

Meeting #1
September 21, 2018

URBAN SHIELD TASK FORCE SUMMARY



URBAN SHIELD TASK FORCE REPORT SUMMARY

Additional information on the USTF and summary report can be found at <http://acgov.org>

BACKGROUND

Initiated by Supervisor Keith Carson (District 5), the Board of Supervisors convened the Urban Shield Task Force (USTF) in response to growing support and opposition for the continuation of Urban Shield in Alameda County.

Charged with assessing Urban Shield and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, the 18 - member task force met on March 10, 2017, and held 6 subsequent meetings.

PROCESS

Meetings 1 - 3 | Orientation, Information Sharing

Discussed (1) USTFs purpose, role, and meeting schedule (2) meeting protocols (3) Urban Shield overview; and (4) learning questions, data needs, and desired outcomes (5) informational presentations by reps from the task force and community.

Meetings 4 - 5 | Compliance, Emergency Preparations, Community Relations

Discussed 5 learning questions in small groups, formulated responses, and shared basic recommendations with the full task force.

Meetings 6 – 7 | Review & approval of recommendations

Deliberated and voted on recommendations for the 5 learning questions.

Final Report sent to the Alameda BOS in February 2018.

LEARNING QUESTIONS

- (1) **Does the Urban Shield Project meet federal guidelines** set out in the UASI grant?
- (2) Is Urban **Shield strictly an emergency preparedness** program?
- (3) **In the event of an emergency/** attack or natural disaster, **will public safety agencies, public health and other emergency response departments, be adequately trained and equipped to respond to such disasters without the training offered by Urban Shield?**
- (4) **Do the terms, conditions and guidelines of this program meet the demand** for the Bay Area Region to be prepared to respond to natural disaster (fire, earthquake, etc.) or a terrorist act?
- (5) **What is the impact of Urban Shield on the community's relationship with law enforcement and other emergency preparedness responders** such as the public health department; health care agencies; public education agencies; public transportation agencies; fire departments; and emergency medical services?

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REVIEW OF THE URBAN SHIELD TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Does the Urban Shield Project meet federal guidelines set out in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant?

USTF concluded that Urban Shield meets the federal guidelines set out in the UASI grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Require and ensure execution of the Principles and Guidelines established and outlined in the Sheriff's January 6, 2017, Board Letter for the Fiscal Year 2016 Urban Area Security Initiative Agreement. Before each UASI funding request, require reporting on adherence to these principles and guidelines.

Ensure inclusion and execution of the following, Urban Shield should disallow countries from participating in Urban Shield who have documented Human Rights abuses, which was previously approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, in the Principles and Guidelines.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Does the Urban Shield Project meet federal guidelines set out in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant?

USTF concluded that Urban Shield meets the federal guidelines set out in the UASI grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS con't

The Sheriff's Office shall provide an annual report to the Board of Supervisors prior to the consideration of UASI funding for 2018 by the Board of Supervisors.

The Sheriff's Office shall report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on the implementation of the twelve (12) guidelines for Urban Shield approved by the Board in January 2017 and implementation of other Task Force recommendations that may be adopted by the Board.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Is Urban Shield strictly an emergency preparedness program?

Urban Shield is strictly an emergency preparedness program, with room for improvement in implementing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's whole community approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Include the Whole Community in planning and exercises, e.g., conduct tabletop exercises with the community in the 13 Bay Area UASI counties leading up to a full-scale exercise in September. The example could be 4 tabletop exercises using the UASI Urban Area HUB (East Bay, West Bay, South Bay and North Bay).

Report on emergency preparedness activities in publicly available exercise documentation and/or summary reports, if not done already.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Is Urban Shield strictly an emergency preparedness program?

Urban Shield is strictly an emergency preparedness program, with room for improvement in implementing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's whole community approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS con't

Train and exercise non-terrorism scenarios that can justifiably support terrorism preparedness, including prevention and recovery and be in alignment with FEMA's whole community approach to emergency management.

FUNDING

In the event of an emergency/attack or natural disaster, will public safety agencies, public health and other emergency response departments, be adequately trained and equipped to respond to such disasters without the training offered by Urban Shield?

In relationship to public safety, public health and other emergency response departments that have been involved, interagency coordination between them has improved with Urban Shield.

No other significant sources of funding appear to be available for regional large-scale preparedness trainings and full-scale exercises.

RECOMMENDATION

Identify and seek additional grant funding for local regional large full-scale training and exercises for community preparedness and response training activities that is consistent with the Urban Shield Task Force recommendations.

TRAINING & EXERCISES

Do the terms, conditions and guidelines of this program meet the demand for the Bay Area Region to be prepared to respond to natural disaster (fire, earthquake, etc.) or a terrorist act?

USTF was unable to come to agreement on this question in relationship to Urban Shield.

USTF was in agreement that more could be done to meet the demand for whole community preparedness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Training and exercises should also focus emergency preparedness efforts on prevention of and recovery from emergencies in addition to response to such emergencies.

Incorporate, where applicable, risks to people especially those who are vulnerable to harm in emergencies in Alameda County.

TRAINING & EXERCISES

Do the terms, conditions and guidelines of this program meet the demand for the Bay Area Region to be prepared to respond to natural disaster (fire, earthquake, etc.) or a terrorist act?

RECOMMENDATIONS Con't

Increase funding for the Urban Shield exercise to incorporate additional preparedness activities to support FEMA's whole community inclusion approach. By doing so, the County will be better prepared and more resilient to emergencies.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office shall verify which law enforcement tactical teams of the following jurisdictions did not participate in Urban Shield for three or more of the last ten years or did not apply to participate in 2016.

Risk Relevance ratings should prioritize risks to people in the Bay Area, especially those who are vulnerable to harm in emergencies, not to non-human assets.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

What is the impact of Urban Shield on the community's relationship with law enforcement and other emergency preparedness responders such as the public health department; health care agencies; public education agencies; public transportation agencies; fire departments; and emergency medical services?

USTF agreed not vote on the draft response or draft recommendations, given that the Urban Shield Task Force does not represent vulnerable communities or those most impacted by it and that this is not the right body to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about community impact of Urban Shield.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & MATERIALS

WHAT IS URBAN SHIELD?

Urban Shield is a **regional training and exercise program for emergency first responders**, established by the Alameda County Sheriffs' Office.

The program was designed with the **intent to assess and strengthen the Bay Area's integrated response capabilities** for emergency preparedness.

FEMA WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

Whole Community is a philosophical approach in how to conduct the business of emergency management.

- ✓ Shared understanding of community needs and capabilities
- ✓ Greater empowerment and integration of resources from across the community
- ✓ Stronger social infrastructure
- ✓ Establishment of relationships that facilitate more effective prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities
- ✓ Increased individual and collective preparedness
- ✓ Greater resiliency at both the community and national levels

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1813250453330/whole_community_dec2011_2.pdf