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To: United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies

From: Mark Perez  
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Date: July 25, 2011

Re: Testimony for hearing entitled "The Last Line of Defense: Federal, State, and Local Efforts to Prevent Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism Within the United States"

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony before you today on Florida's statewide PRND capabilities.

My name is Mark Perez and I am a Special Agent in Charge with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; I also have the honor of serving as Florida's Homeland Security Advisor. Florida is heralded as one of the top tourist destinations in the world; it has the second longest coastline in our country; and is the fourth most populated state in our great nation; home to nearly 19 million Floridians, whose cultures are as unique and diverse as our state's landscape. These are some of the same influences that formed the basis for Florida's Domestic Security Strategic Plan and Governance Structure into an inclusive structure designed to encourage and facilitate multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary participation at all levels of government. The structure has three main components:

1) Our seven (7) **Regional Domestic Security Task Forces (RDSTF)** serves as the foundation of our state's domestic security structure. Each RDSTF consists of local, multi-disciplinary representatives who collectively support our state's strategic plan and form the critical link between policy makers at the state level and local "boots on the ground" partners faced with the daily challenges of protecting our communities.

2) Our **State Working Group on Domestic Preparedness (SWG)**, which is headed by an Executive Board, is made up of multi-disciplinary subject matter experts from each RDSTF and designated urban areas, as well as other key agency liaisons. The SWG structure affords the opportunity for statewide consistency in plan development, planning and delivery of training and exercises, and equipment recommendations.

3) Our **Domestic Security Oversight Council (DSOC)** provides executive direction and leadership with respect to Florida's strategic plan and serves as an advisory council by providing guidance to the RDSTFs and SWG. The DSOC also make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature related to Florida's counter-terrorism and domestic security efforts.

In February 2006, Florida began partnering with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) when the state's Department of Transportation's Office of Motor Carrier Compliance (OMCC), in conjunction with the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) worked on the Southeast Transportation Corridor Pilot (SETCP). The project installed fixed radiological portal monitors at weigh station facilities, however, due to the limitations of the fixed portal monitors, DNDO agreed to develop a mobile detector which was capable of being deployed at weigh stations, special event venues, intelligence driven locations, as well as used in patrol operations.

In addition, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) Division of Law Enforcement also worked with the DNDO in developing a Small Craft Initiative in an attempt to interdict waterborne radiological/nuclear threats.

In the fall of 2007, the DSOC recognized these efforts and created the Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND) Sub-Committee of the State Working Group's Operations and Plans Committee. In a collaborative effort between various federal, state and local partners, this group became the focus of the DNDO's Program Assistance pilot. The purpose of this pilot was to facilitate the development of a statewide PRND Enterprise Model which would then be implemented in other states and territories.

Over the next two years this group worked tirelessly to create Florida's PRND Strategy; its mission, "*...to protect the people, economy, and natural resources of Florida against threats posed by the unauthorized use of radiological and nuclear materials.*"

Some of the early challenges identified in the development of a statewide PRND strategy were the procurement, training and use of scientific equipment not previously used by law enforcement. If the procurement and cost associated with the acquisition of this specialized equipment wasn't enough of a challenge; maintaining the proficiency of officers assigned to use the equipment certainly was.

Because this type of activity was relatively new to law enforcement in our State, a well defined Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and operating and policies and procedures had to be created. We received input from DNDO and other entities which had been engaged in PRND operations and created a deeper integration of Florida's law enforcement, fire/rescue, emergency management, and Florida National Guard efforts to ensure that the PRND Program Goals would be met.

Other important factors related to the development of a statewide PRND strategy was the identification of resources, related to budget and staffing; as well as a statewide equipment acquisition strategy. This ensured that all regional PRND needs were identified and met with common equipment in order to simplify logistical support, operational sustainment and training requirements. The acquisition strategy was defined and implemented to meet basic and specialized capabilities as well as defining requirements to provide for future technological insertion/ upgrades to existing equipment.

Training officers in the operation of specialized equipment has always been a factor when dealing with PRND capabilities. Historically this has been accomplished by having officers attend courses offered by the DHS. However, the individual jurisdictions must provide the training in the concept of operations (CONOPS) as well as the policies and procedures for a specific jurisdiction. Due to the high demand for the training and limited availability of courses offered, Florida's PRND Strategy identified and developed its own capabilities so that the training needs of Florida's agencies could be met promptly and with minimal travel required by the attendees. A training model was created utilizing the Florida College System in conjunction with the state's public-private workforce system; the DNDO and the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control provided assistance with the development of the training program and curricula integrity. Currently, Florida has a cadre of instructors certified by DHS, who have successfully trained hundreds of our officers throughout the state.

Florida has a strong statewide PRND strategy, built upon the foundation of our state's strategic plan and structure that encourages and facilitates multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary participation at all levels. We have shared our PRND strategy with other states and territories, to assist with their build-out efforts and solicit feedback on how it can be improved upon.

As the Greek playwright Sophocles stated, "*Success is dependent on effort.*" Without the combined efforts, from our federal, state, local and territorial partners we cannot be successful with ensuring the continued success of our PRND mission.

Thank you.