

Public Law 109–295
109th Congress

An Act

Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Oct. 4, 2006
[H.R. 5441]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, for the Department of Homeland Security and for other purposes, namely:

Department of
Homeland
Security
Appropriations
Act, 2007.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security, as authorized by section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112), and executive management of the Department of Homeland Security, as authorized by law, \$94,470,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$40,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the Secretary of Homeland Security submits a comprehensive port, container, and cargo security strategic plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives; the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that requires screening all inbound cargo, doubles the percentage of inbound cargo currently inspected, sets minimum standards for securing inbound cargo, and includes the fiscal year 2007 performance requirements for port, container, and cargo security as specified in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the Secretary submits the Secure Border Initiative multi-year strategic plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2006, that includes: a comprehensive

to ensure effective coordination of efforts in responding to requests for assistance.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2008. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 662. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS.

6 USC 762.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Emergency Management Performance Grants Program for fiscal year 2008, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for the program for fiscal year 2007 and an additional \$175,000,000.

SEC. 663. TRANSFER OF NOBLE TRAINING CENTER.

6 USC 763.

The Noble Training Center is transferred to the Center for Domestic Preparedness. The Center for Domestic Preparedness shall integrate the Noble Training Center into the program structure of the Center for Domestic Preparedness.

SEC. 664. NATIONAL EXERCISE SIMULATION CENTER.

President.
6 USC 764.

The President shall establish a national exercise simulation center that—

(1) uses a mix of live, virtual, and constructive simulations to—

(A) prepare elected officials, emergency managers, emergency response providers, and emergency support providers at all levels of government to operate cohesively;

(B) provide a learning environment for the homeland security personnel of all Federal agencies;

(C) assist in the development of operational procedures and exercises, particularly those based on catastrophic incidents; and

(D) allow incident commanders to exercise decision-making in a simulated environment; and

(2) uses modeling and simulation for training, exercises, and command and control functions at the operational level.

Subtitle D—Emergency Communications

SEC. 671. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

21st Century
Emergency
Communications
Act of 2006.
6 USC 101 note.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006”.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new title:

“TITLE XVIII—EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

“SEC. 1801. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

6 USC 571.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Department an Office of Emergency Communications.

“(b) **DIRECTOR.**—The head of the office shall be the Director for Emergency Communications. The Director shall report to the Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director for Emergency Communications shall—

“(1) assist the Secretary in developing and implementing the program described in section 7303(a)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(a)(1)), except as provided in section 314;

“(2) administer the Department’s responsibilities and authorities relating to the SAFECOM Program, excluding elements related to research, development, testing, and evaluation and standards;

“(3) administer the Department’s responsibilities and authorities relating to the Integrated Wireless Network program;

“(4) conduct extensive, nationwide outreach to support and promote the ability of emergency response providers and relevant government officials to continue to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

“(5) conduct extensive, nationwide outreach and foster the development of interoperable emergency communications capabilities by State, regional, local, and tribal governments and public safety agencies, and by regional consortia thereof;

“(6) provide technical assistance to State, regional, local, and tribal government officials with respect to use of interoperable emergency communications capabilities;

“(7) coordinate with the Regional Administrators regarding the activities of Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups under section 1805;

“(8) promote the development of standard operating procedures and best practices with respect to use of interoperable emergency communications capabilities for incident response, and facilitate the sharing of information on such best practices for achieving, maintaining, and enhancing interoperable emergency communications capabilities for such response;

“(9) coordinate, in cooperation with the National Communications System, the establishment of a national response capability with initial and ongoing planning, implementation, and training for the deployment of communications equipment for relevant State, local, and tribal governments and emergency response providers in the event of a catastrophic loss of local and regional emergency communications services;

“(10) assist the President, the National Security Council, the Homeland Security Council, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in ensuring the continued operation of the telecommunications functions and responsibilities of the Federal Government, excluding spectrum management;

“(11) establish, in coordination with the Director of the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, requirements for interoperable emergency communications capabilities, which shall be nonproprietary where standards for such capabilities exist, for all public safety radio and data communications systems and equipment purchased using homeland security assistance administered by the Department, excluding any alert and warning device, technology, or system;

“(12) review, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Grants and Training, all interoperable emergency communications plans of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments,

including Statewide and tactical interoperability plans, developed pursuant to homeland security assistance administered by the Department, but excluding spectrum allocation and management related to such plans;

“(13) develop and update periodically, as appropriate, a National Emergency Communications Plan under section 1802;

“(14) perform such other duties of the Department necessary to support and promote the ability of emergency response providers and relevant government officials to continue to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters; and

“(15) perform other duties of the Department necessary to achieve the goal of and maintain and enhance interoperable emergency communications capabilities.

“(d) PERFORMANCE OF PREVIOUSLY TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS.—The Secretary shall transfer to, and administer through, the Director for Emergency Communications the following programs and responsibilities:

“(1) The SAFECOM Program, excluding elements related to research, development, testing, and evaluation and standards.

“(2) The responsibilities of the Chief Information Officer related to the implementation of the Integrated Wireless Network.

“(3) The Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program.

“(e) COORDINATION.—The Director for Emergency Communications shall coordinate—

“(1) as appropriate, with the Director of the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility with respect to the responsibilities described in section 314; and

“(2) with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency with respect to the responsibilities described in this title.

“(f) SUFFICIENCY OF RESOURCES PLAN.—

“(1) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the resources and staff necessary to carry out fully the responsibilities under this title.

“(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall review the validity of the report submitted by the Secretary under paragraph (1). Not later than 60 days after the date on which such report is submitted, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the findings of such review.

Reports.
Deadline.

“SEC. 1802. NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.

6 USC 572.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director for Emergency Communications, and in cooperation with the Department of National Communications System (as appropriate), shall, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments, Federal departments and agencies, emergency response providers, and the private sector, develop not later than 180 days after the completion of the baseline assessment under section 1803, and periodically update, a National Emergency Communications Plan to provide recommendations regarding how the United States should—

Deadline.

“(1) support and promote the ability of emergency response providers and relevant government officials to continue to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters; and

“(2) ensure, accelerate, and attain interoperable emergency communications nationwide.

“(b) COORDINATION.—The Emergency Communications Preparedness Center under section 1806 shall coordinate the development of the Federal aspects of the National Emergency Communications Plan.

“(c) CONTENTS.—The National Emergency Communications Plan shall—

“(1) include recommendations developed in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and the National Institute of Standards and Technology for a process for expediting national voluntary consensus standards for emergency communications equipment for the purchase and use by public safety agencies of interoperable emergency communications equipment and technologies;

“(2) identify the appropriate capabilities necessary for emergency response providers and relevant government officials to continue to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

“(3) identify the appropriate interoperable emergency communications capabilities necessary for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

“(4) recommend both short-term and long-term solutions for ensuring that emergency response providers and relevant government officials can continue to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

“(5) recommend both short-term and long-term solutions for deploying interoperable emergency communications systems for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments throughout the Nation, including through the provision of existing and emerging technologies;

“(6) identify how Federal departments and agencies that respond to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters can work effectively with State, local, and tribal governments, in all States, and with other entities;

“(7) identify obstacles to deploying interoperable emergency communications capabilities nationwide and recommend short-term and long-term measures to overcome those obstacles, including recommendations for multijurisdictional coordination among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments;

“(8) recommend goals and timeframes for the deployment of emergency, command-level communications systems based on new and existing equipment across the United States and develop a timetable for the deployment of interoperable emergency communications systems nationwide; and

“(9) recommend appropriate measures that emergency response providers should employ to ensure the continued operation of relevant governmental communications infrastructure in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.

“SEC. 1803. ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.

6 USC 573.

“(a) **BASELINE ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section and not less than every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Director for Emergency Communications, shall conduct an assessment of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments that—

“(1) defines the range of capabilities needed by emergency response providers and relevant government officials to continue to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

“(2) defines the range of interoperable emergency communications capabilities needed for specific events;

“(3) assesses the current available capabilities to meet such communications needs;

“(4) identifies the gap between such current capabilities and defined requirements; and

“(5) includes a national interoperable emergency communications inventory to be completed by the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission that—

“(A) identifies for each Federal department and agency—

“(i) the channels and frequencies used;

“(ii) the nomenclature used to refer to each channel or frequency used; and

“(iii) the types of communications systems and equipment used; and

“(B) identifies the interoperable emergency communications systems in use by public safety agencies in the United States.

“(b) **CLASSIFIED ANNEX.**—The baseline assessment under this section may include a classified annex including information provided under subsection (a)(5)(A).

“(c) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—In conducting the baseline assessment under this section, the Secretary may incorporate findings from assessments conducted before, or ongoing on, the date of enactment of this title.

“(d) **PROGRESS REPORTS.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this section and biennially thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Director for Emergency Communications, shall submit to Congress a report on the progress of the Department in achieving the goals of, and carrying out its responsibilities under, this title, including—

“(1) a description of the findings of the most recent baseline assessment conducted under subsection (a);

“(2) a determination of the degree to which interoperable emergency communications capabilities have been attained to date and the gaps that remain for interoperability to be achieved;

“(3) an evaluation of the ability to continue to communicate and to provide and maintain interoperable emergency communications by emergency managers, emergency response providers, and relevant government officials in the event of—

“(A) natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters, including Incidents of National Significance declared by the Secretary under the National Response Plan; and

“(B) a catastrophic loss of local and regional communications services;

“(4) a list of best practices relating to the ability to continue to communicate and to provide and maintain interoperable emergency communications in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters; and

“(A) an evaluation of the feasibility and desirability of the Department developing, on its own or in conjunction with the Department of Defense, a mobile communications capability, modeled on the Army Signal Corps, that could be deployed to support emergency communications at the site of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.

6 USC 574.

“SEC. 1804. COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GRANT PROGRAMS.

“(a) **COORDINATION OF GRANTS AND STANDARDS PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director for Emergency Communications, shall ensure that grant guidelines for the use of homeland security assistance administered by the Department relating to interoperable emergency communications are coordinated and consistent with the goals and recommendations in the National Emergency Communications Plan under section 1802.

“(b) **DENIAL OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Grants and Planning, and in consultation with the Director for Emergency Communications, may prohibit any State, local, or tribal government from using homeland security assistance administered by the Department to achieve, maintain, or enhance emergency communications capabilities, if—

“(A) such government has not complied with the requirement to submit a Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan as required by section 7303(f) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(f));

“(B) such government has proposed to upgrade or purchase new equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards and has not provided a reasonable explanation of why such equipment or systems will serve the needs of the applicant better than equipment or systems that meet or exceed such standards; and

“(C) as of the date that is 3 years after the date of the completion of the initial National Emergency Communications Plan under section 1802, national voluntary consensus standards for interoperable emergency communications capabilities have not been developed and promulgated.

“(2) **STANDARDS.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other Federal departments and agencies with responsibility for standards, shall support the development, promulgation, and updating as necessary of national voluntary consensus standards for interoperable emergency communications.