



# North Central Regional Task Force

*Homeland Security: A Return on Our Investment*



## Counties

- Bradford
- Clinton
- Lycoming
- Potter
- Sullivan
- Tioga
- Union

# State-Level Coordination



## PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA

No one can do it alone. In Pennsylvania, multiple jurisdictions, agencies, and disciplines work together to strengthen our ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

**Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC)** is managed by the Pennsylvania State Police and is the primary all-hazards fusion center comprised of analysts and subject matter experts from local, state, and federal agencies. In 2016, PaCIC fulfilled almost 40,000 requests for information and developed 57,434 products including briefs and alerts ranging from dirty bombs and the increased findings of Carfentanil in heroin, to attacks on natural gas facilities. In 2016, PaCIC completed 43 event assessments for emergency response, public sector and private sector partners.

### Critical Partners

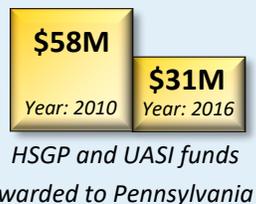
The private sector owns and operates an estimated **85%** of infrastructure and resources that are critical to our physical and economic security. GOHS has mapped over 30,000 sites in Pennsylvania.



Duke Energy's gas-powered plant, Masontown, Pennsylvania.

### Increased Demand, Decreased Funding

Homeland Security Grant Program Funding (HSGP) has dropped 48% since 2010. However, demand for services continues to increase. For example, in 2016, PaCIC received 993 reported cyber compromises, an increase of over 400 since 2015.



### How HSGP Funds Supports Agribusiness and Food Safety

- Lab systems and equipment which are critical to the safety of PA's food supply and agriculture systems.
- Food safety communications and inspection system for approximately 130 local and state agency health jurisdictions with food safety responsibilities.
- Equipment to enhance lab testing for real-world food contamination incidents.
- Pennsylvania is positioned to lessen the devastating effects of a disease outbreak on PA's poultry industry through mapping and database investment.

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHS)** helps to secure Pennsylvania from acts of terrorism and reduce the vulnerability of Pennsylvania's critical infrastructure. GOHS provides training, exercises, and learning opportunities not otherwise available to participants. Since 2012, GOHS has provided more than **30 training courses** to over 4000 public and private partners, **28 tabletop** prevention and protection exercises, and engaged over 7500 participants with **29 seminars**.

**The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)** is the lead agency for the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR). The result is a comprehensive strategy for funding capability gaps at state and regional levels.

**PEMA** maintains deployable assets purchased using HSGP funds to support counties during disasters; such assets include trailer-mounted generators, bathroom shower trailers, light tower trailers, non-potable water trailers, and remotely operated camera trailers.



## Vital Statistics

The Regional Task Force is a model for intergovernmental and multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

- Population: 328,784
- Area: 6291 Square Miles
- Municipalities: 228
- Fire Departments: 110
- Police Departments: 53
- Emergency Med Service Agencies: 61
- Hospitals: 11



## Capabilities

The North Central Regional Task Force has the following capabilities:

- Dive Teams: 1
- Explosive Detection K9 Teams: 9
- Hazmat Teams: 7
- Tactical (SWAT) Teams: 1
- Type 2 Water Response Teams: 2
- Urban Search and Rescue Teams: 2

Each county has at least one contracted HAZMAT team available.

PA Co 6 (Lycoming County) provides Urban Search and Rescue support for all counties in the region.



## Investment



30%

40%

30%

# Regional Coordination

## NORTH CENTRAL TASK FORCE : A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The North Central Task Force (NCTF) takes a leadership role in regionalizing an all-hazards preparedness and resource coordination program. Through coordinated planning, training, and response, the NCTF advances the capabilities of public safety in the region to protect lives and the socioeconomic infrastructure from all hazards. There are no individual county or city projects approved. All projects are regional.



*Equipment used during an exercise at Mansfield University*

## DEPTH OF CAPABILITIES

The Task Force provides unparalleled depth in capabilities, all made possible through Homeland Security funds:

- **Law Enforcement**— Regional Teams support local and state response including a Special Response Team (SRT) and Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT).

Grant funds are used for training, drills, exercises, SRT equipment and vehicle, throw phones, night vision goggles, protective “Bat” shields and more.

- **Health and Medical / EMS** - Our TEAM is made up of 10 hospitals, over 75 EMS squads and 3 Mass Causality Units.

Grant funds support trainings, drills and exercises, MCI truck and trailers, SMART MCI Tag system and more.

- **Fire Rescue and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)**— Responders from across the region come together to respond to technical rescue concerns which include structural collapse, swift water rescue and Hazardous Materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and decontamination.

Grant funds support training classes, drills and exercises, Area Air Monitoring system, gas and HazMat ID system, detection meters, PA Company 6 vehicles, prime movers, three specialized technical decontamination and equipment trailers.

## CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS

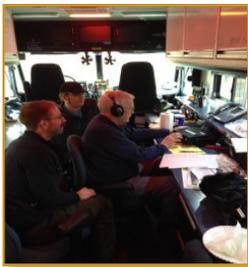
According to the US Government Accountability Office, in order to effectively respond to events such as natural disasters, criminal activities, and domestic terrorism, law enforcement and public safety agencies need reliable systems that enable communication with their counterparts in other disciplines and jurisdictions.



Missing person command post in Union County

The NCTF plans, trains, and responds as a region, focusing on interoperable communications and incident management. Training classes, drills, regional interoperable communications plans and exercises help sharpen our skills.

The Incident Management Unit uses equipment, such as mobile trailers, to keep partners communicating and sharing a Common Operating Picture. The NCTF uses a common software platform as a regional coordination tool for incidents, action plans and resource management known as Knowledge Center.



State 800MHz radio system allows regional communications to connect field users to our Multi Agency Coordination Centers (MACCs). The region hosts a number of exercises and trainings such as the regional radio operations drill from Incident Management Unit (left) and the auxiliary communications, "Ham in a Day" class.



## READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED

In October 2016, strong storms hit portions of western and central Pennsylvania bringing up to 7 inches of rain, turning roads into rivers, damaging homes in communities as far as 150 miles apart.

Flooding, flash flooding and damaging winds destroyed homes, roads, caused the closure of numerous schools, and left many citizens stranded.

Training and equipment, funded by the Homeland Security Grant Program, is a critical resource for ensuring the quick response and recovery when disaster strikes Pennsylvania's communities.



## TEAM RESPONSE



*PA Company 6 receives swift water training*

NCTF supports local responders to fill the gap before state and federal assets arrive. Fully-trained and equipped teams are the NCTF's greatest asset. Keeping them trained, drilled and equipped is our focus. Keeping their tools maintained for a safe and effective mission is our regional life safety goal. Hosting response teams, Incident Management and communications equipment are the glue to the region's capability.

NCTF equipment has been used in numerous regions for planned events and emergencies. The North Central Region is home to Little League Baseball's World Series, an international event, numerous "My Hometown" fairs and community celebrations such as Independence Day fireworks.



*Potter County Prime Mover and Incident Management Unit*



*Incident Management Unit at a water rescue scene in Union and Northumberland counties. Multiple regions working together for life safety.*



*Equipment such as the Emergency Operations Center in a Box Kit is supported by Homeland Security Grant Funds .*

## AN INVESTMENT ENABLING COUNTY AND REGIONAL CAPABILITIES

### FIRE RESCUE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZMAT)



*Drill for weapons of mass destruction.*

Responders from across the region come together to respond to technical rescue concerns which include structural collapse, swift water rescue and Hazardous Materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Decontamination.

PA Company 6, Emergency Response Team 35, County Decon Teams, all are ready for response.



*Area RAE meter used during the Little League World Series*



*Decontamination Trailer*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Grant Program is the basis of our success: for 20 years it has given us the means to provide a continual state of readiness to our region.



*Checking an air quality meter*



#### **Mission**

To foster and advance the capabilities of public safety in the region to protect lives and the socio-economic infrastructure from all hazards.

#### **Goal**

Take a leadership role in regionalizing an effective all hazards preparedness and resource coordination program in accordance with current homeland security strategies and annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRAs).