



## WHAT IS THE ALL HAZARDS CONSORTIUM (AHC)?

- A two-year-old 501c3 organization guided by state government and comprised of public and private sector stakeholders focused on regional state government homeland security and emergency management collaboration within the mid-Atlantic region and surrounding states
- A unique model for regional public/private collaboration

## WHY WAS THE AHC FORMED, AND HOW DID IT GET STARTED?

- Conceptualized in 2003 by the states of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, the AHC was created to provide a framework to engage the multiple levels and agencies within state and local government, business, and higher education to share information and collaborate on potential regional requirements, studies, projects, solutions, etc.
- Created to provide states with a streamlined vehicle to develop new homeland security capabilities
- The AHC fosters state ownership of the regional collaboration agenda/process
- Funded (initially in 2006) by a UASI grant from the DHS National Capital Region and in-kind donations from both public/private sector, university partners and volunteers

## WHO ARE THE AHC STAKEHOLDERS?

- State/local government: Member states include NC, VA, WV, DC, MD, DE, PA, NJ and NY
- Federal government: Federal agencies who support the states, including legislators and staff interested in regional homeland security and emergency management issues
- Non-government: Private sector firms, higher education, and non-profit organizations
- Volunteers: Private citizens who want to contribute their time and talents to the effort

## WHY IS THE AHC UNIQUE?

- Focused on regional (e.g. multi-state) state/local government issues and priorities
- Develops long term relationships and trust between stakeholders who participate in the AHC's facilitated year-round efforts
- Results in real-time problem solving on topics selected by the states
- An interdisciplinary view of the same issue/topic is accomplished by bringing together various disciplines and agencies within state/local government
- Includes the private sector and higher education in the collaboration process
- Complements the efforts of the federal government in regional efforts

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AHC?

- Convenes and facilitates dialog
  - Convenes/facilitates/sponsors regional meetings, discussions, workshops and forums within the region on an ongoing basis throughout the year
  - Provides project management resources to address issues developed by state consensus
- Documents
  - Captures and documents needs, requirements, solutions, policies, best practices, lessons learned, ideas, common themes, and agreements
- Distributes information to the appropriate stakeholders
  - Serves as a clearinghouse of information to all stakeholders
- Coaching Resource
  - Provides access to a network of experienced past/present state government and/or private sector leadership to help states and regional organizations learn from past experiences

## WHAT ARE THE TANGIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE AHC'S ACTIVITIES?

- Annual Regional All Hazards Forum in MD (2004, 2005, 2006, and November 6-8, 2007)
- Regional Annual Report - documents the region's issues and priorities for 2004, 2005 and 2006
- Regional QUAD-state interoperability pilot project - a joint regional grant request for VA, MD, PA and WV submitted in 2006, which paved the way for expanded regional grant requests in 2007
- DHS 2007 grant guideline changes - following the 2006 QUAD-state submittal, DHS and the AHC states convened a series of meetings that resulted in new grant language adopted by DHS for regional state/UASI grant proposals in 2007
- Regional Fusion Center Collaboration Workshop in NJ (February 2007) and white paper - outlines the regional state requirements for information sharing and possible collaboration efforts for fusion centers within the states of NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, NC, VA and WV
- Regional Public Safety Communications and Interoperability Collaboration Workshop in VA (May 2007) and white paper - outlines the regional efforts and requirements for interoperable voice/data communications collaboration efforts from the state and federal perspectives within the states of NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, NC, VA and WV along with NTIA interoperability grants updates, FCC proposals and DHS updates
- Regional Critical Infrastructure Protection Collaboration Workshop in PA (October 2007) and white paper - outlines the regional efforts and requirements for CIP collaboration from the state and federal perspectives within the states of SC, NC, VA, WV, OH, KY, TN, DC, MD, PA, DE, NJ and NY along with DHS-IP
- West Virginia Senate Briefings - containing regional input and perspectives from other AHC member state Homeland Security Directors (January 2007)
- Regional Homeland Security Directors Meeting (October 2006, February 2007)
- Regional Private Sector/Government Interdependencies Workshop (October 2006)
- Regional Grants Coordination Meeting with DHS and Mid-Atlantic States (October 2006)
- QUAD State Regional Initiative (January 2006)
- Regional National Plan Review Meeting (October 2005)
- Forming of non-profit organization (All Hazards Consortium, Fall 2005) - a unique organization focused on regional issues facing state/local governments
- Homeland Security Forum in VA (October 2003)

## WHAT IS THE ALL HAZARDS FORUM?

- In the fall of each year, the Consortium sponsors an annual summit meeting called the All Hazards Forum which brings together over 30 states to share information with all US regions. The annual report is produced from this event.

## WHAT IS THE ALL HAZARDS CONSORTIUM LOOKING FOR?

- Increased support for its member states on regional collaboration projects (e.g. studies, pilot projects, meetings, workshops, training/education, forums, white paper development, etc) in the areas of:
  - Homeland Security
  - Emergency Management
  - Border and Transportation Security
  - Health and Medical Readiness
  - Critical Infrastructure Protection
  - Law Enforcement
  - Information Sharing and Intelligence
  - Public Safety Communications and Interoperability
  - Grants and Procurement

## ONLINE RESOURCES:

- All Hazards Consortium website: [www.ahcusa.org](http://www.ahcusa.org)
- Annual Regional All Hazards Forum website: [www.allhazardsforum.com](http://www.allhazardsforum.com)