

Enhancing Agricultural Security

Experiment Station Committee of
Organization and Policy (ESCOP)

H. Michael Harrington

Executive Director

WAAESD

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Actions and Activities

- Homeland Agrosecurity Task Force
- Articulation within the LGU system
- National Institute for Agricultural Security (NIAS)
- ESS Annual Meeting
- Survey AES responses

Homeland Agrosecurity Task Force

David Thawley (NV) - Chair

David R. MacKenzie (NERA) - Vice-Chair

Ralph Cavalieri (WA)

Neville Clarke (TX)

D. C. Coston (OK)

Joe Joyce (FL)

Ed Mather (MI)

Darrell Nelson (NE)

Terry Nipp (AESOP)

Task Force Charge

- Recommend site security guidelines, policies and procedures that should be adopted across the SAES to:
 - **insure that research materials, databases and microbial germplasm collections are secure**
- Determine the capacity of SAES to address agrosecurity issues:
 - **human resources, capacity and university-based infrastructure that can be brought to bear on the issues and problems**

(Task Force Charge cont.)

- Help formulate how the SAES and USDA/ARS can collectively and cooperatively work together to provide enhanced agrosecurity for the nation.
- Identify research needs and opportunities in the agrosecurity arena
- Define research program initiatives (and the associated funding needs) that will support enhanced agrosecurity in the U.S.

Task Force Products

White Papers on:

- Site Security

www.escop.msstate.edu/SiteSecurity2.pdf

- Initiatives in Agricultural Security

www.escop.msstate.edu/committee/agro-security-initiative.pdf

Initiatives in Agricultural Security

- “Logical Framework” for Agrosecurity
 - **Vulnerability Assessment**
 - **Vulnerability Prevention**
 - **Monitoring and Surveillance**
 - **Interventions and Initial Responses**
 - ***Ex Post Attack Analysis***
- Education and Training
- Recommendation to form an “entity”

Vulnerability Assessment

-Time for a new paradigm

- Evaluation of potential disease agents
- Modeling and simulation of threats
- Epidemiology of plant and animal diseases
- Economic impacts
- Psychology of terror

Vulnerability Prevention

- Development of resistant varieties and breeds
- Enhanced development of vaccines and pesticides
- Development of procedures needed to prevent introduction of disease agents
- Development of educational programs

Monitoring and Surveillance

- Support the expansion of the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) and integrate with other emerging efforts
- Help create a National Plant Disease Monitoring System
- Integrate plant and animals systems
- Develop new detection technologies
- Provide proprietary protection

Interventions and Initial Responses

- Assist in the organization of plans for rapid response teams
- Develop deployment strategies for vaccines, quarantine strategies, etc
- Warehouse emergency supplies
- Provide technical assistance, diagnostics, survey sampling and analytical services

Post Attack Analysis

- Learn from experiences
- Collect baseline data as necessary
- Develop new analytical approaches

Education and Training

- Support local, state and federal law enforcement and homeland defense groups
- Facilitate information access for decision makers
- Foster the development of early detection systems
- Assist in educational program development
- Provide support to the general public

Organizational Issues

- Partnering with others:
 - **Cooperative Extension and “*The Family*”**
 - **CSREES, ARS and other traditional research partners**
 - **Government regulatory agencies**
 - **Intelligence and law enforcement committees**
 - **Professional societies**

(Organizational Issues cont)

- Accessing faculty competencies
- Centralizing some services
 - **Classified information**
 - **Cost efficiencies**
 - **Contracts for services (site evaluation & certifications)**

National Institute for Agricultural Security

- A nonprofit organization with membership comprised of:
 - **Experiment Stations**
 - **Cooperative Extension**
 - **Academic Programs**
 - **International Programs**



Articulation and Vetting

- BAA Policy Board of Directors approval of the principles of the Initiatives White Paper
- Discussions with “The Family”
- Briefings:
 - **Homeland Security**
 - **OSTP**
 - **USDA**
 - **Congress and staffers**
 - **Food Industry**
 - **ANSER**

NIAS Status

- ESCOP endorsement of Initiatives White Paper
- BAA Board of Directors approval of the principles of the White Paper plan
- Interim Board appointed
- Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws approved
- Incorporation of NIAS completed

NIAS Activities - 2003

- Employ a part-time Executive Director
- Appoint permanent Board
- Implement activities outlined in the White Paper
- Regional Workshops
- Continue dialogue with relevant Federal agencies on opportunities and needs
- Plan for site security enhancements
- Articulate with ARS and other partners

(Activities cont)

- Assist in planning agrosecurity responses by Land Grant Universities
 - **Assessment of existing HR capacities and resources**
 - **Assist in developing budget needs for adequate responses**
- Continue planning for future personnel needs, infrastructure development and fiscal resource requirements
- Continue to facilitate funding opportunities

ESS Workshop

September 2002

www.escop.msstate.edu/draftdoc.htm

- Agrosecurity Initiative: Current Status
 - **David Thawley Univ. Nevada-Reno, Chair of ESCOP Agrosecurity Task Force**
- Communicating with Stakeholders
 - **D.C. Coston, Oklahoma State University**
- Enhancing Site Security
 - **H. Michael Harrington, Executive Director, WAAESD**

AES Responses and Actions *

- Increased awareness of Institution policies, State and Federal regulations **(100%)**
- Additional training for faculty and staff **(75%)**
- Maintain inventories of biologicals, chemical, hazardous materials, field use chemicals and pesticides **(90-100%)**
- Conducted site security assessments **(88%)**
- Installing additional security measures **(81%)**

* n=21

(Responses and Actions cont)

- Increased surveillance or security **(62%)**
- Revised emergency management plan **(62%)**
- Contributing to State plans **(75%)**
- National Animal and Plant Diagnostics Network **(100%**, but limited knowledge)
- Institutional or consortium activities
 - Colorado State, Cornell, UC Davis, Kansas State, Purdue, Rutgers, Texas A&M, *et al*

We must find ways to work together to meet the needs of the Nation and people of the United States.