



Gov. PHILIP D. MURPHY | Lt. Gov. SHEILA Y. OLIVER | Dir. JARED M. MAPLES

NJOHSP



Jersey City/Newark Urban Areas Security Initiative 2018 Full-Scale Multi-Disciplinary Exercise

April 25, 2018 – Press Release

Press Contact: Patrick R. Rigby
communications@njohsp.gov | 609.584.4392

TRENTON, N.J. – Today, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), in conjunction with the Jersey City/Newark Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), the New Jersey State Police, and various municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, conducted a three-day, cross-state joint training exercise aimed at enhancing intelligence- and information-sharing between New Jersey and New York.

This exercise is the first of its kind between the two states. It will test each state's information-sharing ability to deliver a coordinated response and tactical skills during a complex attack that impacts both states. The New Jersey portion of the exercise takes place April 24, 25, and 26 in sites across the northern portion of the State, primarily in Linden, Newark and Secaucus.

The interconnectedness of New Jersey and New York cannot be understated as the threat landscape continues to evolve in this region. The two states have endured attacks as recently as September 2016, requiring that law enforcement at all levels remain vigilant and prepared in case another attack occurs. Each state has engaged with an array of municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement partners to support the development efforts. Hundreds of first responders from across both states are participating in the exercise.

“New Jersey faces a complex, diverse, and fluid security environment, with real, pervasive, and evolving threats,” said Director Jared Maples of NJOHSP. “Collaboration between municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement is paramount for the continued well-being of our citizenry and the protection of our state.”

The exercise will also be testing other functional capabilities to include urban search and rescue, tactical and mass casualty response. Intelligence regarding the events will be disseminated between the two states. The first portion of the exercise involved the New York State Intelligence Center, the New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center, and the New Jersey Real-Time Crime Center. Each agency will use the information they obtained regarding the attacks and share it among their law enforcement partners to try to establish connections between the incidents. Following the explosive attacks exercise, a series of simulated complex attack exercises will occur in both states in the following days that will require responses from first responders, including bomb squads and hazardous materials, technical rescue, urban search and rescue, and tactical teams.

###

The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), a Cabinet-level agency, was created in 2006. The Director serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor, and is responsible for leading and coordinating the State's counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness efforts while building resiliency throughout the State across all levels of government and the private sector. NJOHSP oversees and distributes discretionary State and federal homeland security and emergency preparedness funds on behalf of New Jersey. More information about NJOHSP can be found at www.njhomelandsecurity.gov.