



April 6, 1999

E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

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JT, RK, Fd

Dear Ron:

For your information, I forward the attached press release from the Department of Defense announcing the establishment of a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Advisory Panel, to be chaired by Governor James Gilmore of Virginia. In reviewing the five responsibilities of the panel, I note several issues related to the purpose and focus of the Trans-Texas Program of Countermeasures to Chemical and Biological Threats. As this panel begins its deliberations, I think it important that the Trans-Texas initiative be highlighted to the panel, particularly as they gather data to develop "recommended strategies for ensuring fully effective local responses to WMD incidents."

With the DoD's WMD Advisory Panel effort getting underway here in the Washington area, you might consider obtaining the services of a Washington-based consultant with current, relevant DoD experience. Captain John McGillvray recently completed service in the Navy, having spent his last six years in Washington, serving on both the Navy and Joint Staffs. As the Chief of the Joint Staff's J-5 Policy Division, John was a key player in the beginnings of the Department's Counterproliferation Initiative. He directed a comprehensive study effort of the DoD counterproliferation mission and provided recommendations to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the assignment of that mission to the appropriate unified combatant commanders.

Since leaving the Navy, John has joined an impressive team at BDM International Inc., now a wholly owned subsidiary of TRW's System & Information Technology Group. I worked with John while he was on active duty in the Navy and have continued to employ his talents and current Pentagon experience to assist companies and organizations in dealing with the Department of Defense.

I think John McGillvray should meet with you, perhaps at Texas Tech, to learn more of your efforts with the Trans-Texas initiative and to discuss how he can add value in your dealings with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, and the individual Services. If you agree, I will arrange for him to contact you.

Sincerely,

But

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met May 6*

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DESTRUCTION ADVISORY PANEL

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ESTABLISHES A WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ADVISORY
PANEL

Secretary of Defense Williams S. Cohen has announced today the formation of an advisory panel, headed by Virginia Governor James Gilmore, to assess domestic response capabilities for terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

"The challenge of terrorism demands that we vigorously and continuously analyze and assess our federal, state and local response mechanisms," said Cohen. "As part of this ongoing effort, Congress has called for a panel of experts to review our current and future needs. I am confident that they will make an important and lasting contribution."

The WMD Advisory Panel will be a three-year effort and report its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the President and Congress. The advisory group will submit four reports during its tenure: an interim report within six months after the date of the first meeting, and three annual reports due in December, starting in 1999.

"It's an honor to lead this national study," Gilmore said. "The threat of terrorism is an evolving national and global issue that also has implications at the state and local levels. The nation as well as our states and communities must be better prepared to deter, respond to, and recover from an act of terrorism."

Congress directed the establishment of the panel in October 1998. The Department of Defense, in consultation with the Attorney General, the secretary of Energy, the secretary of Health and Human Services, and the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, contracted the RAND Corp. to support the group with a federally funded research and development center.

Specifically, the panel is charged with five responsibilities:

Assess federal agency efforts to enhance domestic preparedness for terrorism incidents involving WMD.

Assess the progress of federal training programs for local emergency responses to WMD incidents.

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Assess deficiencies in programs for response to WMD incidents, including a review of unfunded communications, equipment, and planning requirements, and the need of maritime regions.
Recommended strategies for ensuring fully effective local response capabilities for WMD incidents.
Assess the appropriate roles of state and local governments in funding effective local response capabilities.

The panel will schedule its first meeting this spring. Members of the WMD Advisory Panel:

Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia

Ambassador L. Paul Bremmer, former director for Counter-Terrorism, Department of State

Donald Rumsfeld, former secretary of Defense

Retired Army Maj. Gen. William F. Garrison, former commanding general, Joint Special Operations Command