

**BOARD OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

1:30 TO 3:00 PM

MEETING VIA WEBEX/CONFERENCE CALL

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

James Stallings, Vice Chairperson  
Col. Chris Wright, Secretary  
Vic Reynolds  
Chris Carr  
Calvin Rhodes  
Kyle Sapp  
Bill Cowsert

**Board Members Absent:**

MG Thomas Carden  
Mark Williams  
Kathleen Toomey  
Richard Woods  
Russell McMurry  
Gary Black  
Alan Powell

**Representatives Present:**

Col. Erik Andersen  
Col. Thomas Barnard  
Scott Minarcine  
Cheryl Benefield  
Larry Barnes

The Board of Homeland Security held the board meeting on April 7, 2021 via conference call. A List of Attendees, the Agenda, and the Board Presentation are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2, and #3. Vice Chairperson James Stallings called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

All board members are present except Adjutant General Thomas Carden with the Georgia Department of Defense, Commissioner Mark Williams with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner Kathleen Toomey with the Georgia Department of Public Health, Superintendent Richard Woods with the Georgia Department of Education, Commissioner Russell McMurry with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Commissioner Gary Black with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and Representative Alan Powell with the Georgia House of Representatives.

Vice Chairperson James Stallings welcomed everyone to the call.

**Roll Call**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Vice Chairperson James Stallings presented the minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting for discussion and approval. Quorum was not present. Postponed approval to the next meeting.

**New Business:**

Vice Chairperson James Stallings opened the floor for discussion on any new business.

Harlan Proveaux gave an update on Homeland Security funding for the upcoming year.

a) Redefining SWAT, GSAR, CBRNE, and Haz-Mat mission, deployment, and equipment

Dennis Valone provided information about the Tactical Law Enforcement Grant. The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Grant funds equipment needed to respond to those threats. Current CBRNE Grant recipients are Cobb County Police Department, Gwinnett County Police Department, Hall County Sheriff's Office, Floyd County Police Department, Richmond County Sheriff's Office, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, and Glynn County Police Department. The current SWAT Grant is issued to multiple teams and agencies throughout the State. There are some issues with CBRNE including: deviation from initial focus, initial training, annual training, and equipment costs and short shelf-life. Significant manpower commitment in a time of difficult recruiting retention of law enforcement. Proposal is to fund one statewide response team using the Georgia State Patrol SWAT Team. It would be composed of 11 full-time members and 21 collateral duty tactical officers throughout the State. Their airborne capabilities can get a full team on scene within two hours. The intent of the original 11 teams placed throughout the State was a two-hour response. The CBRNE Grant would fund one team for \$25,000 per year. The agency could use the \$75,000 being saved to fund the Tactical Law Enforcement program.

The SWAT Grant is typically for tactical teams. It costs an average of \$350,000 annually and any law enforcement agency can apply. Historically, it was only designated to SWAT Teams. There are also some issues with the SWAT Grant. Many agencies do not have a dedicated SWAT Team. There was no matrix to receiving equipment. The grant was used to purchase tactical gear that does not benefit the region and State as a whole. We need to start ensuring there is a domestic terrorism nexus. There have been Search and Rescue (SAR) Teams and Dive Teams request for funding. Those functions are important, but do not have a true terrorism nexus. All future equipment purchases will have to not only assist the local agency with response to terrorism events, but the equipment must also enhance the capabilities of the State. Proposal is to rename this grant to Tactical Law Enforcement Grant. Focus on the Board of Homeland Security Strategic Plan for the 'response' portion. The grant evaluation process will look at threats to CIKR and the community relating to domestic terrorism. The local or regional THIRA will give us the best guidance to the threats and capabilities of every community. Usually, patrol officers will be the ones to respond to threats in the first 60 minutes. The grant will fund the necessary equipment that can be readily deployed and end the threat quickly. The requests should focus on events and equipment relating to response of domestic terrorism such as: active shooter to include multi-assailant, night-time operations, man-hunts (local militia, escapees, sovereign citizen), securing scenes, and rescue task force.

Vice Chairperson James Stallings announced that Joey Greene, GEMA/HS General Counsel, is leaving our agency.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chairperson James Stallings adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda
3. Board Presentation

**BOARD OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

1:30 TO 3:00 PM

MEETING VIA WEBEX/CONFERENCE CALL

**BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:**

James Stallings, Vice Chairperson  
Col. Chris Wright, Secretary  
Vic Reynolds  
Chris Carr  
Mark Williams  
Calvin Rhodes  
Kyle Sapp  
Bill Cowsert

**Others Attending:**

Joey Greene  
Ashley Larrow  
Harlan Proveaux  
Ashley Seay  
Mike Smith  
Dennis Valone

**Representatives:**

Col. Erik Andersen  
Col. Thomas Barnard  
Scott Minarcine  
Larry Barnes  
Gary Kelley



# Board of Homeland Security Meeting

## AGENDA

*April 7, 2021*

*1:30 - 3:00 P.M.*

**Meeting via WebEx/Conference Call**

**gema.webex.com OR call 1-855-282-6330**

**Meeting Number: 185 650 2644**

**Password: HS040721**

### **Agenda Topic**

### **Speaker**

**Call to Order**

James C. Stallings, Vice Chairperson  
GEMA/HS

**Roll Call**

**Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2021**

**New Business**

- a) Redefining SWAT, GSAR, CBRNE, and Haz-Mat mission, deployment, and equipment

Dennis Valone, Operations Manager  
GEMA/HS

**Adjournment**




**Georgia Emergency Management  
& Homeland Security Agency**

# Tactical Law Enforcement Grant

---

Dennis Valone Operations/Intel Manager

1




# Tactical Law Enforcement Grant

## Current Grants

- **CBRNE**- Seven local jurisdictions
  - Cobb County PD
  - Gwinnett County PD
  - Hall County SO
  - Floyd/Rome PD
  - Richmond County SO
  - Lowndes County SO
  - Glynn County PD
- **SWAT**
  - Multiple teams and agencies throughout the state

2




## Tactical Law Enforcement Grant

### CBRNE Issues

- Deviation from initial focus
- Initial Training
- Annual Training
- Equipment
  - Costs
  - Shelf-life

Significant manpower commitment in a time of difficult recruiting/retention.

3



## Tactical Law Enforcement Grant

### Proposal

Fund one statewide response team using the Georgia State Patrol SWAT Team

- Full-time= Manpower
- Airborne Capabilities
  
- Fund North and South local LE Team

4




## Tactical Law Enforcement Grant

### SWAT Grant

- Typically for tactical teams
- Average 350k annually
- Any LE agency can apply

5




## Tactical Law Enforcement Grant

### SWAT Grant Issues

- Many agencies do not have dedicated SWAT Teams
- No matrix to receiving equipment
- Used as a way to purchase tactical gear that does not benefit the region/state as a resource.
- Domestic Terrorism nexus?

6






## Tactical Law Enforcement Grant

### SWAT Grant Proposal

- Rename to Tactical LE Grant
- Focus on Board of Homeland Security Strategic Plan for the "Response" portion.
- Evaluation process
  - DT Threats
  - CIKR
  - THIRA
  - Who is responding

7



# Questions?

[www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov) (404) 635-7000 @GeorgiaEMA

8