

TEXAS TECH

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

SECOND REPORT

The Task Force on Anti-Terrorism and Public Security

to

Chancellor David Smith, Texas Tech University System

and

President David Schmidly, Texas Tech University

Lubbock, Texas

April 8, 2002



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
The Task Force on Anti-Terrorism and Public Security

April 8, 2002

To the Chancellor and President,

In response to your comments and recommendations based upon our First Report of November 2, 2001, the Task Force deliberated during the ensuing five months to develop its second report and recommendations which I transmit to you, herewith.

As charged by you, upon our appointment on September 25, 2001, just two weeks following the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States, the Task Force was asked to:

- ! Identify existing personnel, programs, and organizations that bear most directly on the security of our nation and its citizens;
- ! Examine strategic plans, degree offerings, and administrative structures in light of America's current and prospective security concerns;
- ! Determine how the System can make its resources most accessible and of greatest service to the region and the nation.

Building upon our initial inventory of activities, the Task Force identified expertise who made up the membership of appointed Subcommittees, focusing on areas of strengths within the Texas Tech University System. These Subcommittees included over one hundred faculty members of the Texas Tech University, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Amarillo and El Paso, as well as private sector representatives, and local, state and federal government representatives. Throughout the months of January, February and March, the Task Force received presentations from these Subcommittees, and a wealth of spirited and thoughtful debate followed these presentations, culminating in this second report and its recommendations. As Chair of the Task Force, I would be remiss were I not to take this occasion to commend the tireless efforts and work of the members of the Task Force who fully realize that committee work can be thankless, but nonetheless gave willingly and generously of their time and expertise to work through complex and comprehensive plans and deliberations and to arrive at our recommendations.

I am pleased to forward with this letter the Second Report of the Task Force on Anti-Terrorism and Public Security.

Sincerely,

Victoria Sutton
Chair

The Task Force on Anti-Terrorism and Public Security

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The Task Force on Anti-Terrorism and Public Security

April 8, 2002

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The Task Force on Anti-Terrorism and Public Security

SECOND REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force on Anti Terrorism and Public Security was appointed on September 25, 2001, just two weeks following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, by Chancellor David Smith and President David Schmidly. The charge to the Task Force was to start by examining the resources of the Texas Tech University System and to determine how to address needs in homeland security for the region, state and national interests in education, service and research.

The First Report of the Task Force was completed on November 2, 2001, and outlined areas of strength of the Texas Tech University System. Expertise in areas which focus on economies of the West Texas region became evident in agro-terrorism, zooterrorism and oil field and critical infrastructure anti-terrorism. The human component of activities comprised areas of environmental conditions, social sciences, and human health. Interim Chancellor Smith and President Schmidly asked the Task Force to proceed with their initial analyses and to examine those areas of strength as well as our core facilities in fulfilling our role as a university system in this time of our nation's new demands for research, education and service.

The Second Report includes the work of over five months of not only the Task Force membership, but also of more than one hundred faculty members and staff of the Texas Tech University, the TTU Health Sciences Center; professional organizations; private enterprises; and representatives of local, state and federal governments. Much of this work was carried out through the efforts of five subcommittees: Oil Field and Critical Infrastructure Anti-Terrorism, Agro-Terrorism, Surveillance in Public Health, University-City Public Health Partnerships, and the Homeland Security Degree Programs and Institute Subcommittees, identified in Appendix 2.

The Task Force's recommendations are based upon the presentations and reports made by each of the Subcommittees; the findings of the Public Panels held in Lubbock, Amarillo and El Paso; and the deliberations of the Task Force members over the past six months. The Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security produced its first report on January 31, 2002, and made specific recommendations which were considered throughout our deliberations. The Task Force has made reference throughout this report as to how the Governor's Task Force recommendations might be supported by our work and initiatives.

The recommendations made herein are broad and ambitious, but reflect a synergism which exists as a result of the multidisciplinary talents and resources found uniquely within the Texas Tech University System considered among Texas institutions of higher education. The broad support received from the Task Force for these recommendations represents an unprecedented cooperative proposal, uniquely building upon many of the existing resources of the Texas Tech University System.

The Task Force makes the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Establish a School of Homeland Security

- ! The unique features of the TTU System make the establishment of a School of Homeland Security both logical and appropriate. With a medical school, law school, university, health sciences center, the Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Program and Reese Center facilities, the TTU System offers the state and U.S. southwestern region a center of unequalled talent and resources. This School should optimally be positioned between the University and the Health Sciences Center, as a truly interdisciplinary institution, led by a Dean or Director.

- ! The School of Homeland Security would include the Department of Epidemiology, the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences, the Department of Toxicology, a Center for Law, Policy and Bioterrorism as well as faculty members from the Departments of Microbiology, Infectious Diseases, and Forensic Pathology.

- ! A Homeland Security Coordinator would also be based in the School, to coordinate relevant courses, degree programs, resources initiatives, and interdisciplinary research proposals throughout the TTU System. The establishment of a School of Homeland Security by no means calls for centralization of resources, instead encouraging courses and other degree specializations to exist throughout all disciplines. Other Departments with interests in Homeland Security could have appropriate faculty standing in the School.

- ! The School of Homeland Security fills a need for the state among its institutions of higher education. The recent initiatives of other Texas universities address particular parts of the homeland security field as a Center or Institute, but none have proposed a comprehensive School with such core facilities, resources and talents as those offered within the TTU System.

- ! Degrees offered from the School of Homeland Security would include the M.S. degree in Epidemiology, the M.S. degree in Toxicology, and the M.S. degree in Forensic Sciences. A Certificate Program would be available for professionals and could be obtained through distance learning facilities.

- ! The Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security has recommended that the state be divided into ten regions for preparation and response. TTU with this School, would be a logical center for West Texas Homeland Security.

- ! The concept of a School of Homeland Security is supported by the City of Lubbock which is seeking federal legislative support for a major national center of Homeland Security for TTU. Such a national center would be academically within the School of Homeland Security.

II. Seek federal and private sector investment for the International Center for Food Industry Excellence.

- ! TTU has special strengths in the areas of agro-terrorism and zooterrorism, with its expertise in food safety as a centerpiece of excellence. The development of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence and the interest it has generated from the U.S. Office of Homeland Security is testament to that forward thinking. Seeking federal funding and private sector support for this Center will strengthen our resources in Homeland Security.
- ! The Center should be within the School of Homeland Security and can incorporate degree components of Pharmacology and would join with the Agricultural Medicine Center in Amarillo in providing unprecedented synergy to this area of expertise unique to Texas Tech University.

III. Establish coordination of public health resources for local, state, national and international interests by strengthening our partnerships and providing further support for the international components with the TTUHSC-El Paso.

- ! The partnerships with the local government of the City and County of Lubbock, has already shown great promise in effectively utilizing our talents and resources. Partnerships with both the City of Lubbock and the City of Amarillo and their respective local Public Health Offices and the Emergency Management Offices have developed the preparedness and response plans for these two major areas of West Texas. Further formalizing of such agreements and making our Partnership Subcommittee a permanent advisory body would ensure ongoing success.
- ! Surveillance systems as part of this partnership are promising for increasing our ability to respond to biological events at the earliest opportunity. The use of a computerized data base for such reporting should be implemented in the Lubbock area.
- ! The utilization of the TTUHSC --El Paso campus provides an excellent opportunity for research, service and education. Together with the ongoing research activities of the Texas Institute for Environmental and Human Health among the colonias and the research work of the Mammology Program of the Department of Biology on the international border comprise an unprecedented interdisciplinary strength on border health. The resources and existing research in the international border area as a part of the School of Homeland Security will comprise one of the leading efforts in border health in the United States.

IV. Coordinate and strengthen critical infrastructure anti-terrorism resources and talents for protecting our water supply, oil supplies and power facilities and make them available to the rural communities of West Texas. An appropriate communication plan with the rural West Texas communities should be implemented to address public concerns about terrorism.

- ! The water supply is a primary natural resource which can be protected with appropriate actions and resources. Utilizing the resources of TTU and TTUHSC, engineering, health sciences and agricultural sciences disciplines, these resources necessarily require cutting edge research in these areas to ensure protection. The Department of Plant and Soil Science with the School of Engineering have specific expertise which should have a significant role in education and research in the School of Homeland Security.
- ! The Partnership Goal of the Texas Tech University Strategic Plan, can be supported by the critical infrastructure educational resources in anti-terrorism, by making them available to the small communities of West Texas, through on-line computer courses for training in those areas. Coordination of this activity through the School of Homeland Security, can fully utilize these resources and expertise.