All-Hazards Prevention Awareness Topics

• **Wilson County is the first in the state to implement an Animal-Agriculture Disaster Response Plan on a county level.** The Animal Issue Committee Plan, a detailed, comprehensive 200-plus-page document, contains proposed steps to take in the event of a natural, accidental, or man-made disaster dealing with agriculture. After an assessment of risks faced by the county animal disease and sheltering were prioritized over crop disasters in the plan. [more]

• **Middle Eastern Terrorist groups and their supporting organizations have been successful in gaining support for Islamic goals in the United States and providing an environment for terrorist organizations to flourish.** A number of organizations in the U.S. have been lobbying Islamic-based issues for many years. These lobbying efforts have turned public and political support towards radical goals such as Shariah law and support of terrorist military action against Western nations. Add to this the Hezbollah training of Mexican Drug Cartel members on bomb making techniques; the threats to Texas are significant. [more]

Threat Indicators

The North Central Texas All-Hazards Threat Indicator and the World Terrorism Threat Indicator have returned to normal levels with no specific threats identified.
Expanded Observations and Analyses

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After an assessment of risks faced by the county animal disease and sheltering were prioritized over crop disasters in the plan. It emphasized natural disasters such as a tornado touching ground, the maiming or killing of livestock in a dairy or feedlot, or an outbreak of a deadly disease. It is designed to assist in the proper disposal of the carcasses, to protect the health of the general public. Given the risk of bioterrorism this prioritization may make sense.

The chief of state emergency management requested that all counties in Texas establish an Animal Issues Committee (AIC), which is the first step in addressing emergency management issues relating to animals. The goal of a committee is to identify and evaluate community vulnerabilities and plan for a proper response. The following example chart shows how this process may be initiated.
Guidance on the function of a committee can be found at the following link 
http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/emergency/AnimalIssuesCommitteeGuidance.pdf
The formation and composition of this type of planning committee is important to the identification of risks and proper responses. The state template for setting up an AIC plan can be found at 
http://www.txsart.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/app4annN0804.rtf  It provides more detail on who could be asked to join the committee, what tasks could be considered, and an overall framework for actually writing the plan.

The AIC is responsible for developing Community Animal Response Plans (CARPs), which detail how a community will address different animal issues situations in a step-by-step manner. One source for guidance in the development of these plans in The Texas State Animal Resource Team a program of the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation. Documents offering guidance to assist with the writing of CARPs are in the process of being developed according to function. Currently the Sheltering document is available with Evacuation and Carcass Disposal next in development. The Sheltering document can be linked to at 
The additional documents will be posted at http://www.txsart.org/ when they become available.

Counties that are currently in the process of writing plans can also find valuable information at http://texashelp.tamu.edu/005-agriculture/animal-issues.php

Sources:
http://www.wilsoncountynews.com/article.php?id=22336
http://www.txsart.org/
http://www.txsart.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/app4annN0804.rtf
http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/emergency/AnimalIssuesCommitteeGuidance.pdf

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<th>Functions</th>
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<th>Evacuation</th>
<th>Rescue</th>
<th>Disposal</th>
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Middle Eastern Terrorist groups and their supporting organizations have been successful in gaining support for Islamic goals in the United States and providing an environment for terrorist organizations to flourish.

A number of organizations in the U.S. have been lobbying Islamic-based issues for many years. These lobbying efforts have turned public and political support towards radical goals such as Shariah law and support of terrorist military action against Western nations. Add to this the Hezbollah training of Mexican Drug Cartel members on bomb making techniques; the threats to Texas are significant.

We give some examples of these lobbying activities.

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) presents itself as a Muslim Civil liberties group yet it was named an unindicted co-conspirator in the Justice Department’s case in Dallas against the Holy Land Foundation, a Hamas-linked Islamic charity. CAIR’s agenda was best illustrated by founder Omar Ahmad who told the San Ramon Valley Herald, "Islam isn't in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Koran should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on Earth."

Taken in that context, pushing an aggressive, pro-Islam agenda that's been increasingly successful in recent years takes on a new light. The following list taken in isolation seems rather innocuous: Muslim cab drivers in Minneapolis refuse to carry passengers who have alcohol in their possession; The Indianapolis airport in 2007 installed footbaths to accommodate Muslim prayer; Public schools schedule prayer breaks to accommodate Muslim students; Pork is banned in the workplace; etc.

Tolerance is growing in more formal areas. The Department of Treasury recently hosted a conference titled "Islamic Finance 101" which indicates the possibility that the government hopes to secure recycled petrodollars in exchange for conforming to Shariah economic doctrine. Christopher Holton of the Center for Security Policy refers to Islamic finance, or "Shariah-Compliant Finance" as a "modern-day Trojan horse" infiltrating the U.S. He said it poses a threat to the U.S. because it seeks to legitimize Shariah – a man-made medieval doctrine that regulates every aspect of life for Muslims – and could ultimately change American life and laws. A Houston bank now offers Islamic Financing for home loans.

A recent conference, titled “International Forum for Resistance, Anti-Imperialism, Solidarity between Peoples and Alternatives,” was held on January 16-18, 2009, and hosted by the Consultative Center for Studies and Documentation (CCSD), a Hezbollah-affiliated think tank. The conference was co-sponsored by several international far Left groups, including the International Campaign Against U.S. and Zionist Occupations, a coalition co-founded by the International Action Center (IAC). The keynote address was given by Naim Qassem, Hezbollah’s deputy secretary general. He talked about the need to rearm Hamas in Gaza and stated that "We must intensify the struggle against NATO" and talked about finding a way to disrupt "the imperialist and Zionist war machines."

The IAC was founded by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. The IAC delegation led by Clark included former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. The IAC views Hezbollah and Palestinian terror groups like Hamas and groups fighting U.S. forces in Iraq as legitimate popular resistance forces and a bulwark against U.S. imperialism and "Israeli terrorism."
The IAC also has operations in the United States including one of the main anti-war and anti-Israel protest movements in the U.S. called ANSWER, Act Now to Stop War and End Racism. Law enforcement should be aware of activities in their area.

Islamic radicalization of have been reported by such groups as Hizb-ut-Tahir who have a goal of overthrowing governments and replacing them with a caliph. They take advantage of growing tolerance in the U.S. Some of their marketing schemes have included hip hop fashion boutiques, hip hop bands, use of online social networks, use of video sharing networks, chat forums and blogs. They have been especially active in California, New York, Wisconsin, and Chicago. They target universities for recruitment.

Given the stated objectives of these lobbying groups and the secretive activities of radical Islamic organizations, it is imperative for law enforcement officers to report these types of activities to identify potential underlying trends emerging in the North Central Texas region.

Sources:
http://www.adl.org/main_Terrorism/far_left_terror_beirut.htm
http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=27416
http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/publications/id.2289/pub_detail.asp
http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=4377