

**SOUTH CENTRAL TASK FORCE
2026 HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE
VERSION 1.14.2026**

DAY 1 - TUES, 3/24/26	0900 - 1015	1030 - 1200	1245 - 1415	1430 - 1600
SESSION	KEYNOTE SESSION - SCTF STATE OF THE TASK FORCE REPORT/ SCTF 2026 MRS. SMITH AWARDS		OPEN-SOURCE INTELLIGENCE, INVESTIGATIONS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT ENGAGEMENTS	
SPEAKER	John Blickley, SCTF Chair & Martyn Nevil, SCTF Program Manager		Sarah Adams, Former CIA Targeting officer and global threat advisor with extensive domestic and international experience.	
DAY 2 - WED, 3/25/26	0830 - 1000	1015 - 1145	1245 - 1415	1430 - 1600
SESSION	Glorious Sadness School Attack Survivor	Responding to the Potomac River Mid-Air Collision	National Weather Service Sky Warn Program	Next-Gen EM Ready: Training, Education & Workforce Shifts Through 2036
COORD / SPEAKER	Norina Bentzel - Former Red Lion SD Principal (Ret.)	Deputy Fire Chief Thomas W. Chenworth District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department	John Banghoff NWS State College PA	David Bjorkman and William Schlosser Pennsylvania College of Technology
SESSION		Nihilistic Violent Extremism and The COM Network and True Crime Community	Anti-Government Groups	UAS Integration, Utilization and Threat Management
COORD / SPEAKER		Paige Alexander Intelligence Analyst, PSP	Michele Wagner Intelligence Analyst, PSP	Steve M. Steele Allegheny FSDO AW FPM (FAA)
SESSION		Harnessing AI for Exercise Design	UPMC Memorial - A Year+ Later - Lessons Learned and Implemented	EM & EMS in Response to the Trump Rally in Butler, PA on July 13, 2024
COORD / SPEAKER		Christopher Confalone, PA DOH Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response	Knox Walk, UPMC	Robert S. McLafferty and Richard W. Lippert
SESSION		Basic Cybersecurity Program Elements	School Attack - Purpose in the Midst of Trauma	Autism and Emergencies
COORD / SPEAKER		Matt Sinopoli, SCTF IS Planning Spec.	Norina Bentzel - Former Red Lion SD Principal (Ret.)	Kyle Dunlap Outreach Coordinator, Autism York
SESSION		A Candid Convo with 1st Responders to Tackle Persistent Incidents in Agriculture	Lessons learned – PIO response to Two Active Shooter Incidents	Behavioral Threat Assessment: Resources to Prevent Targeted Violence
COORD / SPEAKER		Florence Becot, Ph.D., PSU & Justin Darlington, Education Program Specialist, PSU	Ted Czech York County Office of Emergency Management	US Secret Service - National Threat Assessment Center
DAY 3 - THUR, 3/26/26	0830 - 1000	1015 - 1145	1245-1500	
SESSION	What Three Words	Crisis and Critical Decision Making	Building Team Purple: Unified Leadership for Emergency Services	
COORD / SPEAKER	Erin Kauffman & Spencer Kling - Lancaster County Department of Public Safety	Bryan Wexler - Medical Director, Disaster Preparedness & Response, (Wellspan Health)	Dave McGlynn - Fire Chief, Letterkenny Army Depot	
SESSION	School Safety Snapshot: What Schools are Doing to Stay Safe	SCTF Training & Exercise Program		
COORD / SPEAKER	Jeremy W. Freeland, Capital area Intermediate Unit, Supvr. of Safety & Security	Michele Parsons and Andy Megonnel, SCTF T&E WG Leadership Team		
SESSION	Medical Considerations for Victims of Human trafficking	211 For Disaster Recovery		
COORD / SPEAKER	Krista Hoffman - Exercise Program Manager Office of Homeland Security	Emily Aubele and Amanda McNaughton United Way of Pennsylvania		
SESSION	Regional Hazmat Response Case Studies	CISA - FIFA Updates and AAR		
COORD / SPEAKER	SCTF HMRT Working Group	Richard E. Turzanski - Protective Security Advisor, CISA - Philly		
SESSION	KHCC BoD MEETING	WMD Threats		
COORD / SPEAKER	Pam Drake	SA Courtney Simmonds - WMD Coordinator, FBI Philadelphia		

SOUTH CENTRAL TASK FORCE

2026 HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

(UC//FOUO)



CONFERENCE THEME: Stronger Through Adversity

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Provide a forum for the SCTF membership to meet and network as a single, integrated organization.
- Provide training and educational opportunities for the SCTF membership.
- Provide opportunities for cross-discipline training, education and networking within the Task Force.

TUESDAY, March 24th - ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

These events are open to all members of the Task Force, participating agencies and organizations, and elected officials and representatives from those governmental entities within the nine-county South Central region. The session is an open educational session with a keynote speaker and general session presentations.

0830 - OPENING AND WELCOME

John Blickley
SCTF Chairperson, Schuylkill County

Martyn Nevil
SCTF Program Manager

GENERAL SESSION #1 – SCTF: THE FUTURE / ANNUAL STATE OF THE TASK FORCE REPORT / 2024 SCTF MRS. SMITH AWARDS

SCTF Leadership Team
John Blickley, Cumberland County
Chris Fisher, Dauphin County Dept. of Public Safety
Richard Fultz, Perry County Emergency Management Agency
Martyn Nevil, SCTF Program Manager

1200 – 1245 - LUNCH

GENERAL SESSION #2 - OPEN-SOURCE INTELLIGENCE, INVESTIGATIONS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT ENGAGEMENTS

Sarah Adams, former CIA Targeter is an award-winning former CIA targeting officer and global threat advisor with extensive domestic and international experience. Today Ms. Adams focuses her practice on open-source intelligence, investigations and crisis management engagement. Ms. Adams held government positions that took her overseas on behalf of the US Government's intelligence mission in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. She is also a regular contributor to the *Sean Ryan Show* and its newsletter.

WEDNESDAY, March 25th

MORNING GENERAL SESSION (0830 to 1000)

GENERAL SESSION #3 – Glorious Sadness: LEARNING TO LIVE AGAIN AFTER TRAGEDY WITH FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

Norina Bentzel is an adjunct professor at York College of Pennsylvania and a motivational speaker. Formally, she was a teacher and principal in the Red Lion Area School District including the North Hopewell-Winterstown Elementary School where a mass machete attack occurred. She is a York County native and a 1981 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University. Norina has a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in science. She received her Master's Degree in Education in 1998 and directly thereafter, in 1999, earned her Administrative Certification. Norina retired from public education in June 2017.

Norina Bentzel, MEd, Red Lion Area School District, North Hopewell – Winterstown Elementary School Principal (Ret)

MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS (1015 TO 1145 HOURS) – see matrix for specific schedule.

LUNCH (1145 – 1245 HOURS)

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS (1245 TO 1600) – see matrix for specific schedule.

THURSDAY March 26th

MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS (0830 TO 1145 HOURS) – see matrix for specific schedule.

LUNCH (1145 – 1245 HOURS)

AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION #4 AND CLOSING (1245 TO 1500)

GENERAL SESSION #4 – Building Team Purple: Unified Leadership for Emergency Services

Building Team Purple: Unified Leadership for Emergency Services is a dynamic course focused on strengthening leadership, teamwork, and collaboration across all emergency services. Drawing on the concept of blending “Blue” (law enforcement) and “Red” (fire service) into “Team Purple,” this session emphasizes breaking down silos and building trust among police, fire, EMS, HazMat, emergency management, dispatch, and allied partners. Participants will explore the value of unified training, communication, and networking to enhance emergency response, improve outcomes, and better serve their communities through a shared commitment to operating as one team.

Dave McGlynn, Chief. – Letterkenny Army Depot, Published Author and Founder of Passion in Leading, LLC,

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Alphabetical Order)

211 For Disaster Recovery

Speakers: Emily Aubele and Amanda McNaughton, United Way of Pennsylvania

Description: We are the boots on the ground, the local experts who make finding help easier. There are more than 200 211 agencies across the United States, each with a team of compassionate, highly trained community specialists who are available to help you access the best local resources and services to address any need.

The 211 network in the United States responds to more than 16 million requests for help every year. Most calls, web chats, and text messages are from people looking for help meeting basic needs like housing, food, transportation, and health care.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated 211 as the 3-digit number for information and referrals to social services and other assistance in 2000. The 211 service is provided by more than 200 local organizations that are committed to serving their communities. Many different kinds of organizations operate the 211 service, including United Ways, Goodwill, Community Action Partnerships, and local crisis centers.

A Candid Convo with 1st Responders to tackle persistent incidents in agriculture

Speakers: Florence Becot, Ph.D., PSU - Justin Darlington, Education Program Specialist, PSU

Description: Agriculture continues to be one of the most dangerous occupations. Today's first responders handle tractor rollovers, grain entrapments, silo gas, and more situations. While Penn State keeps stats on fatalities, little is known about non-fatal injuries and how we can be most effective in preventing and responding to them. What are you seeing? What could be done to prevent injuries in agriculture? What training do you need to respond? Come willing to have a "candid conversation" about realities in the field and gaps that need to be filled.

Anti-government groups

Speaker: Michele Wagner Intelligence Analyst, PSP

Description: TBD

Autism and Emergencies

Speaker: Kyle Dunlap, Outreach Coordinator – Autism York

Description: Autism York has been helping our local community for twenty plus years and as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting awareness and inclusion, we are pleased to offer a comprehensive Autism Training Program designed for first responders and community organizations. This training aims to build understanding, empathy, and practical skills that empower individuals and institutions to better support those on the Autism Spectrum.

Key highlights of the training include:

- Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and neurodiversity
- Strategies for effective communication and support
- Inclusive practices in various settings
- Real-life case studies and interactive learning opportunities

Basic Cybersecurity Program Elements

Speaker: Matt Sinopoli, SCTF Information Systems Planning Specialist

Description: No organization is too small, too specialized, or too local to escape today's evolving cyber threats. From ransomware and phishing to AI-driven scams and supply chain compromises, attackers are increasingly targeting schools, houses of worship, public safety agencies, and small businesses. This session will highlight the core elements of cybersecurity resilience that every organization needs in 2026. Participants will gain practical, low-cost strategies to strengthen defenses, build awareness, and prepare for emerging threats. We will share real-world lessons and actionable steps that leaders can implement immediately to reduce risk and increase organizational resilience.

Behavioral Threat Assessment: Resources to Prevent Targeted Violence

Speakers: US Secret Service - National Threat Assessment Center

Description: For over 20 years, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) has conducted research on the thinking and behaviors of those who commit acts of targeted violence in an effort to prevent future tragedies. This presentation will highlight past incidents as well as relevant findings and recommendations from NTAC's latest research, Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016-2020, which indicates that targeted violence is preventable. It will also focus on how law enforcement and communities can develop a framework for using a multidisciplinary approach to identify and process reports of concerning behaviors; gather information to assess for risk; and develop risk management strategies to intervene with individuals exhibiting concerning or threatening behaviors to reduce the likelihood of a violent outcome.

It is NOT active shooter response training.

Crisis and Critical Decision Making

Speaker: Bryan Wexler - Medical Director, Disaster Preparedness & Response, (Wellspan Health)

Description: Dangerous situations require quick thinking under pressure, but the wrong decision can make things even worse. In this session, we will discuss the decision-making process and how to place yourself in the proper mindset to make the best choices when it matters most.

This course is relevant to all first responders, healthcare personnel, and those in emergency management, whether they are facing a true disaster, a life-threatening situation, or a patient at a critical juncture in their care. Good decision making is critical and this lecture will benefit everyone no matter what their level of training is.

EM & EMS in Response to the Trump Rally in Butler, PA on July 13, 2024

Panelists: Robert S. McLafferty, 911 Coordinator for Butler County Emergency Services
Richard W. Lippert, Emergency Planning Specialist, and Regional Manager at PHMC

Description: This presentation offers a comprehensive overview of the emergency management and EMS response to the Trump Rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024. Attendees will gain an inside look at the incident's timeline, from initial risk assessment and resource allocation to

EM & EMS in Response to the Trump Rally in Butler, PA on July 13, 2024 continued....

the emergency response and post-event support. We'll delve into the critical roles played by various agencies, including local EMS, fire departments, Butler Memorial Hospital, State Assets, and the Healthcare Coalition in managing over 250 patient contacts.

Key topics include the challenges faced during the rally, such as resource shortages, the rapid deployment of assets due to heat-related incidents, and the importance of pre-established relationships among responders. The presentation will also highlight the aftermath, including CISM for responders.

Through first-hand accounts and interviews, we'll identify lessons learned to improve future emergency responses and community preparedness.

This session will underscore the resilience and character of those on the front lines, reflecting on Zig Ziglar's quote: "Circumstances don't create character. They reveal character."

FIFA Updates and AAR

Speaker: Richard E. Turzanski - Protective Security Advisor, CISA - Philly

Description: TBD.

Harnessing AI for Exercise Design

Speaker: Christopher Confalone, PA DOH Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response

Description: Description: Harnessing AI for Exercise Design highlights how artificial intelligence can transform the way public health and healthcare organizations prepare for disasters and special events. AI allows planners to do more with less, producing high-quality injects, timelines, and scenario narratives far faster than traditional methods. By streamlining complex planning tasks, AI saves significant staff time and reduces the need to hire outside vendors, providing cost-effective, professional-grade exercise materials at little to no additional expense.

The lecture also emphasizes AI's ability to create highly realistic and relevant scenarios grounded in real-world data, emerging threats, and patterns from past events. This ensures exercises reflect the actual challenges healthcare providers may face during upcoming special events, resulting in more meaningful training, better decision-making, and stronger organizational resilience. Attendees will gain practical insights into how AI can enhance capability, reduce costs, and elevate preparedness across the healthcare sector.

Lessons learned – PIO response to two active shooter incidents

Speaker: Ted Czech, York County Office of Emergency Management

Description: This workshop will be an in-depth examination – from the perspective of a PIO -- of the two tragic police incidents that occurred in 2025 in York County. Looking back on them as objectively as I can, there were some things I would have done differently.

Medical Considerations for Victims of Human trafficking

Speaker: Krista Hoffman - Exercise Program Manager Office of Homeland Security

Description: This presentation will highlight potential indicators of human trafficking that may be observed in a health care setting. After this presentation attendees will be able to describe the elements of a human trafficking crime, social and medical indicators of potential human trafficking, and how to respond to suspicions.

National Weather Service Sky Warn Program

Speaker: John Banghoff, NWS, State College PA

Description: In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning cause hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service

Next-Gen EM Ready: Training, Education & Workforce Shifts Through 2036

Speakers: David Bjorkman and William Schlosser, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Description: This session will explore how the emergency management workforce is expected to evolve over the coming decade, and how higher-education programs are preparing students to meet those emerging demands. This presentation may address the following key themes:

1. The New EM Professional: Beyond Response – shifting expectations, strategic planning skills and integrated preparedness roles.
2. Data, GIS and Technology – the new baseline skillsets required of entry-level EM staff.
3. Cybersecurity as a Core EM Function – advancing cyber awareness, critical infrastructure protection and cross-discipline coordination.
4. Real-World Experiential Learning – internships, exercises and applied learning as essential career-readiness components.
5. Whole-Community Leadership – communication, coalition building and non-technical competencies that matter in the modern EM roles.
6. Evolving Career Paths and Recruitment Challenges – trends impacting county, regional and state EM agency hiring.

Nihilistic Violent Extremism and The COM network and True Crime Community

Speaker: Paige Alexander, Intelligence Analyst, PSP

Description: This presentation covers Nihilistic Violent Extremism (NVE), including the Com network and the True Crime Community (TCC). The presentation discusses indicators, tactics, and terminology used amongst these threat groups.

Regional Hazmat Response Case Studies

Panelists: SCTF Regional Hazmat Response Teams Working Group

Description: This workshop will review some of the incidents that the 4 regional hazmat teams had responded to over the last few years. With a focus on some of the larger and more complex incidents. We will also discuss how the teams are beginning to work together to become a regional force against hazardous materials incidents.

Responding to the Potomac River Mid-Air Collision

Panelists: Deputy Fire Chief Thomas W. Chenworth, District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department
Jeffrey Lenard, Special Operations Division's Fireboat Company, Rescue Swimmer and Master Public Safety Diver

Description: On January 29th, 2025, a catastrophic mid-air collision occurred over the Potomac River involving a U.S. Army helicopter and a commercial regional jet, resulting in the loss of all 67 lives on board. This session examines the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department's (DCFD) comprehensive response to this aviation disaster. Participants will gain operational insights into the tactics, techniques, and technologies employed during the critical first hours of the incident. The presentation will explore:

- Incident Command and Multi-Agency Coordination: How the DCFD integrated with federal, military, and regional partners to establish unified command.
- Search and Recovery Operations: Strategies for managing a complex river environment under time-sensitive conditions.
- Technology Integration: Leveraging Geographic Information Systems (GIS), SONAR-based navigation, and mobile applications to create a common operating picture and enhance situational awareness.
- Lessons Learned: Key takeaways for improving interoperability, resource deployment, and technology-driven decision-making during large-scale emergencies.

Attendees will leave with actionable insights into how advanced mapping tools and collaborative frameworks can transform emergency response and recovery operations in high-impact aviation incidents.

School attack - Purpose in the midst of trauma

Speaker: Norina Bentzel, MEd, Red Lion Area School District, North Hopewell – Winterstown Elementary School Principal (Ret)

Description: This session will be a continuation of the Keynote speech from the start of the day. Norina will cover other areas of her incident that were not a part of the keynote.

School Safety Snapshot: What Schools are Doing to Stay Safe

Speaker: Jeremy W. Freeland, Capital area Intermediate Unit, Supvr. of Safety & Security

Description: School safety continues to evolve, and Pennsylvania schools face a unique blend of regulatory requirements, operational challenges, and emerging risks. This informational session provides a practical overview of current, relevant safety practices designed to help schools create safer learning environments while remaining compliant with Pennsylvania laws and guidance.

Participants will explore key components of a comprehensive school safety program, including School Safety & Security Coordinator responsibilities, emergency preparedness, safety trainings, threat assessment, staff and student awareness, and coordination with local first responders. Emphasis will be placed on realistic, school-appropriate strategies that balance preparedness with a positive school climate.

This session is ideal for school leaders, safety and security personnel, emergency responders, and anyone involved in planning or supporting school safety efforts. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of expectations for PA schools and ideas they can adapt immediately within their own districts and programs.

SCTF TRAINING AND EXERCISE PROGRAM

Speakers: Michele Parsons, Cumberland County Dept. of Public Safety
Andrew Megonnell, Dauphin County Dept. of Public Safety

Description: Planning an exercise? This workshop will introduce the SCTF Training and Exercise Committee and the exercise development process, including getting it from concept to paper and final evaluation. Topics will include exercise program management, development and design, exercise delivery, and the evaluation and improvement planning process. For those considering professional development in the exercise area, the FEMA Certified Master Exercise Practitioner (CMEP) program and requirements will also be discussed.

UAS Integration, Utilization and Threat Management

Speaker: Steve M. Steele, Allegheny FSDO AW FPM (FAA)

Description: This presentation educates the audience on identifying a legal UAS operation and the appropriate response by Law Enforcement. Participants will learn what state statutes are at their disposal to respond and the citations above and beyond Title 18 violations of the law they may enforce. Participants will also learn how to utilize UAS in support of first responder operations, post-natural disaster events and community support. Finally, the participants will learn about mitigating UAS threat using different UAS detection systems, first responder support and the nexus between Title 18 crimes, non-Title 18 Civil Citations and FAA regulations as ways to keep our skies safe, as well as, those on the ground beneath.

UPMC Memorial - A Year+ Later - Lessons Learned and Implemented

Speaker: Knox Walk, UPMC

Description: This session provides a comprehensive examination of the active shooter incident at UPMC Memorial and the organizational, operational, and clinical lessons identified in the year that followed. The presentation will explore best practices in emergency response, emphasizing the coordination among hospital staff, local law enforcement, and emergency medical services during critical incidents.

In addition to operational insights, the program will address the psychological and emotional impact on staff, patients, and the broader healthcare environment. Discussion will include available support resources, approaches to trauma mitigation, and strategies for fostering both individual and organizational recovery.

The session will conclude with actionable recommendations aimed at strengthening hospital security, enhancing emergency preparedness, and improving resiliency across healthcare systems facing evolving threats.

What Three Words

Speakers: Erin Kauffman, Lancaster County Department of Public Safety – 911 Quality Assurance Specialist
Spencer King, Lancaster County Department of Public Safety - Telecommunicator

Description: What3words transforms the way the world share's locations. By dividing the planet into precise 10ft x 10ft squares and giving each one a unique three-word address, it makes location sharing fast, simple, and reliable, anywhere on Earth. Trusted worldwide, what3words helps people find and be found instantly, improving emergency preparedness, planning, and response when every second counts.

WMD Threats

Speakers: SA Courtney Simmonds - WMD Coordinator, FBI Philadelphia

Description: This course will provide an overview of WMD modalities to include considerations for planning, response, and investigation. Participants will learn about FBI resources for WMD preparedness and response, to include case studies and recent trends.

Speaker Bio's

William A. Schlosser is an Instructor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Pennsylvania College of Technology (August 2022 – present), bringing a career that bridges public safety, education leadership and volunteer service. He previously served as Vice Principal with the Southern Tioga School District (2018 – 2022) and as an educator with the district for more than a decade. In addition to his academic role, Schlosser is Commander of the Pennsylvania Wing, Civil Air Patrol, where he supports statewide missions and leadership development. He was named IAEM-USA Emergency Management Educator of the Year (2024) and also holds the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) credential.

David Bjorkman is faculty in the Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management and Homeland Security program at Pennsylvania College of Technology, bringing more than a decade of applied experience across law enforcement, public health preparedness, healthcare emergency management and private-sector consulting. He has served as Vice President of Savior Associates, LLC since 2012, supporting organizations with emergency management planning, preparedness and resilience activities. His prior roles include Emergency Management Coordinator for Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Senior Associate and Public Health Preparedness Planner with Delta Development Group and Police Officer with Penn State University Police at University Park. Mr. Bjorkman's multidisciplinary background allows him to bridge academic instruction with operational realities, offering a practical, systems-based perspective on emergency management and homeland security for today's evolving emergency management environment.

Michele Parsons is the Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety, where she supports countywide all-hazards preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation across a complex public safety environment. A recognized Exercise Practitioner, Ms. Parsons brings extensive expertise in emergency planning, training, and exercise design, facilitation, and evaluation, with a strong focus on HSEEP, THIRA/SPR alignment, and FEMA Core Capabilities. She has been an active member of the South Central Task Force since its inception, having served in leadership roles and currently contributing as part of the SCTF Training and Exercise Working Group leadership team. Ms. Parsons plays a key role in multi-agency coordination, Emergency Operations Center operations, and regional collaboration throughout South-Central PA, while also supporting workforce development through mentoring, internships, and partnerships with higher-education programs.

Andrew Megonnell is a Training Specialist with the Dauphin County Department of Public Safety, where he supports county and regional preparedness through the coordination, delivery, and evaluation of emergency management and public safety training programs. His professional experience includes working with multidisciplinary response partners to strengthen operational readiness through applied training, exercise support, and compliance with state and federal

Andrew Megonnell continued....preparedness requirements. Mr. Megonnell holds formal education in emergency management and public safety-related disciplines and brings a strong interest in workforce development, adult learning, and continuous improvement. His work emphasizes practical, scenario-driven training that enhances coordination, builds capability, and supports the evolving needs of the homeland security enterprise.

Jonathan Guseman is a Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the NWS Forecast Office in State College, where he supports weather forecasting, impact-based decision support services, and coordination with emergency management and public safety partners across central Pennsylvania. His work focuses on high-impact weather hazards including severe storms, winter weather, flooding, and tropical system remnants, with an emphasis on translating forecast data into actionable information for decision-makers. Mr. Guseman regularly collaborates with county and regional emergency management agencies, public safety officials, and media partners to enhance preparedness, situational awareness, and public warning. At the conference, he brings an operational meteorology perspective highlighting how forecast uncertainty, timing, and impact-based messaging influence emergency management decisions before, during, and after hazardous weather events.

John Banghoff is a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in State College, where he supports operational forecasting, impact-based decision support services, and coordination with emergency management and public safety partners across central Pennsylvania. His professional focus includes severe weather, winter storms, flooding, and other high-impact hazards, with an emphasis on translating complex meteorological data into clear, actionable information for emergency managers and decision-makers. Mr. Banghoff regularly works with county, regional, and state partners to support preparedness, situational awareness, and effective public warning, bringing an operational weather perspective that directly informs homeland security and emergency management operations.

Justin Darlington serves as an Education Program Specialist in Agricultural Safety and Health with Penn State Extension, where he supports education, outreach, and applied research initiatives focused on reducing risk and improving safety outcomes across Pennsylvania's agricultural community. His work addresses a wide range of hazards—including farm equipment, confined spaces, livestock handling, and environmental exposures—through training programs, workshops, and stakeholder engagement. Mr. Darlington collaborates closely with producers, emergency responders, educators, and public safety partners to strengthen preparedness and response capabilities in rural and agricultural settings. At the conference, he brings a critical perspective on agricultural safety as a homeland security and emergency management issue, highlighting the intersection of workforce safety, community resilience, and hazard mitigation in one of the Commonwealth's most vital industries.

Florence Becot is an associate professor in agricultural safety and health and is the lead of Penn State's Agricultural Safety and Health program. She holds a master's degree in community development from the University of Vermont and a Ph.D. in rural sociology from the Ohio State University. She cares deeply about supporting farmers and their families related to child safety, farmer safety, and mental health needs. She is committed to first responder training needs and mitigating safety hazards for all through engineering and educational approaches. Florence leverages her training and experiences working with people across disciplines and organizations to lead the Agricultural Safety and Health (ASH) Program based in the Dept. of Agricultural & Biological Engineering. The ASH program is well-known for its emphasis on identifying and mitigating safety hazards through engineering and educational approaches, including farm equipment and structures, animal handling, PPE, youth safety, injury & fatality surveillance, outreach, and education.

Spencer Kling has served as a telecommunicator with the Lancaster County Department of Public Safety for the past six years and currently holds the rank of Shift Lieutenant. In addition to his supervisory responsibilities, he is a certified Communications Training Officer and an Emergency Telecommunicator Course Instructor, supporting the development and readiness of communications personnel. Spencer has also dedicated 12 years of service as a volunteer in the fire service, bringing valuable operational perspective to his work in public safety communications. He resides in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Erin Kauffman is a 19-year veteran of the Lancaster County Department of Public Safety and recently transitioned to an Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Quality Assurance Specialist. With nearly two decades of experience as a 911 Dispatcher, she brings a strong operational perspective to emergency communications. Erin is a dedicated advocate for what3words education and first responder training, promoting its use to improve location accuracy and enhance emergency response outcomes.

Courtney Simmons has been a Special Agent with the FBI since 2019. For the last three years, SA Simmons has functioned as the Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator for the FBI Philadelphia Field Office. SA Simmons has advanced certification with the bureau as a WMD Coordinator. Prior to the bureau, SA Simmons worked in the field of nursing for 12 years, first as a Registered Nurse, and later as a Family Nurse Practitioner. SA Simmons has bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in nursing.

Krista Hoffman is the Homeland Security Exercise Program Manager for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security in Harrisburg, PA. She is responsible for developing and facilitating tabletop exercises for multidisciplinary audiences to address prevention, protection, and mitigation of adversarial and terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure in PA. She is also responsible for researching trends and commonalities of human trafficking crimes to identify gaps and needs to better inform best practices and initiatives on human trafficking. She is responsible for developing and facilitating exercises to multidisciplinary audiences on human trafficking. She specializes in working with US and international special forces and law enforcement on the

Krista Hoffman continued... nexus of human trafficking, terrorism, and violent extremist groups. She has presented to special operational forces and law enforcement in over twenty countries. Her monographs *Disrupting Radicalization and Recruitment by Violent Extremist* and the *Intersection of Human Trafficking and Violent Extremist Groups* are pending publication with Joint Special Operations University.

Christopher Confalone is the Health Preparedness Program Manager at the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response. Throughout his 33-year career in emergency medicine he served as a Board-Certified Flight Paramedic, Operational Manager, Quality Improvement Coordinator and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. He also spent a significant amount of time in the information technology sector with Q3 Communications, Inc. specializing in security, database design and programming.

Robert McLafferty is a highly experienced professional in the field of emergency services, currently serving as the 911 Coordinator for Butler County Emergency Services. With over three decades in public safety and crisis response, his career spans a range of critical roles, including County Response Team Medic, Flight Medic, Fire Chief, and Trauma Coordinator at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. In addition to his current role, Robert is actively involved as a Paramedic with the Slippery Rock Rescue Team and as a Tactical Paramedic (TEMS Medic) with the County of Butler's Emergency Services Unit. His contributions extend to shaping emergency response policies as a member of the 911 Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and as a participant in the First Responder Resource Group (FRRG) under the Department of Homeland Security. Robert also plays a key role in training and education, developing curricula for first responders and medical professionals nationwide. Residing in Butler, Pennsylvania, he enjoys a fulfilling personal life with his wonderful wife, two amazing adult children, a very smart German Shepherd, and a joyful Golden Retriever.

Rick Lippert is a seasoned Consultant, Emergency Planning Specialist, and Regional Manager at PHMC, with over 25 years of experience in Emergency Preparedness and Safety across healthcare, oil & gas, and general industry sectors. He excels in strategic planning, program development, and critical incident management, particularly in healthcare emergency preparedness. Rick provides expert consultation, enhances response capabilities, ensures compliance with guidelines, and supports training for healthcare systems. Notably, he helped establish India's first National Disaster Life Support Training Center and co-authored a program recognized by NHTSA for safe child transport in ambulances. Rick's leadership extends to his roles as a past city councilman, nonprofit director, and active community member.

Dr. Bryan Wexler is the Medical Director of Disaster Preparedness and Response at WellSpan Health and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Wexler attended Amherst College prior to training at Tufts University School of Medicine, subsequently completing his residency at WellSpan York Hospital in Emergency Medicine where he served as a chief resident. He completed his fellowship in Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management at the UMass Chan Medical School. In addition to being a dual board-certified Emergency Medicine and EMS Medicine physician, he also completed a Master

Dr. Bryan Wexler continued...of Public Health and holds certifications in healthcare business continuity. Dr. Wexler serves on disaster preparedness committees and task forces at the local, regional, and national level. He supports the Keystone Healthcare Coalition as physician advisor, is chairman of the York-Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System, and char of the ACEP Disaster Medicine Section. Dr. Wexler led the development of the 2023 Model Core Curriculum of Disaster Medicine and serves as a member of the task force responsible for developing the Disaster Medicine subspecialty. In addition to Disaster Medicine, Dr. Wexler's interests include psychological resiliency, system development and resource management.

Richard Turzanski is a Protective Security Advisor (PSA) within the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the agency within DHS responsible for providing assistance in security for our nation.

Protective Security Advisor (PSA) Turzanski began his DHS career in July of 2009 as a Chemical Security Inspector (CSI), responsible for conducting inspections and audits pursuant to the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) 6 CFR~Part 27. CSI Turzanski functioned as a regional field reviewer and evaluator of high-risk chemical facility site security plans, analyzing physical, technical and cyber security issues. CSI Turzanski was assigned to ISCD/FOB Region 3 which covers the States of: Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and DC. In March of 2017, Turzanski was elevated to the position of PSA and remained in Region 3. The mission of the PSA includes but is not limited to: protecting and strengthening resiliency of the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources, which are assets, systems and networks integral to the nation's economy, security and public health.

In preparation for the 2025-2026 Philadelphia Special Events, CISA Region 3 Regional Director William J. Ryan, appointed PSA Turzanski, to serve as the Philadelphia Regional Coordinator on March 31, 2023. The appointed RC is responsible for facilitating coordination of federal support with federal, state, and local government officials, and private sector event planners. The current list of planned events includes but are not limited to: 2025 FIFA Club World Cup, Homecoming 250 (Navy/Marine Corps Anniversary), Philadelphia and Pennsylvania America 250 Celebration, 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2026 Major League Baseball Draft and All-Star Game.

PSA Turzanski's experience includes 25-years of service in the Philadelphia Police Department (Retired). In Mr. Turzanski's last assignment, he held the position of Sergeant in the City of Philadelphia Police Counter-Terrorism Operations Unit. Responsibilities in this position included but were not limited to: Hazardous Materials Technician Response (Department Lead), Weapons of Mass Destruction Response (and instruction), Intelligence Section Supervisor, Emergency Medical Technician, SWAT Operator and Crisis/Hostage Negotiator.

Chief Thomas Chenworth currently serves as the Operations Deputy Fire Chief on Platoon 2 for the District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department. In this role, he oversees city-wide operations during his shift, including the Fire Operations Center, six geographic battalions, and the Special Operations, Safety, and EMS Battalions—managing approximately 370 on-duty personnel.

Chief Thomas Chenworth continued... Prior to his current assignment, Chief Chenworth led the department's Information Technology Division, where he spearheaded modernization initiatives to replace outdated systems, reduce costs, and improve operational safety and efficiency.

Since joining the department in 2003, Chief Chenworth has served in multiple capacities, including Technician, Lieutenant, and Captain of the Hazardous Materials Unit. As a Chief Officer, he spent four years as a Special Operations Battalion Chief, responding to technical rescue, hazardous materials, and maritime incidents.

Chief Chenworth plays an active role in regional preparedness through his involvement with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, contributing to the Securing the Cities Initiative and Hazardous Materials Sub-Committee. He routinely participates in planning for National Special Security Events and other large-scale operations to ensure multi-agency interoperability, working closely with local and federal partners.

Jeffrey Lenard brings over 30 years of dedicated service to the fire and emergency response community. Beginning his career in Corolla, North Carolina, in 1995, he joined the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department in 2004. Today, he serves in the Special Operations Division's Fireboat Company as a Rescue Swimmer and Master Public Safety Diver, specializing in complex maritime operations.

Throughout his career, Lenard has contributed his expertise to multiple jurisdictions, including volunteer service with fire departments in New Hanover County, North Carolina; Kentland in Prince George's County, Maryland; and the City of Manassas, Virginia. His commitment to operational excellence extends beyond the front lines—he also serves as the Maritime Communications Unit Leader for the District of Columbia, ensuring seamless interoperable communications among local, state, and federal responders within the National Capital Region's maritime domain.

In addition to his operational leadership, Lenard collaborates with the Washington D.C. Office of the Chief Technology Officer to develop advanced situational awareness and operational dashboards using the ArcGIS platform. His proficiency in geographic information systems bridges technology and emergency response, enabling data-driven decision-making and enhancing the safety and effectiveness of first responders during complex incidents.

Norina Bentzel, M.Ed. is an adjunct professor at York College of Pennsylvania and a motivational speaker. Formally, she was a teacher and principal in the Red Lion Area School District including the North Hopewell-Winterstown Elementary School where a mass machete attack occurred. She is a York County native and a 1981 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University. Norina has a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in science. She received her Master's degree in Education in 1998 and directly thereafter, in 1999, earned her Administrative Certification. Norina retired from public education in June 2017.

Kyle Dunlap is a High School Learning Support Teacher at Hempfield High School in Lancaster County. He holds a Master's degree in Special Education with an Autism Endorsement, as well as a Bachelor's degree in History and Secondary Education Social Studies. With more than sixteen years of experience in education, Kyle has served in a variety of roles supporting diverse learners.

Beyond the classroom, Kyle is deeply involved in the community through service on several nonprofit boards. He serves as the Outreach Coordinator for Autism York, is a member of the Dover Lions Club, and sits on the board of Red Lion Roars. Through his work with Autism York, Kyle has completed extensive training in autism-related topics and now leads training sessions for local first responders, equipping them with essential knowledge to better support individuals with autism.

Sarah Adams former CIA Targeter is an award-winning former CIA targeting officer and global threat advisor with extensive domestic and international experience. Today Ms. Adams focuses her practice on open-source intelligence, investigations and crisis management engagement. Ms. Adams held government positions that took her overseas on behalf of the US Government's intelligence mission in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. She is also a regular contributor to the *Sean Ryan Show* and its newsletter.

U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center - For over 20 years, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) has conducted research on the thinking and behaviors of those who commit acts of targeted violence in an effort to prevent future tragedies.

Ted Czech's years as a multi-platform communicator have seen him engage audiences in written form – including newspapers, magazines and a highly-acclaimed book, as well as live and recorded video, and even terrestrial radio.

Czech's career began when he parlayed a degree in criminal justice into a crime-writing job for a start-up newspaper in Rhode Island. What followed was a quarter-century of journalism in RI, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, with Czech crafting stories primarily focused on police and emergency news.

Leaving the media industry in 2021, Czech was hired by the County of York (Pa.) as a public information officer, where he is tasked with fielding inquiries from the media, coordinating news conferences and designing pertinent messages to the public. Czech's first book was titled *Saving the Beast – A Recovering Reporter Reflects on America's Broken Media and How to Fix It*. He is at work on his second, a memoir of his wild and woolly times as a reporter.