

South Central Mountains Regional Task Force

Homeland Security: A Return on Our Investment



Counties

Bedford

Huntingdon

Blair

Juniata

Centre

Mifflin

Fulton

Snyder

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.



HSGP and UASI funds awarded to Pennsylvania

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 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.

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 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 multijurisdictional cooperation.

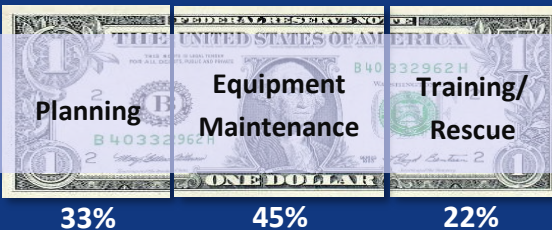
- Population: 502,619
- Area: 5125 Square Miles
- Municipalities: 212
- Fire Departments: 117
- Police Departments: 44
- Ambulance: 52
- Quick Response Services: 36

Capabilities

The South Central Mountains Task Force has the following capabilities:

- Hazmat Teams: 2
- Bomb Disposal Teams: 1
- Explosive Detection K9 Teams: 1
- Water Response Teams: 6
- Urban Search and Rescue: 1
- Tactical (SWAT) Teams: 3

Investment



Regional Coordination

SOUTH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS REGIONAL TASK FORCE: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

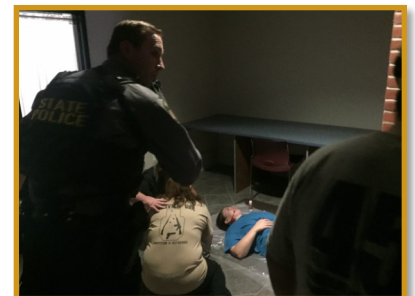
The South Central Mountains Regional Task Force was organized in 1998 following the Oklahoma City bombing. One of nine such Regional Task Forces in Pennsylvania, the South Central Mountains Regional Task Force has grown to provide "All-Hazards"



preparedness, mitigation, prevention, protection, response and recovery services to the citizens of the eight-county region. The task force uses Homeland Security Grant Program funding to support counter-terrorism planning, training and operations, critical infrastructure protection, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) preparation and response, and, when possible, all hazards response capabilities.



All projects are approved based on their ability to improve preparedness within the region. The HSGP provides important training and equipment that allows the task force to prepare community partners to respond to a wide range of threats. The task force is also an available resource for State and Federal response needs.



Warm Zone Active Shooter Training supported by HSGP funds

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

The Task Force **Health and Medical Committee** supports training and exercises related to Mass Prophylaxis, EMS Strike Teams and the procurement and maintenance of a regional pharmaceutical cache for responders and their families. The Health and Medical Committee is currently installing burn carts that were provided by the task force to each hospital in the region (two to the region's trauma centers).

EMERGENCY MEDICAL

The **Emergency Medical Services Committee** ensures the highest level of regional preparedness to active shooter incidents. The task force supports the EMS capabilities with the purchase of tactical protective equipment and training. In the last year, with the support of homeland security grant funds, the task force has trained 300 EMS providers and law enforcement officers in warm zone rescue team techniques. Another 300 are on deck – including firefighters – for training in the coming year, so long as funding continues. The training curriculum was developed at the local level and approved by the National Tactical Officers Association. It is taught jointly by EMS and law enforcement instructors.



INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Task Force supports the **Incident Management Team (IMT)** through position-specific training, all-hazards training, and participation in exercises throughout the region. Additionally, the Task Force has procured equipment, position identification vests, and office supplies for the IMT. The IMT has had elements activated in support of state emergencies.

EQUIPPED, TRAINED, READY

PA Company 5 (PA-CO5) in the South Central Mountains region is an equipped, trained, and ready **Urban Search and Rescue** team. PA-CO5 capabilities include Structural Collapse Operations, High and Low Angle Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Wilderness Search and Rescue, Heavy Vehicle Rescue and Swift Water Rescue.



In July 2017, a three-story brick building in Washington, PA collapsed, trapping a woman beneath two floors of rubble and thousands of pounds of debris. Members of the PA-CO5 were deployed to assist with the complex rescue. After 9 hours, they were able to safely extricate the patient without causing further collapse or danger to the rescuers. The HSGP supports the capabilities, skilled training, and operational readiness of the Task Force.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The task force has a robust **Law Enforcement Committee** with three major components. These components consist of tactical teams (SWAT), EOD teams, and explosive detection K9s. The task force supplements local SWAT and tactical teams with equipment such as body armor, radios, headsets, radio accessories, and optics – including robots. The robot is frequently used at Beaver Stadium to add security for 107,000 college football fans.



Following the lessons learned from the Boston Marathon bombing, the task force purchased Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs or tourniquet bags) for all the law enforcement officers in the region! The task force also supports local and regional law enforcement teams with annual training. The teams train for wooded terrain operations; hostage negotiations; ballistic shield strategies; active shooter instruction; even humane animal euthanasia.



The **South Central Mountains Regional Task Force** stands ready to support local responders and integrate state and federal assets to protect the eight county South Central Mountains Pennsylvania Region. Key programs include:

- Developing, training and exercising of specialized response teams to augment first responders during emergent events or terrorist incidents.
- Purchasing and maintaining emergency response and recovery equipment and interoperable communications, allowing real time access to information by all area public safety and security agencies.
- Planning and exercising in preparation for large scale public health events, such as a pandemic.