Task Force then discussed various key themes and recommendations which included:

1. Greater engagement of the academic community to identify trends and best practices in strategy. These resources should be integral partners in identifying best practices and emerging trends in crafting our strategies.
2. Generating an annual report on domestic terrorism activities, and investments in prevention and response.
3. Explore funding analyst positions in planning and intelligence offices.
4. Acknowledging funding for the identified capabilities once grant funding ceases.
5. Engagement of public health professionals for earlier intervention in persons becoming radicalized or at risk of committing an act of terrorism.
6. Increase stakeholder engagement within the whole community, strategies must include participation by non-governmental agencies.(COAD/VOAD)
7. Benchmark initiatives from other states and countries.
8. The impact of social media in radicalizing and activating/coordinating domestic terror groups and events.
9. Examine best practices and other frameworks for strategies including the National Governors Association strategy road map
10. Explore funding opportunities in other grant programs including Federal infrastructure/recovery packages.
11. Consider the possibility of terror acts committed by cyber attack vectors. Planning must consider these scenarios.
12. Continuing a Task Force to examine the strategic issues and/or create a coordinating group to align current efforts.



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13 The ideal method for prevention should result from efforts on encouraging and facilitating earlier reporting of emerging threats.

14. Efficient use of federal and state prosecution efforts, tools, and rehabilitation programs to prevent recidivism.

In conclusion, the Task Force members were very appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the review prior, current and future efforts to reduce the risk and impact of domestic terrorism in Maryland. The members were enthusiastically engaged in sharing and exploring future strategies to continue and expand our efforts.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided, please feel free to contact me at 410-517-3600.

Sincerely,

**Russell J.
Strickland** Digitally signed by
Russell J. Strickland
Date: 2021.11.15
12:01:09 -05'00'

Russell Strickland
Acting Secretary

Cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 Copies)