

Report Recommends Improved Transportation Collaboration in Disaster Response

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report in May of this year assessing the collaborative efforts made by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during Hurricane Sandy. The report, GAO-14-512, focuses on DOT and FEMA's efforts to in emergency transportation relief during and after the October 2012 disaster.

The report assesses the progress made by DOT in managing Disaster Relief Appropriations Act surface transportation funds, and compares the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) new Public Transportation Emergency Relief program to FEMA's and the Federal Highway Administration's emergency relief programs. GAO also examined the extent to which FTA and FEMA have implemented their memorandum of agreement to coordinate their roles and responsibilities when providing assistance to transit agencies.

According to GAO, while FTA and FEMA have a memorandum of agreement for assisting transit providers during emergencies, they are limited in their ability to delineate specific roles and responsibilities for future disasters due to differences in their funding. FTA and FEMA also have not determined how collaborative efforts will be monitored, evaluated, and reported, relying on informal communication instead.

GAO had previously advocated for a means to evaluate the results of collaborative efforts between the FTA and FEMA, and GAO reiterated that recommendation in this report. GAO has proposed that DOT and the Department of Homeland Security direct FTA and FEMA to establish specific guidelines to monitor, evaluate, and report the results of collaborative efforts—including their communications program and protocol as contemplated in their memorandum of agreement. **IAJ**

DOJ/DHS Partnership Curbs Cybercrime

In early June, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported on the success of its partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in containing the spread of the Gameover Zeus botnet. Gameover Zeus is a sophisticated piece of malware that steals banking information and other credentials from the computers it infects. This information is then used to initiate or re-direct wire transfers to overseas accounts controlled by cyber criminals. It is estimated that nearly \$100 million have been lost through these transfers.

The DOJ led effort to curb Gameover Zeus requires the collaboration of many partners from around the world, including government agencies and the private sector. Recently, DOJ has filed criminal charges against the alleged botnet administrator, and is working to identify affected computers and criminal operators.

DHS's U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team is coordinating with DHS partners at the FBI to notify those affected by Gameover Zeus and provide them with technical assistance in removing malware from their computers. The DHS National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center is also responding to the threat by providing assistance and information to information system operators, known victims, and the broader community to help prevent further infections. **IAJ**