Effective Resource Allocation

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The Department of Homeland security in the United States was formed after the deadly September 11 attack. Its main aim is to protect the country from such attacks of terrorism (May, Jochim & Sapotichne, 2011). The department also provides border security, cybersecurity, disaster prevention and management as well as immigration and customs security. The governance structure of the Homeland security department is unique according to the state, and the governor of the state does the governance structure. Though it is the youngest cabinet department in the United States, its size, and role, it gets a large budget to meet the security needs of the state. The advisor to the homeland security of the countries plays a significant role in leadership while the State Administrative Agency is instrumental in overseeing the security grants of the cabinet. The federal government has not selected any specific state structure as the best practice, but instead, it gives specifications that the policy should adopt (May, Jochim & Sapotichne, 2011). The homeland security model should at least unite the preparedness of the state together with the response capabilities.

*Texas Homeland Security Strategy*

Texas, being one of the largest states in the United States of America needs a sound security strategy to enhance the safety of its citizens together with their property. The approach is relevant because it is in line with the specifications of both the State and Urban Homeland Security Strategy. The state and urban strategy require that states develop a plan of their choice as long as it meets the requirements of disaster preparedness. The frameworks for disaster preparedness, call for states to use the four pillars of preventing, protecting, response and recovery while setting their strategic plan (Friedmann & Cannon, 2007). The strategic plan for Texas for the period 2015-2020 includes a set of goals for which it develops a set of objectives together with the accompanying priority actions. The first goal regards preventing organized criminal activities and terrorist attacks in Texas (Delaney, Welch & Starzynski, 2015). The state is guided by the aim of enhancing and expanding the capabilities of the intelligence systems of the country. The strategy will reduce the terrorist threat. Other objective concerns are addressing terrorism and other criminal activities through enhancing Texas’ investigative capability. Consequently, the plan has an objective to prevent criminal enterprises from accessing the country’s borders. The second goal of the Texas state strategic plan is to reduce the vulnerability of Texas to all disasters including natural, technological, criminal and terrorist attacks. The primary objective of this goal is to enhance the country’s critical infrastructure, networks and also assets to enhance the resiliency and security of the state. Another of the objectives is to improve the early detection and control of capabilities that will reduce the risk of high yield explosives including chemical, radiological, biological and nuclear elements. On the objectives list, there is also the reduction of the vulnerability of human-made threats and natural hazards to the agricultural industry. The state also focuses on enhancing the safety of schools in the region.

The third goal focuses on minimizing the impact of terrorist and criminal attacks as well as natural and technological disasters by the application of proactive programs to mitigate risks (Delaney, Welch & Starzynski, 2015). The first objective is to reduce the threat of catastrophe to people by using mitigation planning programs. The second objective is to enhance social resilience in the country. The third objective regards how resistance will be improved by identifying the vulnerability of the mission-critical infrastructure through community engagement. The fourth goal regards the reduction of damage and loss of life from disasters by increasing the State’s system of response. Objectives include maximizing the country’s response capabilities through mutual aid and coordinating teams to manage all the response operations of all potential hazards. A similar purpose is to increase the activities of the communication systems of Texas. The final goal in the strategic plan for Texas’ Homeland Security concerns the recovery after the occurrence of a disaster. The project aims at ensuring that the restoration of the country is rapid, comprehensive and efficient. Objectives include supporting functional community-based disaster management systems, conducting outreach programs for disaster preparedness in the community and also the coordination of useful and timely post incident assistance to the affected communities.

The State and Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy provides various specifications for the update of the strategic plans for cities. The first requirement is that the program addresses the four core areas of disaster management (Friedmann & Cannon, 2007). The Texas state homeland security plan then meets these requirements by because it addresses these four areas. Consequently, the project needs to address other disasters other than terrorism. The Texas state homeland security program meets this requirement for updating by considering other disasters like those related to natural and technological disasters. Similarly, the plan addresses the improvement of the communication system of the country as well as encouraging the creation of awareness programs to reduce the impact of disasters when they happen (Delaney, Welch & Starzynski, 2015). It is important to note that the State and Urban area homeland security strategy does not require states to include specific objectives under each goal. Nevertheless, countries need to add more targets while updating their strategic plan for security (Friedmann & Cannon, 2007). Texas has met these requirements by listing multiple objectives under each strategic goal.

The Texas State plan incorporates the first national priority by providing an expanded regional collaboration. The program focuses on the enhancement of an intelligence system that encompasses both multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional cooperation. It also encourages the collaboration of local and federal governments to provide security to the public. Texas has also incorporated the second national priority that is the implementation of a National Incident Management Program together with a National Response Plan. One of their objectives is to maximize the response capabilities of the country by enhancing response systems that are statewide. The Texas state Homeland Security Strategy aims at reducing the vulnerability of the state to criminal attacks by strengthening their critical infrastructure (Delaney, Welch & Starzynski, 2015). This is per the third national priority. The fourth priority regards the strengthening of the information sharing capabilities of the country (Friedmann & Cannon, 2007). Similarly, the strategic plan for Texas’ homeland security satisfies this requirement by improving the communication systems of the country through enhancing the mission-critical infrastructure. The Texas strategy for homeland security is in line with the fifth national priority which is the strengthening of interoperable communication systems. Under the fourth goal of reducing the risk of damage from disasters, one of the objectives of the state is to achieve the operability and interoperability of the communication systems (Delaney, Welch & Starzynski, 2015). The sixth national strategy is to strengthen the detection and response capabilities of the state (Friedmann & Cannon, 2007). According to the fourth goal of Texas homeland security strategy, the country aims at strengthening the security response system through early detection and prevention strategies. The fourth goal of the Texas plan is to improve the state’s response capabilities in various ways. One of the objectives under this goal is to enhance the public and medical health emergency response systems. This is in line with the seventh national priority that aims to strengthen medical surge.

The Texas Homeland security Strategy fully encompasses the four areas of prevention, protection, response, and recovery. The plan aims at creating a response system that reduces the risk that disaster causes when it occurs. It also focuses on the protection of the country’s borders to prevent the terrorists and other criminals from entering the country (Delaney, Welch & Starzynski, 2015). In addition to this, the strategy intends to develop a system that enhances faster recovery of individuals after the occurrence of a disaster by providing timely assistance. The system will further protect the critical infrastructure of Texas which will improve the communication systems.

The Texas Strategy for homeland security is risk-based because it considers the occurrence of risks both human-made and natural. Other than the concerns of these risks, the plan provides ways in which it will address these risks. For instance, it will reduce the threat of terrorism by expanding and enhancing the intelligence capability of the state. It will also implement security measures that are both structural and non-structural to protect the mission-critical infrastructure from identified threats.

The State and Urban Area Security Strategy provide the guidelines for states to implement their strategic Homeland Security Plans. Nevertheless, it does not give the specifications for size. Texas Homeland Security Strategy is in line with the specifications of the strategy for the State and Urban Security. The goals and their respective objectives are in line with the seven national priorities. They are also under the four core principals of preventing, protecting, response and recovery. The security strategy is risk-based as it provides for the necessary precautions to avoid disaster from happening. If the emergency occurs anyway, the plan provides for a response system that gives aid to the victims so that they can recover faster.

References

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