

The amended bill provides \$50,000,000 for Interoperable Emergency Communication Grants as proposed by the House instead of \$100,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. This program shall be implemented in accordance with the 9/11 Act. The Committees on Appropriations direct a briefing on the implementation of GAO recommendations contained in GAO-07-031.

#### Emergency Operations Centers

The amended bill provides \$15,000,000 for Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). The Committees on Appropriations are aware of the needs of State and local governments for adequate emergency operations centers to improve unified command capabilities. Therefore funding is included for the equipping, upgrading, and constructing of EOCs pursuant to section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the 9/11 Act.

#### Grant Management System

The Committees on Appropriations urge FEMA to consider the use of tracking and accountability systems to assist in managing grant allocations, distribution, expenditures, and asset tracking, and encourage usage of multi-state cooperative purchasing agreements.

#### Slowness in Awarding Grants

The Committees on Appropriations direct FEMA to implement the law, including the timeframes for issuing State and local grant funds. It is imperative the agency and the Department take State and local partners in homeland security seriously by ensuring needed resources are expeditiously provided for known risks.

#### National Programs

The amended bill provides \$299,300,000 for training, exercises, technical assistance, and other programs instead of \$293,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$294,500,000 as proposed by the Senate.

#### National Domestic Preparedness Consortium

Included within the amount provided for National Programs, \$88,000,000 is for the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium as proposed by both the House and Senate. Consortium members funded in fiscal year 2007 shall receive \$22,000,000 pursuant to the 9/11 Act.

#### Center for Domestic Preparedness

Included within the amount provided for National Programs, \$62,500,000 is for the Center for Domestic Preparedness as proposed by the Senate instead of \$57,000,000

as proposed by the House. Within the funding provided, \$5,500,000 is for the Noble Training Center. The amended bill contains language providing the Center authority to accept reimbursements from others receiving training.

#### Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium

Included within the amount provided for National Programs, \$8,800,000 is for the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC). The RDPC provides technical assistance and training for terrorism prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in support of rural homeland security requirements. FEMA is directed to continue the development of specialized and innovative training curricula for rural first responders and ensure the coordination of such efforts with existing grants and training partners.

#### Technical Assistance

Included within the amount provided for National Programs, \$12,000,000 is for technical assistance instead of \$18,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$14,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

#### Demonstration Training Grants

Included within the amount provided for National Programs, \$28,000,000 is for demonstration training grants as proposed by the Senate. The House included funding for a program which combined the demonstration and continuing training grants. FEMA shall give priority to training that benefits nation-wide initiatives including those that identify and disseminate preparedness and response best practices to States and locals and are conducted at or in cooperation with universities, colleges, and community colleges.

#### Continuing Training Grants

Included within the amount provided for National Programs, \$31,000,000 is for continuing training grants as proposed by the Senate. The House included funding for a program which combined the demonstration and continuing training grants. The Committees on Appropriations support programs which consistently deliver homeland security curricula in the form of executive education programs and accredited Masters Degree education. The Committees on Appropriations recommend full funding for the graduate-level homeland security education programs currently supported by the Department and encourage the Department to leverage these existing programs to meet the growing need for graduate-level education.

#### Evaluations and Assessments

Included within the amount provided for National Programs, \$19,000,000 is for evaluations and assessments as proposed by the House and the Senate. FEMA shall brief the Committees on Appropriations every six months on results from completed