

PR#04-0320A

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

March 20, 2004

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LOCAL DIRECTOR RETURNS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. MEETINGS

(LIMA, OH) – The director of Allen County’s Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Russ Decker, was one of two local Ohio directors and one of 25 directors nationwide to meet in Washington, D. C. with key officials in the Department of Homeland Security this week.

Director Decker met with DHS Undersecretary for Emergency Response & Preparedness, Michael Brown, the Director of the Office of Domestic Preparedness, C. Suzanne Mencer, the Director of DHS Research & Development, Dr. Maureen McCarthy, and the Operations Manager for the CDC Strategic National Stockpile, George Phillips.

The local directors explored issues of secured and interoperable communications, the national alert system, the newly released National Incident Management System (NIMS), FFY05 DHS budget requests, and other legislative agenda items.

Decker was joined by fellow Ohio director, J. R. Thomas of Franklin County and local directors from Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. The meetings were hosted by the Washington, D. C. based International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM).

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