

PR#04-0720A

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

July 20, 2004

Contact:

Russ Decker, 419-993-1404

ALLEN COUNTY TO HOST FULL SCALE TERRORISM EXERCISE

(LIMA, OH) – The Lima Area Security Emergency Response (LASER) Task Force will host a large, full-scale terrorism exercise in Allen County on Wednesday, July 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The exercise will take place at nine (9) different locations throughout the county nearly simultaneously and will ultimately involve nearly forty (40) local, state and federal response agencies and non-government organizations.

A formal debriefing for all participants will follow the exercise at noon at the Veterans' Memorial Civic & Convention Center. Several dignitaries are expected to observe the event including: Adrain Gordon, executive director of the Candian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Director Dale Shipley of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Deputy Director Jim Thomas of the Ohio Office of Homeland Security, state representative John Willamowski, state senator Jim Jordan, as well as representatives from U. S. Senator Michael DeWine and Congressman Mike Oxley.

The exercise is being funded through a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security.

-end-

MEDIA NOTE:

Attached please find a tentative timeline for the event for your planning purposes only. Please do not release the timeline or specific location information, as many of the emergency responders participating in this exercise do not have this information. Thanks!