



# Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter-Terrorism Task Force

*Homeland Security: A Return on Our Investment*



## Counties

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Carbon     | Northampton |
| Lackawanna | Pike        |
| Lehigh     | Susquehanna |
| Monroe     | Wayne       |

# 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

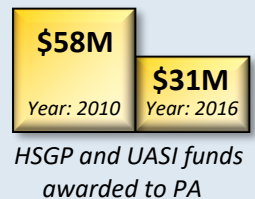
The private sector owns and operates an estimated **85%** of infrastructure and resources that are critical to our physical and economic security. GOHS has mapped over 30,000 sites in Pennsylvania.



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 Pennsylvania's food supply and agriculture systems.
- Food safety communications and inspection systems 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 Pennsylvania's poultry industry through mapping and database investment.

The **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 4,000 public and private partners, **28 tabletop** prevention and protection exercises, and engaged over 7,500 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.

- Municipalities: 227
- Fire Departments: 231
- Police Departments: 108
- Emergency Med Service Agencies: 83
- Hospitals: 18

## Capabilities

The Northeast Task Force has the following capabilities:

- Hazmat Teams : 3
- Bomb Disposal Teams: 3
- Urban Search and Rescue: 2
- SWAT Teams: 8

## Investment



## Regional Coordination

### NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM TASK FORCE: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter-Terrorism Task Force provides emergency response training, planning, and equipment to the emergency service providers in the region. The mission of the of the Task Force is to protect human life, work to mitigate emergencies, and respond to human-made and natural disasters throughout the region.



*The Mobile Command Post used at the Celtic Festival and at Musikfest is utilized throughout the region.*

The Task Force works to secure critical infrastructure in the region including: 54 major roadways, 52 school districts/colleges, two international airports, several health care systems and government buildings. Due to the close proximity to New York and New Jersey, resources in the region play a key role in recovery operations for large metropolitan areas. Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds are critical to the success of an equipped, prepared and ready region.

### REGION STRONG

Due to the diversity of the region, the Task Force is prepared to protect communities, counties, and the commonwealth from all-hazards; ranging from terrorism, to snow and flooding disasters. The Task Force provides guidance and oversight, by establishing policies, procuring regional assets, and maintaining resources.

The Northeast Task Force invests HSGP funds wisely by sharing costs for training and equipment among members and ensures consistent training standards.



*Task Force Asset: Bomb Disposal Equipment*

## ALL-HAZARDS PREPARED

Musikfest is the nation's largest free, non-gated music festival, with attendance recorded at just over 1.14 million people. The 10 day, open-air festival continues rain or shine. Heavy rains and flooding have caused a mass evacuation of the concert in the past. As a result, ensuring public safety due to hazardous weather and human-caused events are primary concerns.

Many Task Force resources are used during the annual arts and culture event, including the Joint Hazard Assessment Team. Resources are used to provide medical response, suspicious package investigations, fire suppression, and civil order.



Bethlehem police officer at Musikfest in Bethlehem, PA  
(Harry Fisher/File Photo, The Morning Call)

## What goes in to making such a large event safe?

- **State-Wide Portable Radios.** Reliable communications with outside Law Enforcement agencies assisting the local police agencies.
- **Mobile Command Center.** A critical coordination asset for local emergency management and police, emergency medical services, fire, the Pennsylvania State Police, FBI, and ancillary agencies.
- **Balloon lights.** Keeping instances of crime low and increasing safety and security by illuminating large street venues that are otherwise unlit after dark.
- **Explosive Ordinance Device Suits and Detection Equipment.** Providing the ability to quickly and safely address any suspicious packages and devices.
- **Deployable Cameras.** Increasing security by providing, "eyes on the ground" in order to monitor the venue remotely in support of safety concerns.



## ALL-HAZARDS TRAINING

There are a number of potential terrorist targets within the region: an Interstate Pipe Line; a fuel farm in Lehigh County; Sanofi, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, Tier One facility in Monroe County; the Tobyhanna Army Depot; and the Pocono International Speedway. Certainly these can be targets of foreign terrorist groups; however, it is more likely that these would be the target of domestic terrorists. Just as important as the equipment, is the training the Task Force provides. Training includes:

- Terrorism Tactics – Homicide Bombers
- Terrorism Intelligence Profiles
- Protective Operations – Dignitary Protection
- Basic SWAT Training Basic Crisis Negotiations
- Hostage Rescue
- Advance Media Relations for Law Enforcement Command Personnel
- Tactical Emergency Medical Support



Decontamination training

## EQUIPPED, TRAINED, AND READY

The Northeast Task Force manages funds efficiently by sharing costs for training, equipment, and information within the Region. The ability to train and equip on a regional-basis has led to numerous examples of how investment in the Northeast Task Force has supported the safety of residents, visitors, and first responders.

### Carbon County

- Numerous Meth Lab Responses (Lansford & Lehighon Boroughs)
- Court house bomb threats (2014)
- School bomb threats - Jim Thorpe, Lehighon and Panther Valley (2015)
- Bomb threat - Blue Mountain Health System (Lehighon Hospital) (2014)
- Wildland Fires – Carbon had the two largest Wildland Fires in the State (2015)
- FBI/WMD Incident – Summit Hill Borough (2015)
- Beltzville State Park – Body Recovery Incident (9 Days) (2015)
- Lehigh Gorge State Park / Glen Onoko Falls – Numerous search and rescue incidents



*Bomb robot:  
A critical task force asset*

### Lackawanna County



*Balloon Light*

- Eric Frein manhunt (2014) - The Task Force provided a Gator that was used to transport troopers when the suspect's vehicle was found in remote area.
- Balloon Lights - Interstate closure due to motor vehicle accidents and support of various police activities. Provides safe environment for emergency workers and motorists.
- Emergency Management Agency Trucks - Transport hospital medical staff and 9-1-1 personnel during a recent blizzard.
- Mobile Command Truck - Field operations and communications at large concerts and festivals at the Pavilion at Montage Mountain.

### Lehigh County

- Complex rescue - Multiple incidents requiring advanced training and rope equipment to assist in rescues of all levels of complexity and saving lives. Rescues include the use of ropes, rope hardware, and the Utility Terrain Vehicle.
- Hazardous materials - Frequent response for unknown hazardous materials. Incidents range from accidental to intentional. Equipment has been used in conjunction with federal agencies and local agencies in investigations and responses.
- Rescue and Urban Search and Rescue - Rescues including trench rescue / collapse, cave rescue, cemetery trench collapse, building collapse, police incidents, and gas explosion. Response includes the use of search cameras, trench shoring, collapse shoring, breaching equipment, and personal protective equipment.
- Public safety support - Equipment and trained staff support local police SWAT teams as well as the Forensic Investigation Division of Lehigh County.



*Field Hospital*

## SUPPORTING PLANNED AND UNPLANNED EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

### *Northampton County*

- Primary and General Election support—a windstorm blocked access and created a loss of power to 10 county polling Locations— Emergency Operations Center activated to coordinate and provide resources to minimize disruption. (2018)
- Assets used during a car bomb/suicide including SWAT Teams, bearcat armored vehicle, and bomb teams (2018)
- Command support, community notification, equipment (Bearcat rescued pinned down officer), communications and scene lighting for investigation. Bethlehem Township Active Shooter Incident (2017)
- Vice Presidential Candidate detail provided communications, command post and logistics (2015)
- Scene coordination for all suspicious package and device related incidents within the county including response and command post for the vehicle explosion in the Borough of Hellertown (2015)
- Maintain and provide equipment for Hazmat Operations and radiological response
- Annual large events such as Muskiest, Celtic fest, and numerous festivals and fairs, providing IAPs, command post, vehicle barriers, communications and coordination of local, county state and federal agencies

### *Monroe County*

- Pocono Raceway monitoring events
- Eric Frein manhunt (2014)
- 16 Mile Fire (2016)
- Court house bomb threats (2018)



*16 Mile Fire: 2nd largest wildfire in the state in more than two*

### *Pike County*

- I-84 Crash (Ice Storm)
- Helicopter crash in Green Township
- 16 Mile Brush Fire / Pike and Monroe
- Overturned bridge inspecting machine Delaware River
- Wallenpaupack fireworks display

### *Susquehanna County*

- State Police regularly use the lighting and generators for searches and investigations
- The Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) is used for brush fires and navigating tough terrain in searches
- Metering equipment to assist fire companies and investigations

### *Wayne County*

- UTV used for county fairs music events
- Teams and equipment have been mobilized to large forest fires
- Assist Pennsylvania State Police and other law enforcement with searches
- Trucks for moving assets and trailers during response operations
- Transporting key personnel during heavy snow/blizzard events
- Decontamination assets deployed to numerous meth lab responses
- Assist the coroner's office with body removals
- Assorted meters used at fire at scenes and during hazardous materials situations of crash and crime scenes
- Balloon lighting is used at special events, coroner incidents, police reconstruction, and assists the District Attorney's Office at safety check points



*Hazardous materials response*