

2015-2016 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Food Protection & Defense Committee

***Chair:** Gary W. Elliott, South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control, Lancaster, SC

Chair: Keith Payne, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC

Chair: John Martin, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC

Charge 1: Monitor Food & Agriculture Sector activities at DHS and of the Government Coordinating Council/Sector Coordinating Council (GCC/SCC); and report any items impacting AFDO members to the Board as encountered.

Discussion: During the previous charge period from 2014-2015, Chair Mike Starkey and MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Brad Deacon both represented state agencies on the GCC and participated in Council's meetings during this time period keeping Committee and Board members briefed as appropriate. With updates made to the Food and Agriculture Sector Specific Plan (FASSP) in 2015 by DHS, with input from the SCC/GCC in developing the FASSP, it is important to continue to monitor activities through active participation and continued inclusion of state agencies and other food protection and defense programs in these updates. AFDO's representation on the SCC/GCC continues to be the best avenue for this inclusion and is important for successful collaboration and integration of food defense into all food and agricultural programs in the United States.

Recommendations: Continue state participation in the GCC/SCC and carry this charge forward. AFDO staff informed the co-chairs of this committee that AFDO has presented to the GCC, the name of a state representative to replace Mike Starkey, who will not be able to continue in that capacity. It is our recommendation to move forward with the AFDO state representative nominee to the GCC Co-Chairs for review and approval by that body.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

6/24/16

Charge 2: Evaluate the process FDA is using to develop and implement strategies to leverage and enhance the food safety and defense capacities of State and local agencies in order to achieve food safety and defense goals as outlined in FSMA Section 205 (c) (1).

Discussion: FDA staff has currently been working on revisions of the proposed rule prior to the publication deadline of **May 31, 2016**. No further actions have been taken by Committee members.

Recommendations: Carry again this charge forward for 2016-2017 and revise so Committee members stay engaged with FDA (Office of Partnerships and Food Defense Team) to better define how FDA and states can best collaborate to coordinate information sharing, education/training activities, and inspections in preparation for implementation of the final rule. Evaluate future recommendations and modification of charge after the upcoming AFDO conference and presentation by Colin Barthel on FDA's Intentional Adulteration Final Rule.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

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Charge 3: Identify possible food defense contact information or links that would be useful additions to the Directory of State & Local Officials.

**Responsible for submission of reports*

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Discussion: The DSLO contains program areas, jurisdiction, and FDA region for each regulatory official. There are currently 6 contacts that contain the words “food defense” in their profile. It is important from the perspective of food defense to establish state and local officials that have an active food defense program for the directory. Contacting state and local programs through an AFDO survey may be of value in updating the directory information. Informational documents and links to scholarly information on food defense, while not as robust as food protection and safety information, is available and would be of benefit to members if included in the directory.

Recommendations: Reevaluate through an AFDO survey those state and local programs that have a “Food Defense” strategy or program beyond the six already identified. Also, solicit input and assistance from committee members to identify and present to AFDO and the Food Protection and Defense Committee, additional links on “food defense” for availability to the AFDO members.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/24/16

Charge 4: Identify contacts from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) with areas of responsibility for food protection and food defense to determine whether they have interest in joining AFDO.

Discussion: The DoD’s food protection and defense programs are part of a complex arrangement of responsibilities across service boundaries. Among the DoD program with food protection and food defense responsibilities those prescribed under the DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services. The Army Public Health Center (APHC) with its veterinary service (active and reserve corps) have personnel who perform sanitation inspections of all food serving facilities such as the Army and Air Forces Exchange Service (AAFES) establishments, Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), and Dining Facilities (DFACs). The APHC inclusive of the Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services under the Secretary of the Army, also assists with the same inspections on Naval and Marine Corps installations. The Air Force has its own program of food protection and defense. All however use the Tri-Service Code, based on the USPHS – FDA Food Code. Identifying those interested in joining AFDO involves reaching out beyond the DoD and contacting the various departments in each of the service branches.

Recommendations: Carry this charge forward to 2016-2017. The intent of the recommendation is to allow additional time to identify and contact all potential personnel in each U.S. service branch who may have an interest in joining AFDO.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/24/16

**Responsible for submission of reports*