



9/11 SIMULATION: FEDERALISM AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Response to a Terrorist Attack

AP Gov/Ms. Strong



OVERVIEW - The tragic events of September 11, 2001 in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania elicited a multitude of responses from federal, state and local governments. This activity will allow you to get a real sense of the "marble cake" image of federalism as well as to develop an understanding of the choices that government leaders have to make. Particularly in crisis situations, the levels of government must sometimes depend on each other. As a class, we will brainstorm all the tasks the governments at the local, state and federal levels are facing in the wake of this tragedy, and devise strategies to attack the crisis.

DIRECTIONS - The class will be divided into "government level" teams: 1) the Federal Government, 2) New York State Government and 3) Local Government, the city of New York and surrounding counties. Group members will brainstorm solutions to the tasks below in response to the 9-11 attacks and aftermath. Using laptops, each team will create a PowerPoint on Google Docs to be used in their presentation the following class.

GOOGLE DRIVE DIRECTIONS - 1) Name the Doc: Period_9/11Sim_Government Level [example: 1st Per_FedSim_Federal Gov], 2) Invite Ms. Strong at jstrong@k12albemarle.org 3) List all group members on Slide 1.

I. SIMULATION ACTION PLAN - The government level teams will create an Action Plan to respond to the terrorist attack and its aftermath. Each team will brainstorm the tasks to be performed during and after the event, identify relevant government agencies/departments and non-government organizations to carry out the tasks identified in the action plan. Each government team will produce a brief PowerPoint and present their findings to the class (slides in the following areas):

- 1) *Immediate Tasks During the Crisis* (the first 72 hours) – Based on your team’s government level, create a list of tasks during and immediately after the terrorist attack, and include resources/assets required to carry out those tasks (i.e. who will carry out the various tasks). [about 2 slides]
- 2) *Long Term Tasks* - Identify the long-term goals in the months and years after the crisis is resolved -- what problems do you foresee down the road that need to be addressed? [HINT: Consider national security issues, health concerns, rebuilding infrastructure, economic resurgence, etc.] What government agencies, departments and resources along with private sector assets need to be mobilized in the months ahead to prevent such an attack in the future [about 2 slides]

NOTE: In order to complete the PowerPoint in the appointed amount of time, the group may need to break down into smaller sub-group or “agencies.”

II. PRESENTATIONS – PRESS CONFERENCE: Each government group will present their findings to the rest of the class in the format of a press conference briefing conducted by relevant government officials. Members of the audience will play reporters and may ask questions and make comments.

III. DEBRIEFING: After the presentations, the class will discuss the questions below.

- 1) Identify the tasks that most be shared by all three levels of government. How should coordination occur to carry out these tasks (i.e. who’s in charge)?
- 2) Identify the tasks that could/should only be carried out by the local, state or federal governments.
- 3) What generalizations can you make regarding a domestic terrorist attack and it’s impact on American federalism?
- 4) As an “expert” representing your level of government, if you were asked to testify before Congress, what recommendations would you make to assist in America’s preparedness in the future for a terrorist attack?

Government Agencies Responding to a Terrorist Attack

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (includes the President, White House Staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Congress, Independent Agencies)

- ❖ **Center for Disease Control (CDC)** – Provide support to local medical personnel in handling injuries, potential spread of disease, radiation, etc.
- ❖ **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** – Relying heavily on human intelligence, monitors potential terrorist activity around the world
- ❖ **Department of Agriculture** - coordinates damage assessments to area crops, livestock, and other agriculture-related operations.
- ❖ **Department of Defense** - Assists FEMA and National Guard after disaster declarations are issued for assistance in security, clean-up,
- ❖ **Department of Health and Human Services** - deploys U.S. Public Health Service Officers to effected areas on standby for deployment to support medical response.
- ❖ **Department of Homeland Security** – Manages federal assistance and provides resources to effected areas.
- ❖ **Department of Labor** – provides disaster unemployment assistance and National Emergency Grants and assists in job recovery programs.
- ❖ **Department of Transportation** - dispatches trucks deliver millions of meals ready to eat, water and supplies, mobile homes, generators, etc. to effected areas; assists in long-term repair/rebuilding of roads and other transportation infrastructures.
- ❖ **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – Responsible for coordinating federal response to environmental disaster; investigates and monitors environmental impact
- ❖ **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** – Law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of Justice; investigates and prosecutes domestic terrorism
- ❖ **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – provides supplies, equipment, financial assistance to victims and Disaster Medical Assistance Teams to areas hit by terrorist attacks.
- ❖ **National Security Agency (NSA)** – Monitors potential and real terrorist threats using technology, decoding, etc.
- ❖ **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** – oversees nuclear energy and nuclear safety search and rescue.
- ❖ **U.S. Coast Guard** – provides aircraft, patrol boats and cutters to conduct search, rescue and humanitarian aid operations.
- ❖ **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** – Responsible for checking cargo and providing security at ports and borders

STATE GOVERNMENT (includes the Governor, State Legislatures and Agencies)

- ❖ **National Guard** – though a federal entity, may be called by governors to provide search and rescue, assisting local law enforcement, and supplies to victims.
- ❖ **State Department of Education** – help displaced school children and teachers integrate back into other schools.
- ❖ **State Department of Health** – assists in disease control, and management of public health crisis in effected areas.
- ❖ **State Emergency Management Agencies** – helps to coordinate shelters, supplies, health care, transportation for recovery efforts.
- ❖ **State Police** – state law enforcement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (includes Mayors, Municipal or County Boards or Councils, Agencies)

- ❖ **Local Emergency Services** – first responders to medical emergencies.
- ❖ **Local Fire Department** – first responders to carry out search and rescue operations.
- ❖ **Local Law Enforcement** – police, sheriff departments with primary law enforcement responsibility.
- ❖ **Local Public Transportation (buses, trains, subways)** – transportation for possible evacuation.
- ❖ **Social Services** – provides assistance to families, individuals in need.

PRIVATE OR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- ❖ **American Red Cross** – provides temporary shelter, supplies, relief workers and support to disaster victims.
- ❖ **Private Businesses** – corporations with large resources ex: Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, Kroger
- ❖ **The Salvation Army** - provides services (food, clothing, etc.) to survivors and first responders in the effected areas.

Sources:

<http://www.firstgov.gov>