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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 11, 2010

President Obama Signs Executive Order Establishing Council of Governors*Executive Order will Strengthen Further Partnership Between the Federal and State and Local Governments to Better Protect Our Nation*

The President today signed [an Executive Order \(attached\)](#) establishing a Council of Governors to strengthen further the partnership between the Federal Government and State Governments to protect our Nation against all types of hazards. When appointed, the Council will be reviewing such matters as involving the National Guard of the various States; homeland defense; civil support; synchronization and integration of State and Federal military activities in the United States; and other matters of mutual interest pertaining to National Guard, homeland defense, and civil support activities.

The bipartisan Council will be composed of ten State Governors who will be selected by the President to serve two year terms. In selecting the Governors to the Council, the White House will solicit input from Governors and Governors' associations. Once chosen, the Council will have no more than five members from the same party and represent the Nation as a whole.

Federal members of the Council include the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, the U.S. Northern Command Commander, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The Secretary of Defense will designate an Executive Director for the Council.

The Council of Governors will provide an invaluable Senior Administration forum for exchanging views with State and local officials on strengthening our National resilience and the homeland defense and civil support challenges facing our Nation today and in the future.

The formation of the Council of Governors was required by the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act which stated, "The President shall establish a bipartisan Council of Governors to advise the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the White House Homeland Security Council on matters related to the National Guard and civil support missions." (NDAA FY2008, Sec 1822)

BLOG POSTS ON THIS ISSUE

February 01, 2011 1:10 PM EST

Preparing for Winter Weather

President Obama speaks with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to discuss preparations for the winter storm coming to much of the country.

January 28, 2011 11:45 AM EST

Joshua DuBois Visits FEMA and Explores Faith-based and Community Partnerships on Disaster Response

Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Joshua

DuBois, recently visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to meet with the FEMA Administrator, DHS Center Director and to receive briefings at the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).

January 27, 2011 4:55 PM EST

Sharing the Responsibility for Our Collective Security

Secretary Napolitano announces the Department of Homeland Security's new system for alerting the public to possible security threats.

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