



# Regional Domestic Security Task Force



October 15, 2001

On September 14, Governor Bush directed Craig Fugate (DEM) and Commissioner Tim Moore (FDLE) to complete a comprehensive assessment of Florida's capabilities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to a terrorist attack. This process resulted in 26 recommendations in four primary areas: **Emergency Services, Critical Infrastructure, Human Services, and Public Information and Awareness**. The recommendations were reviewed and approved by chief executives, and ultimately accepted by Governor Bush on October 1. The first priority recommendation was to create and establish **seven** Regional Domestic Security Task Forces. These Task Forces will play a key role in implementing a number of additional recommendations resulting from the assessment and will ultimately represent Florida's **best opportunity for preventing** a terrorist attack.

Each Task Force will have a standard organizational template organized under the Incident Command System Model and be co-chaired by a FDLE Regional Director and local Sheriff. On October 9, 2001, FDLE Commissioner

Moore announced the appointment of the Sheriffs to chair the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces. The map at right provides the seven regions and the respective Sheriff (and phone number) that will co-chair the Task Forces.

Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, emergency management directors, health and medical officials, federal, state, and local government officials, and private industry executives will be on each regional Task Force and will play an important part

of this effort. The Task Forces will be responsible to a statewide, multi-agency oversight board. This oversight board will ensure consistency and communication among all the Task Forces. **Illustration 1** shows the proposed membership of the oversight board.

In addition, each Task Force will consist of four primary areas including **Law Enforcement, Fire Rescue, Health and Medical and Emergency Management/Regulatory**. Each of these components will play a vital role in efforts to prevent a terrorist attack and, if necessary, respond immediately to and coordinate efforts at a disaster site. **Illustration 2** shows the organizational structure of each Task Force.

The responsibilities of the Task Forces will include: improving Florida's ability to detect and prevent potential terrorist threats; collecting and disseminating intelligence and investigative information; facilitating and promoting ongoing security audits and vulnerability assessments to protect critical infrastructures; coordinating the delivery of training and supporting the purchase of proper equipment for public safety first responders and disaster response teams; improving Florida's response and recovery capabilities; and promoting better public awareness of how suspicious incidents may be reported, and how to respond should an emergency related to a terrorist threat develop.

