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**Testimony**

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**One Hundred Tenth Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**

**Committee on Homeland Security**

**Sub Committee on Transportation Security and Critical Infrastructure Protection**

**Hearing on;**

**“Partnerships in Securing Critical Infrastructure”**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 2:00 PM**

**311 Cannon House Office Building**

**Washington, DC 20515**

U.S. Congressman Benny Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

First and foremost I want to thank you for this opportunity you have provided me as a citizen of the United States of America to impact the safety and security of our Great Nation and specifically the Pacific Northwest.

You have seen the biography I provided so I will not take time with my professional bona fides. I do have a brief story to recount, in 1985 while I was still serving in active military service I was returning from a five year overseas tour in Europe where I experienced terrorism first hand through the activities of the Bader Mein Hoff Gang, the Italian Red Brigade, the 1983 bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, and the day I will never forget as I watched in June 1985 the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in which a 23-year-old U.S. Navy diver, Robert Dean Stethem, of Waldorf, Md., was shot and dumped on the tarmac of Beirut International Airport. These events fundamentally changed my outlook on the world and put me on a course that has led to me speaking with you today.

You may ask why do I invoke these memories, well in 1985 as I returned to the United States through Kennedy International Airport I looked around and said to myself we are not ready, doesn't anybody watch the news? I retired from military service late in 1992 and watched in horror as the the World Trade Center was destroyed in 2001.

I stand here today to inform you of my impression of security, critical infrastructure preparedness, and the response capabilities of the Pacific Northwest in preparation for the 2009 World Fire and Police Games, 2010 Olympics, and 2010 Para-Olympics and based on my experience I can seriously tell you that we are not prepared.

The safety and security of the 2010 Olympics and the United States is at risk if we do not take direct action. There are tasks that were identified by DHS in their Congressional report, some of which have not been completed, and eleven additional tasks I will identify that must be accomplished to insure a safe and successful event.

I have lived in the Pacific Northwest for almost twenty two years and during that time I have served on numerous Homeland Security related committees, personally conducted Risk, Threat, and Vulnerability Assessments for two counties, Transit Facilities, water and sewer utilities, private corporate facilities, and educational facilities.

Additionally, I have participated as a planner and evaluator for several Blue Cascades Critical Infrastructure Interdependency Exercises held by the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER). Additionally, I have been involved in writing initiatives and breaking down barriers in support of public private partnerships in information sharing

and intelligence. Most recently I was an active participant in the recent floods in Lewis County which closed down Interstate 5 for a period of several days.

I am an industry professional who has a ground up view and I wish to share that with you today. I am going to provide information on several critical areas, they are;

- Public/Private Interoperability Issues
- Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Regional Disaster Resilience
- Expedited Border Crossing Issues

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security • Report to Congress on the 2010 Olympic and Para-Olympic Winter Games identifies many gaps and shortfalls which must be addressed prior to the 2010 Olympics. As I have experienced in local meetings and read in various federal documents precious little has been accomplished in the way of Federal preparation and support although tremendous strides have been made on a State level with minimal funding.

The 2009 World Fire and Police Games will be held also in Vancouver, and provide an opportunity for us to plan and test our preparedness for the Olympics.

The World Fire and Police Games which commence in fourteen short months and will bring athletes, spectators, and support staff from all over the world to the Pacific Northwest.

As we speak winter Olympic teams are already arriving in the Northwest for practice and preparation.

To this end the DHS Special Events Work Group (SEWG) promised to provide a comprehensive risk, threat and vulnerability assessment. This is a critical document as security planning and decisions are based in risk and risk is calculated from threat. This essential planning document has not yet been prepared.

Different from other Olympic Events the Pacific Northwest has a considerably higher threat of disaster. We are susceptible to a variety of potential catastrophic incidents (indeed, these are more than potential--most have occurred in the recent past): Including earthquakes; volcanic eruptions with a lahar flow possibility; flooding; hurricane-force windstorms; domestic and foreign terrorism; epidemics; tsunamis; fires; hazardous materials disaster; landslides; and tornadoes. These events—and the problems associated with any response to them—are exacerbated by the geologic and geographic constraints of the main population centers (Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Vancouver) which are bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Cascade Mountain Range on the east. These geographic features create what has become known as the I-5 corridor.

In its current status the 2010 Olympics has been federally designated a "Special Event". In past years the Academy Awards, Super Bowls 2002 to 2008, and 2002 Winter Olympics were given the higher designation of "National Special Security Events". Many of these events were only two to four hours in duration. The 2010 Olympics will last for fourteen days and be seen by over 3 Billion viewers seconded only by the Summer Olympics.

Given the above information I ask that you consider upgrading the designation of this event to "National Special Security Event".

### **Public/Private Information Sharing**

The Pacific Northwest has significant private sector assets. Companies like Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, and Washington Mutual are national or global in nature and possess significant intelligence assets for support of their operations. In many cases individuals in these organizations have higher security clearances than many law enforcement officials.

It would be unfortunate not to capitalize on these assets in support of the 2010 Olympics through the framework established by the Northwest Warning and Response Network NWWARN.

The best way to prevent an attack is by discovering it in the early planning stages. This can best be accomplished through a robust Information and Intelligence Sharing process for vetted professionals in all critical infrastructure sectors, both public and private.

Sharing intelligence and warning information with Canada will be key in preventing any attack during the 2010 Olympics. In consideration of our cross border Canadian partners this ability needs to be enhanced and tested.

### **Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Regional Disaster Resilience**

I was recently involved in flooding of Lewis County Washington which closed all four lanes of Interstate 5 for four days, 3 to 7 December 2007 it is estimated this four day closure had a regional economic impact of 5.8 Million Dollars per day.

In the grand scheme of things this was a relatively minor event. From this, we can only imagine what impact a major event would have on the Pacific Northwest Economy.

The best way to prevent significant expense is the ability to rapidly respond, mitigate, and recover from an emergency event. Costs rapidly become exponential each day that an emergency event continues.

To prevent this we must enhance the States' capacities developed through General Lowenbergs' excellent efforts and conduct federally supported and funded cross-border, multi-jurisdictional, disaster resilience preparedness exercises that consider critical infrastructure interdependencies which could negatively impact the Games, and the border.

### **Expedited Border Crossing**

At present there are considerable issues pertaining to cross border movement of people and goods related to the various games. The DHS report prepared for the 2010 Olympics identified numerous significant issues with border crossing, the report only considers the anticipated increases in traffic due to the games. The report does not address Emergency Operations in case of a manmade or natural disaster.

It is imperative that Medical, Fire, and Police resources have pre-arranged agreements for expedited border crossings in both directions should their support be required during the response phase of a critical incident. In regards to nurses, doctors, and medical personnel there are union issues which must be considered and resolved.

I have several concerns for non emergency operations during the Olympics including developing protocols for the movement of people and goods at the border. To the best of my knowledge not enough effort is being made at the Federal level to develop this interface between the Customs and Border Patrol, and the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA).

Ideally, it is important to develop protocols for mass transit carriers such as buses and high speed ferries.

To further cut down on Border delays it would be reasonable to consider a Park and Ride type of arrangement with shuttle busses where the benefit is pre-clearance of passengers to expedite border crossing during the games.

Reduced passenger car traffic is very important to the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC) as no private cars will be allowed on the road to Whistler, not to mention emergency response and potential congestion issues. Identified gaps need to be federally addressed, especially on our side of the border, with Critical Infrastructure owners and operators, Mass Transit carriers, and border officials.

## **Eleven Areas for Improvement**

### **General**

- Upgrade the 2010 Olympics and associated games to a National Special Security Event

### **Information Sharing**

- Provide Federal Support for funding, training, and exercises for NWWARN
- Permit participation of vetted professionals through NWWARN in all critical infrastructure sectors both public and private.
- Include participation by our Canadian partners in information and intelligence sharing.
- Fund exercises to support greater interoperability of intelligence assets between the Washington Fusion Center WAJAC and Canadian Authorities.
- Provide training for private security officers and street level police officers in Surveillance Detection and Indicators of Deception.

### **Critical Infrastructure**

- Fund exercising the mutual aid agreements with (PNEMA) which have not been tested.
- Complete the SEWG Risk, Threat, and Vulnerability Assessment
- Fund the development of Table Top Exercises which include participation from impacted sectors specifically owners and operators of critical infrastructure, emergency managers, PNEMA, fire, and police from both sides of the border.

### **Expedited Border Crossing**

- Consider and plan for Border Crossings during emergency situations.
- Develop pre arranged border crossing agreements (both ways) for Medical, Fire, and Police personnel
- Develop protocols for expediting Mass Transit through the border by expedited manifests of passenger information.

The return on investment for this funding and support is the development of best practices which will directly impact the Safety and Security of the Pacific Northwest and 2010 Olympics. The lessons learned will have National capacity as other States and event planners can benefit from our experiences and best practices.

## Closing

Given the current world situation and based on my experience I feel the 2010 Olympics has strong potential to be a global target and at a minimum has a higher than normal possibility for natural disaster.

In this light I remind you of the 1972 Olympics where the terrorist target was not only twelve Israelis, but the millions of innocent viewers world wide who had terrorism brought right into their living rooms as they watched a terrorist event unfold on National television.

**The way forward:** Dealing with future catastrophes is not easy. It requires time and commitment. Commitment in Federal government means establishing priorities for action through funding. Only when this is seen will collaborative plans have a reasonable chance of successful implementation.

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region, of which I am a part, is a unique organization that is statutorily viable in several Northwest States and the Canadian Provinces.

PNWER has a proven track record through its Center for Regional Disaster Resilience to expedite these processes and significantly impact preparedness through it ability to develop collaborative solutions between the Public and Private Sectors

Through the dedicated efforts of General Lowenberg and his staff, the Pacific Northwest economic region, and an involved community the framework for successful completion of these actions exists in the Pacific Northwest.

This concludes my testimony

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Slott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Setracon Incorporated