

TO: Rapid City Common Council
FROM: Battalion Chief Mike Holmes
RE: National Homeland Defense Grant
DATE: October 22, 2001

In 1999 the South Dakota WMD Terrorism Task Force, led by General Phil Killey, South Dakota National Guard, convened to tackle mandates set forth by Congress. After more than a decade of terrorist attacks upon the USA, both here and abroad, it became apparent that every state must be prepared for such incidents. For this reason The South Dakota Task Force was formed. The lead agency is the South Dakota National Guard. Its other members were selected from State and local governments, law, fire, health and public works. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) is the controlling agency for The Homeland Defense Program. The Task Force was asked to performed strategic planning and answered five basic questions:

- ✓ Where are we now?
- ✓ Where do we want to be?
- ✓ How do we get there?
- ✓ Who must do what when?
- ✓ How do we know when we are there?

Congress set aside nearly 980 million dollars, to be awarded to the States according to their population and perceived threat. This money is meant assist the States meet their goals of readiness, once their plan is written and approved by the DOJ.

South Dakota has been awarded one million dollars over three years, starting with 1999. Because of the labor-intensive task of creating this state plan, no money has yet been dispersed. But, the 1999 share of the grant is available once states meet DOJ guidelines. We are one of the first states to have their plan completed, which is now being reviewed by the DOJ. The money will be used to strengthen three areas of emergency response, hazardous materials, law enforcement and EMS. This grant money must be used to purchase only the following types of equipment; personal protection, detection, and decontamination equipment that would protect against nuclear, biological and chemical attacks and communications equipment. Pennington County fire (hazmat), law and EMS have been awarded up to \$100,000 to purchase equipment from the 1999 grant money. The Rapid City Department of Fire and Emergency Services requests permission from the Rapid City Common Council to apply for and accept grant money from The Homeland Defense Program.