



# VANGUARD

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR STATE & LOCAL POLICYMAKERS

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## Volunteers play growing role in emergency response operations

*By: Mead Treadwell and Chris Nelson, Editors*

Government leaders are recognizing that some of the most innovative ideas in disaster preparedness and response are coming from the private sector. That's why they are tapping into the organizational skills and technological expertise of business and volunteer organizations to develop more effective emergency relief efforts.

A good example is the Pathfinder Task Force, an incident management team concept created in 1999 in response to Hurricane Floyd by The Eagles Wings Foundation, a faith-based non-profit organization headquartered in Palm Beach, Fla.

"Floyd was rated as a Category 5 hurricane when it hit the Bahamas," recalled Scott Lewis, The Eagles Wings Foundation's volunteer president. "In contrast, Hurricane Katrina was rated as a Category 3 when it came ashore in Louisiana and Mississippi."

A former firefighter who now owns and operates a gardening business, Lewis responded when local fire chiefs in the Bahamas asked for assistance from their U.S. counterparts. Flying to the Bahamas in a single engine Cessna with other volunteers, Lewis arrived in Hope Town, Great Abaco, and found that the uncoordinated relief activities were having little success.

"Donations were not reaching victims, volunteer efforts were chaotic and military relief was not coordinated with volunteer relief," he explained. "I worked with local leaders and groups to organize an incident command structure based on models we had studied at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. We set up 14 groups which dealt with matters ranging from structural evaluation to security, from utilities to finance. Everybody knew who to get their directions from and it became a team instead of an individual effort."

That experience led Lewis to develop the Pathfinder Task Force model and set up The Eagles Wings Foundation to aid disaster victims in the United States and Caribbean region. The Pathfinders' incident management team includes a Talk Force Leader, Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance Sections Chiefs, a medical officer, an IT specialist, a supply depot unit leader and a military liaison officer. All are unpaid volunteers who have disaster management, fire rescue or military command experience.

Pathfinder Task Force volunteers deployed to Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina where they combined with local, state, federal and military responders to organize a 1,500 person response team. The Pathfinders relied heavily on survivors within the impact area who were organized into strike teams which used grid search patterns to conduct 126,000 door to door interviews in 14 days. The unmet special needs of homebound senior citizens and persons with disabilities were identified and targeted for the delivery of response services.

Since Katrina, the Pathfinder Task Force has developed a mobile software solution with GPS tracking that uses an inexpensive commercially available cell phone that can collect, document and collate electronic data for accurate street mapping and the identification of homebound survivors' special needs. This technology can work in an entirely disconnected environment where cell phone towers have been destroyed or disabled. Pathfinders has also created a system to conduct instant background checks on unaffiliated volunteers as well as a compressed training program to quickly train volunteers on the new technology.

Lewis was one of the non governmental organization leaders invited to brief the United States Northern Command on volunteer assets and opportunities at a recent command sponsored disaster preparedness conference. Other participating organizations included the American Red Cross, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Industry Leaders Association and Business Executives for National Security.

Integrating public and private sector organizations into the emergency response actions of federal, state and local government agencies is essential to building a unified, effective disaster relief team.

"Pathfinders gets everyone working together regardless of their agency affiliations," Lewis stated. "Our focus always is on survivors."

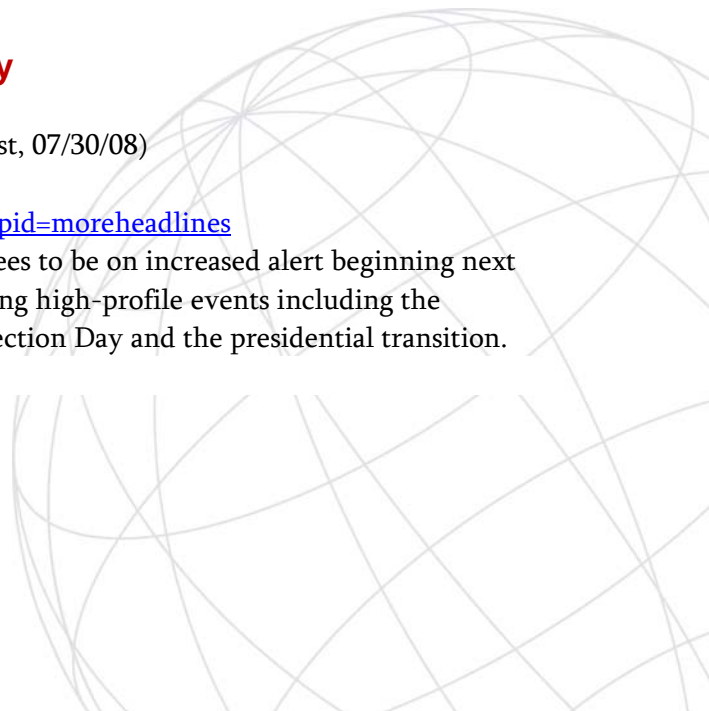
## From the Wires this Week

### Emergency Management/Homeland Security

**DHS urges vigilance over next 12 months** (Washington Post, 07/30/08)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/28/AR2008072802544.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

The Department of Homeland Security is advising employees to be on increased alert beginning next month through next summer because of a series of upcoming high-profile events including the Olympics, both major parties' nominating conventions, Election Day and the presidential transition.



**Have a plan: Integrated emergency management takes on importance** (Auburn-Reporter.com, 07/30/08)

[http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/aub/opinion/26005509.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/aub/opinion/26005509.html)

When looking at emergency management, it is important that communities and their elected officials look realistically at what is needed. Too often the issue is left to traditional first responders, when many times public works, community services and administration need to take the lead. Emergency management is not just responding to an event, it includes all four facets (planning, response, recovery and mitigation) and should include all disciplines.

**LNG infrastructure security: a surging market** (Homeland Security Research, 07/29/08)

<http://www.homelandsecurityresearch.net/2008/07/29/lng-infrastructure-security-a-surging-market/>

There is a “perfect storm” brewing in the homeland security market – a combination of a large, growing market demand eclipsing the aviation security market; high exposure to terrorist activities with a corresponding large risk of damage to life and the economy; and a growing gap between the accelerating infrastructure development and awareness by the homeland security vendors. This perfect storm has formed in the LNG infrastructure security market.

**U.S. online travel permit to enter force in January** (canada.com, 07/29/08)

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/world/story.html?id=a88c7a14-f866-4ecf-b6e2-0e51ee75507a>

People who do not need a visa to fly to the United States will have to answer questions about their health and past crimes under a new electronic system unveiled in Brussels. The Electronic System for Travel Authorization will be needed by all U.S.-bound travelers from the 27 so-called visa waiver countries from January 12, 2009.

**TSA to expand Registered Traveler** (Government Computer News, 07/25/08)

[http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1\\_no1/46735-1.html?topic=homeland-security&CMP=OTC-RSS](http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/46735-1.html?topic=homeland-security&CMP=OTC-RSS)

The Transportation Security Administration announced that it is opening the Registered Traveler program to any airport that wants to use it, and is eliminating the \$28 fee it has charged to perform background checks. But TSA also is distancing itself from the public-private program, which uses biometric cards for identity verification to speed members through airport security checkpoints.

**GAO unsure about TSA's ability to meet security deadlines** (Government Executive, 07/25/08)

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0708/072508cdam1.htm>

The Government Accountability Office raised fresh doubts about the Transportation Security Administration's ability to meet the congressionally imposed August 2010 deadline for screening 100 percent of air cargo.

**Democrats urge suspension of new threat alert system** (The Wall Street Journal, 07/24/08)

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121693824624682635.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121693824624682635.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

Responding to warnings in a government audit, congressional Democrats are calling on the Homeland Security Department to suspend a new threat alert system until the program is retooled to meet state and local needs.

## **Communications and Information Security**

**GAO: Most sensitive data on government laptops still unencrypted** (computerworld.com, 07/29/08)

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9110983>

Despite a series of high-profile data breaches at federal agencies in recent years, only about 30% of the sensitive information stored on laptops and mobile devices used by federal workers was encrypted as of last September, according to a report issued by the Government Accountability Office.

**BAE Systems agrees to buy Detica for \$1.05 Billion** (Bloomberg.com, 07/28/08)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601102&sid=aYKAJmEFxwxE&refer=uk>

BAE Systems Plc, Europe's biggest defense company, agreed to pay 531 million pounds (\$1.05 billion) for Detica Group Plc as it expands its homeland-security business. BAE offered 440 pence in cash for each share of Detica, whose software supports U.K. Ministry of Defense counter-terrorism operations and tax-fraud detection by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the London-based company said in a statement today.

## **National Guard**

**National Guard teams prepare for terrorist WMD attacks** (borderfirereport.net, 07/27/08)

<http://www.borderfirereport.net/jim-kouri/national-guard-teams-prepare-for-terrorist-wmd-attacks.html>

To prepare for potential attacks in the United States involving weapons of mass destruction, the U.S. Congress approved the development of National Guard's Civil Support Teams which are responsible with identifying chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive weapons; assessing consequences; advising civil authorities on response measures; and assisting with requests for additional support. So far, 36 of the 55 approved teams have been fully certified to conduct their mission. The National Guard Bureau is in the process of establishing, certifying, and planning for the long-term sustainment of the CSTs, according to an unclassified report submitted to the National Association of Chiefs of Police by the GAO.

**State strives to register Guard soldiers to vote** (Seattle Times, 07/24/08)

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008070547\\_webregister24m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008070547_webregister24m.html)

To ensure that Washington National Guard soldiers leaving for Iraq are registered to vote this year, workers with the Secretary of State's Office are spending three weeks at the Yakima Training Center.

**VA error cost Iraq veterans outreach** (Charlestown Gazette, 07/24/08)

<http://sundaygazettemail.com/News/world/200807230671>

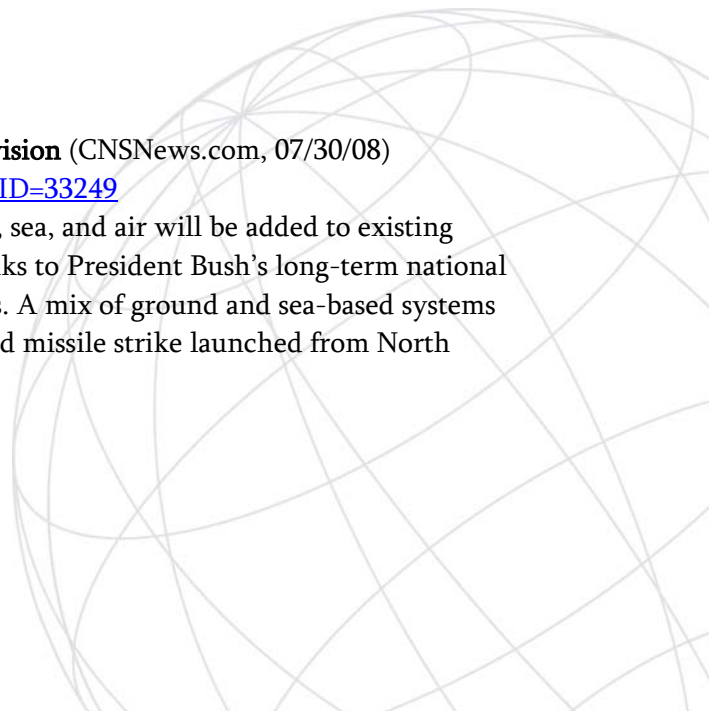
The Department of Veterans Affairs failed to send benefit packages to nearly 37,000 National Guard and Reserve members who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan because it mistakenly thought they were ineligible.

## **Missile Defense**

**Missile defense supporters credit Bush's national security vision** (CNSNews.com, 07/30/08)

<http://www.cnsnews.com/public/content/article.aspx?RsrcID=33249>

Effective anti-missile defense systems that operate on land, sea, and air will be added to existing systems at home and overseas over the next few years thanks to President Bush's long-term national security vision, according to some strategic defense experts. A mix of ground and sea-based systems are now in place that can protect all 50 states from a limited missile strike launched from North Korea, Iran or other rogue state.



**U.S. to explore upgrades for Israel's defense capabilities** (HAARETZ.com, 07/29/08)

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1006657.html>

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said that the Bush administration was prepared to consider upgrading Israel's missile defense capabilities. Gates told Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who is visiting Washington, that the U.S. would explore a number of options including ballistic missile early warning launch data, a forward based X-Band radar system, other missile defense assets, and counter measures to short-range rocket and mortar attacks.

**IDF starts using new laser system near Gaza** (Jerusalem Post, 07/29/08)

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1215331128662&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Alongside production of the Iron Dome interceptor, Rafael is also in the midst of developing a solid-based laser system that is believed to be the future in short-range missile interception. The Jerusalem Post has learned that a prototype of the model is already used by the IDF Southern Command to detonate explosive devices planted alongside the border fence.

**Japan holds missile shield drill in Tokyo's center** (Associated Press, 07/28/08)

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gJMVIQu4RK7wmB5u\\_3qd-kNPREoQD927C1881](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gJMVIQu4RK7wmB5u_3qd-kNPREoQD927C1881)

Japan tested a ballistic missile defense unit in the center of Tokyo stepping up preparations to secure the capital from what it sees as an increased threat from neighboring North Korea. The drill involved land-to-air PAC-3 interceptors, Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba told reporters.

**Boeing airborne laser team begins testing laser with chemical fuel** (spacewar.com, 07/28/08)

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Boeing\\_Airborne\\_Laser\\_Team\\_Begins\\_Testing\\_Laser\\_With\\_Chemical\\_Fuel\\_999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Boeing_Airborne_Laser_Team_Begins_Testing_Laser_With_Chemical_Fuel_999.html)

Boeing, industry teammates and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency have completed installing the high-energy laser aboard the Airborne Laser (ABL) aircraft and have begun testing the laser with its chemical fuel at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The tests involve flowing the laser's chemicals through the laser to confirm sequencing and control.

**Congress should fund development of air-to-air missile defense technology** (Hawaii Reporter, 07/24/08)

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?61e94c65-08c3-4eb1-9737-f1fa7bb5c980>

During a test conducted at New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range, a modified AIM-9X Sidewinder missile intercepted an Orion target ballistic missile in the boost phase of flight. The technology responsible for this successful test result is the Raytheon Company's Network Centric Airborne Defense Element (NCADE) interceptor program, the centerpiece of which is an inexpensive boost-phase missile defense system. Yet the lasting success of this program requires devoting \$15 million of the Bush Administration's proposed missile defense budget request to the continued development of the NCADE interceptor.

## Announcements

### **To receive an EMP briefing**

The Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute in Claremont, California support state legislators and emergency management groups by providing briefings on electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack scenarios and preparedness. If you would like your committee or organization to receive one of these briefings, please contact [Chris Nelson](#).

**To receive a copy of *Missile Defense and the Role of the States***



In February 2007, the Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute published a report on *Missile Defense and the Role of the States*, a survey of Adjutants General on questions regarding missile defense and electromagnetic pulse. To receive a hard copy of the report, please contact [Chris Nelson](#). You can also view the report online at: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/programs.html#security>.

#### **To view the IWG report**

The Institute of the North's Defense and Security program is a member of the Independent Working Group on Missile Defense, the Space Relationship, & the Twenty-First Century, a non-partisan group of defense experts who meet regularly to discuss issues and projects related to missile defense. To view the 2007 report online, please visit: <http://www.missilethreat.com/iwgreport/pageID.163/default.asp>.

#### **To submit material**

We are always looking for well-written editorials on the impact of national security at the state and local level. If you would like to submit an editorial for publication in the Vanguard newsletter, please forward factual and relevant articles of 500-750 words in length to [Chris Nelson](#).

#### **The Vanguard online**

To view past and current issues of the Vanguard newsletter online, please visit: [http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security\\_and\\_defense\\_program.html](http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security_and_defense_program.html).

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#### **About the program**

The Security and Defense program at the Institute of the North conducts research and educates policymakers on strategic issues relating to the defense of the United States that particularly concern decision makers in Alaska and at the state and local level throughout the nation.

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*The Institute of the North, based in Anchorage, Alaska, is a non-profit educational and research organization founded in 1994 by former Secretary of the Interior and twice Governor of Alaska Walter J. Hickel, focusing on strategic and natural resource issues.*

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