

## **Results of the Seminar on Law Enforcement and Rescue Operations**

26 September 2002

The Seminar was well attended with approximately 35 participants. After brief introductory remarks by the Chairman, U.S. SCEPC Representative Mike Austin a joint briefing was presented by a U.S. FBI and FEMA team. Earlier plans to have a Russian presenter did not materialize. The presentation by Mr. Ron Williams from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations and Mr. Michael Lowder from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) explained the U.S. approach. Response to terrorism brings the two important Law Enforcement and Emergency Response communities together in a demanding operational and high-risk environment. Each has its own approach to emergency operations and incident management. There are significant opportunities for conflict and mutual interference. The need for an effective response to terrorism requires a clear understanding of how they will work together that is built upon terrorism preparedness and response measures which include doctrine, legal and political requirements, planning, training and exercises. It was explained that the U.S. method was only one nation's approach and was simply being presented for discussion purposes. Nations would have to develop their own methods realistically dealing with the organization and doctrine of law enforcement and emergency responders in their own country. The need to keep the focus on the first responder community was important. The emphasis had to be placed on ensuring an effective and timely response coordination process that allowed both the law enforcement officials and the emergency management personnel to do their work without mutual interference and to provide maximum assistance to mitigate the consequences of the incident, protect property, re-establish effective public safety and permit necessary law enforcement.

The participants asked how this coordination method worked during the U.S. response to the terrorism attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. It was explained that the prior planning necessitated in development of the U.S. Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN) helped greatly. This process had included other key Federal departments and Agencies and exploited the strengths of the U.S. Federal Response Plan which was built upon close Federal, State and local cooperation and between all responsible governmental entities. It was explained that much of the insight resulted from the response to the attack on the U.S. Federal Court House in Oklahoma City. In the case of the World Trade Center, Federal assistance was carefully provided in support of the very capable emergency organization of the City of New York. Considerable discussion ensued on the command and control arrangements and comments were made reinforcing the importance of a systematic approach that is well understood by all participants (such as the Incident Command System in use by North American Fire Fighters.)

Note: the full text of the U.S. CONPLAN is available on the FEMA Home Page: at [WWW.FEMA.GOV..](http://WWW.FEMA.GOV..)

