

ACOG and Upstate Alliance: Partnering for Results

ACOG recently formalized a longstanding relationship with the Upstate Alliance to provide research and technical support for their economic development, marketing, and outreach activities. The Upstate Alliance is a public/private regional economic development organization designed to market the dynamic ten-county Upstate region to the world. The ten counties of the Alliance represent the commerce-rich northwestern corner of South Carolina: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and Union. The Alliance's goal is to launch an aggressive, innovative, and comprehensive global marketing strategy to attract new business to the Upstate.

ACOG will partner in this exciting effort by expanding the databases and scope of services of the well-established *InfoMentum* decision support tool to accommodate the needs of the Alliance. *InfoMentum* previously contained detailed socio-economic databases and mapping tools for the six ACOG counties. The partnership with the Alliance now provides for the development and maintenance of databases and selected reports for the four additional counties in the newly defined Upstate region.

Working closely with Alliance staff and county economic developers, the *InfoMentum* team will provide customized research and database development. The most important component of the research is the inventory of available industrial sites, buildings, and parks for the region. Each property lists more than 125 items that describe own-



ership, amenities, technical specifications, and availability of supplemental materials (such as aerial photographs or special documents). Other research services include expansion of ACOG's *FactFinder* database and tracking new, expanding, and closing industries in all ten Upstate counties for the *Economic Activity Report*, a popular ACOG publication.

Through partnership with ACOG, the Upstate Alliance will benefit from the full suite of services associated with the *InfoMentum* geographic information system (GIS), as well as special technical services. The Upstate Alliance will use the powerful capabilities of the *InfoMentum* decision support system to aid in regional analysis for economic development, produce marketing materials, and aid in optimal location of new facilities. The *InfoMentum* team will configure maps and customize databases to incorporate seamlessly into the Alliance web site, WWW.UPSTATEALLIANCE.COM. This detailed web site is a critical component of the Alliance marketing strategy for the Upstate.

ACOG enthusiastically supports the efforts of the Alliance and looks forward to partnering with them to ensure
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S. C. Director of Homeland Security Speaks to ACOG Board

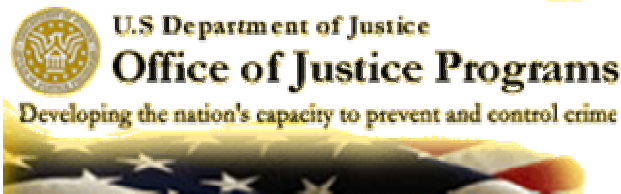


Major General Steve Siegfried (Ret.) briefed the Appalachian Council of Governments' (ACOG) Board recently on the efforts South Carolina has made to protect its citizens against the threat of terrorism. He explained that terrorism is a very real threat, even though our state is largely rural. "South Carolina ranks fifth in the nation in terms of interstate miles per capita, and we have the third largest port facility on the East Coast," he said. "These factors, and the nuclear facilities in our state, contribute to the likelihood of our becoming a target for terrorist actions."

General Siegfried discussed South Carolina's new links to U. S. intelligence sources and explained in general terms some of the measures being taken to fortify the state's defenses against terrorist threats. He stated that the best way to fight terrorism is to be proactive in anticipating and preventing such actions. "We must also have plans in place to respond quickly and effectively in the event an incident does take place," he said.

With regard to planning for future possibilities, the ACOG has recently
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The Office for Domestic Preparedness



Anti-Terrorism and Emergency Training for Local Governments

The Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) is the program office within the Department of Justice (DOJ) responsible for enhancing the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to respond to, and mitigate the consequences of, incidents of domestic terrorism.

In the 1998 Appropriations Act (Public Law 105-119) and accompanying report, the Congress expressed its concern regarding the real and potentially catastrophic effects of a chemical or biological act of terrorism. Congress stated that, while the Federal Government plays an important role in preventing and responding to these types of threats, **state and local public safety personnel are typically first to respond to the scene** when such incidents occur. As a result, Congress authorized the Attorney General to assist state and local public safety personnel in acquiring the specialized training and equipment necessary to safely respond to and manage terrorist incidents involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). To execute this mission, the Office of Justice Programs established ODP to develop and administer a national **Domestic Preparedness Program**.

Training

ODP utilizes the capabilities of a number of specialized institutions in the design and delivery of its training programs. These include private contractors, other Federal and state agencies, the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute at St. Petersburg Junior College, the U.S. Army's Pine Bluff Arsenal, and the National Sheriff's Association.

Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP):

The CDP provides hands-on specialized training to state and local emergency responders in the management and remediation of

WMD incidents. Located at the former home of the U.S. Army Chemical School, Fort McClellan, Alabama, the CDP conducts live chemical agent training for the nation's civilian emergency response community. The training emergency responders receive at the CDP provides a valid method for ensuring high levels of confidence in equipment, procedures, and individual capabilities. The CDP offers two training courses of instruction: **WMD HAZMAT Technician** and **WMD Incident Command**. For additional information on this program, contact the CDP at (256) 847-2132 or DicksonR@ojp.usdoj.gov.

Louisiana State University (LSU) (Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education): LSU provides training to law enforcement agencies and focuses its efforts on the delivery of the Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts for Law Enforcement Course, and the development and delivery of the Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents Course. LSU offers two courses of instruction, Emergency Response to Biological Incidents and the Law Enforcement Response to WMD Incidents course. For additional information on LSU courses, contact LSU at www.ace.lsu.edu

Texas A&M University (National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center): Texas A&M delivers a set of courses to prepare public officials, emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire protection, and public works for the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. Courses are developed and designed to provide each specific segment of the emergency response community with the tools needed to accomplish its role in the event of a WMD incident. Additionally,

Texas A&M has developed an Interactive Internet WMD Awareness Course for emergency responders. Texas A&M also provides technical assistance to state and local jurisdictions in the development of WMD assessment plans. TEEX offers the following courses of instruction: WMD Threat and Risk Assessment, WMD Incident Management/Unified Command, Emergency Response to Terrorism Basic Concepts, Emergency Medical Operations, and WMD Awareness (Internet Course). For additional information on TEEX courses, contact TEEX at <http://www.teex.com/campus> or nerrtc@teexmail.tamu.edu

Terrorism Awareness and EMS Concepts



Online Training for Officials and First Responders

Texas A&M University (the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center) is offering **interactive Internet training, at no cost**, to state and local officials and first responders. The course provides an excellent overview of terrorism awareness and first responder basics. The program includes self tests, a final exam and a certificate

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Easley Adopts Land Development Regulations

On April 8, 2002, the City of Easley adopted a Land Development Regulations Ordinance at a second reading by the City Council. The adoption of this ordinance is a culmination of over a year's effort by the Planning Commis-



sion, staff and City Council of Easley. The Appalachian Council of Governments assisted the City of Easley with the development of the Land Development Regulations Ordinance. The new ordinance, which updates the existing Subdivision Ordinance, was in response to changing conditions within the city and to address concerns voiced by citizens over the past few years. The Planning Commission and City Council have done well in addressing these issues and have adopted an ordinance that is sensitive to the needs of the City of Easley.

The purpose of the Land Development Regulations Ordinance is to establish standards, procedures, and minimum requirements in accordance with the comprehensive plan; to regulate and control the location, design, subdivision and assemblage of land and buildings; to define the procedures for administration of subdivision review; and to guide the general development of real estate in the city. Unlike a land use plan, the land development ordinance is a regulatory document addressing the general and supplementary regulations, administrative mechanisms, code compliance, street and sidewalk layout and composition, and other items, including the location of infrastructure and parking re-

quirements. Subdivision plans are reviewed by the Planning Commission and administered by city staff.

The Land Development Regulations Ordinance will guide large-scale developments like this project located on U.S. Highway 123 in Easley.



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for successful completion. The Terrorism Awareness Course fulfills the prerequisite requirement for the Department of Justice Incident Command training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama.

Terrorism Awareness for Emergency First Responders

From the smallest pipe bomb to the horror of the Oklahoma City bombing, terrorism presents added concerns to those involved in emergency response. This course addresses the unique requirements of those incidents and provides an overview of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and incident command and control.

EMS Concepts for WMD Incidents

On most calls, EMS first responders are initially concerned with victims in need of medical attention. However, the unique nature of a terrorist incident involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) calls for a different protocol. While the focus of this course is primarily on the treatment of patients at mass casualty sites, responders must also be aware of unique considerations associated with terrorist events.

For additional information concerning interactive WMD training, contact Joe Newton at ACOG, or go online to <http://www.teex.com/campus/campus.cfm>.



Development Corporation Loans

The ADC Board approved a loan to Innovative Container Systems (ICS) in the amount of \$100,000 to assist Carolina First in funding equipment for a new cleaning line project that will cost \$250,000. ICS recycles and cleans plastic 55-gallon drums for use throughout the Southeast. ICS employs almost 30 people and will be expanding with the additional equipment.

The ADC Board also approved a loan of \$20,000 for Celestial Nail Boutique, a new business to be located in the Golden Strip area in Greenville County. The owner, Kathy Armstrong, has put together a project to open the new service business providing professional nail care. The business plans on employing up to eight people.

The ADC has had an SBA 504 loan approved by the Small Business Administration to provide permanent funding for Palmetto Graphics. Palmetto Graphics is a locally owned printing company that is moving from leased quarters to a building they are purchasing near Pelham Road in Greenville County. Palmetto Graphics is owned by the Neal family and has been in business for over 15 years. The business is also purchasing a five-color printing press to expand their capabilities.

The Appalachian Development Corporation has now closed and funded over \$1 million in revolving loans since the start of its fiscal year, October 1, 2001.

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conducted terrorism awareness training for local elected officials in the region, provided a briefing for local administrators on security precautions at the Oconee Nuclear Facility, and hosted a seminar on water system security measures.

Five-Year Reauthorization Approved for ARC

On March 12, President Bush signed a five-year reauthorization bill for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The bill authorizes \$446 million over the five-year period for area development (non-highway) programs; \$88 million annually for FY 2002 through 2004, \$90 million for FY 2005, and \$92 for FY 2006.



The measure passed on a voice vote in the House and Senate in late February. This is in contrast to the last reauthorization three years ago, which was marked by much debate and many proposed amendments. Some of the key provisions of the reauthorization bill are:

- Maintains support for the region's multi-county planning and development agencies (Councils of Governments or Local Development Districts)
- Establishes an Interagency Coordinating Council on Appalachia
- Authorizes a new telecommunications program
- Authorizes an entrepreneurial initiative
- Authorizes a new Regional Skills Partnership program.

ARC States' Co-Chairman Don Sundquist, Governor of Tennessee, stated "I want to commend Congress as well as President Bush for the strong support they've given the Appalachian Regional Commission. Thanks to ARC and the support of Congress, thousands of Americans throughout Appalachia today have opportunities for a better life that were hardly imaginable a generation ago."

South Carolina receives approximately \$2.3 million in ARC funding annually for area development activities in the six-county Appalachian region. Greenville County, however, is cur-

rently classified as an Attainment County and is not eligible for ARC assistance.

For more information about the ARC program, contact Dirk Reis at the ACOG.

Older Americans Month — May 2002 "America: A Community for All Ages" — <http://www/AOA.GOV/may2002/default.htm>

According to Josefina G. Carbonell, Assistant Secretary for Aging, this year's theme, "America: A Community for All Ages," was selected in recognition of the national community in which we live, and in tribute to the elders of our families who represent the strength of our nation. Older Americans provide us with love and guidance, and they set the standards by which our families and our children's families live their lives as responsible citizens of our great nation. In essence, older Americans are the heartbeat of our communities, and they give us the energy and motivation to move forward and contribute to our nation's strength, success and prosperity.

Celebrate these May and Older Americans Month activities:

- National Senior Travel Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Arthritis Awareness Month
- National Allergy Awareness Month
- National Senior Center Week
- National Intergenerational Week
- National Osteoporosis Prevention Month

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is designed to improve the quality of care and service to residents (vulnerable adults over age 18) residing in long term care facilities. The Program was begun in 1972 through initiatives of the Nixon Administration as a result of a public outcry against conditions in nursing homes in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Jurisdiction of the Program currently extends to nursing homes, residential care homes (retirement centers, assisted living facilities, etc.), psychiatric hospitals, community training homes for the mentally retarded and other facilities operated by or licensed for operation by the Departments of Mental Health and Disabilities and Special Needs. The enabling legislation for the Program includes the Older Americans Act, State Ombudsman's Act, and The Omnibus Adult Protection Act. Facilities are required to provide full access, including records, to the Ombudsman Program as needed to carry out its duties.

The Ombudsman wears **two hats** - "complaint investigator" and "advocate."

As **COMPLAINT INVESTIGATOR**, the Ombudsman receives and investigates any complaint filed by, or on behalf of, a resident. The complaint may include anything that adversely affects the quality of care and life, i.e., quality of food, untimely service, staff unresponsiveness, transfer/discharges, staffing, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

First and foremost, the resident controls the complaint process. He/she determines the extent to which the ombudsman becomes involved in solving their problem.

When a resident cannot speak on his/her behalf, the ombudsman may assist the legal representative, family member, or sponsor on behalf of the resident.

The ombudsman works with the resident to identify the problem or to

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2001 Year-End Review

South Carolina's economy sputtered throughout the year due to the effects of a national recession and significant job losses in manufacturing.

The non-agricultural count tumbled 1.3 percent to 1.8 million in 2001, losing 24,200 jobs. Manufacturing lost 15,100 over the year. Not all of the losses were due solely to the national recession. The state has been losing textile and apparel jobs for three decades, independent of overall economic recessions and expansions. Within manufacturing, employment in textile mills fell by 6,000. Trade lost 8,700 jobs, led by a decline of 6,700 jobs in retail trade. Construction shed 1,600 over the year. Industries posting healthy employment gains over the year were finance, insurance and real estate (+2,100); service (+1,500); and transportation and public utilities (+500).

A production worker in South Carolina's manufacturing industries earned on average \$11.19 an hour in 2001, up \$.22 from 2000. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing increased \$1.51 over the year to \$467.74. Workers in paper and allied products were the highest hourly wage earners, at \$14.65 per hour, followed by chemicals and allied products (\$13.65 per hour) and stone, clay and glass products (\$11.80 per hour).

In 2001, a total of \$5.28 billion was invested in South Carolina, adding an announced 21,937 new jobs. Existing industries accounted for over 70 percent of the job creation total. Over the past 10 years, nearly \$51 billion has been invested in the state, creating more than 252,000 new jobs. The leading manufacturing sectors in terms of capital investment activity were metals and capital equipment (\$966 million), chemicals (\$593 million), and rubber and plastics (\$343 million).

Greenville County led the state in investment, recording \$1.3 billion, followed by York (\$652.7 million), Jasper (\$451.7 million) Cherokee (\$351.4 million) and Lexington (\$310.4 million)

counties. York County ranked first in the number of announced jobs created, with 3,844, with Greenville (2,936), Richland (1,591), Spartanburg (1,368) and Lexington (1,234) counties next on the list.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for 2001 was 5.4 percent, up from 3.9 percent in 2000. Nine counties averaged double-digit unemployment rates, led by Marion County at 17.3 percent. Conversely, 15 counties averaged unemployment rates below 5.4 percent. Beaufort County had the state's lowest unemployment rate, at 2.6 percent. The unemployment rate for Columbia MSA averaged 3.2 percent for the year. The Charleston and Greenville-Spartanburg MSA's unemployment rates averaged 3.7 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in 2001.

For 2002, economists predict the current recession to end by the spring, since recession tens to average 11 months. The state's unemployment rate will peak slightly over 6.0 percent. By comparison, during the recession of the early 1980's, the state's unemployment rate climbed to nearly 12 percent. In the early 1990's, unemployment rose as high as 8 percent.

The 30-year trend of declining textile employment is expected to continue. Based on 1998-2002 employment projections, the fastest-growing sectors will continue to be services, construction, and wholesale and retail trade. Services will provide 1 out of every 2 new jobs in the state; trade will account for 29 percent of an overall job growth, while nearly 15,000 construction jobs are anticipated to be added by 2008. Non-residential construction activity should continue to surge as South Carolina firms continue to invest in capital expansion.

Reprint of an article by Mike Daniels, Supervisor, LMI Research Unit, Labor Market Information, South Carolina Employment Security Commission, appearing in the January 2002 issue of the *South Carolina Workforce Trends*.

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break a big problem down into smaller, more manageable pieces. The ombudsman also tries to determine whether this is a problem throughout the facility.

The ombudsman first investigates the complaint to determine whether it is valid. If valid, the ombudsman works with the complainant to resolve the complaint. If not valid, the ombudsman will explain his findings.

The ombudsman will then follow up to ensure that any agreement reached to solve the problem is actually carried out.

In all cases, complaints are handled confidentially. The ombudsman does not disclose the complainant's identity without his/her permission, unless ordered to do so by a court of law. Even if the ombudsman cannot resolve the complaint without revealing the complainant's identity, he/she makes the choice as to whether the ombudsman proceeds.

As **ADVOCATE**, the Ombudsman protects Residents' Rights and works to ensure the highest quality of care for vulnerable adults who most often feel powerless and are too ill and/or too frail to stand up for their own rights.

The Ombudsman identifies and seeks to remedy gaps in facility, government, or community services, advocates for improvements in state and federal laws and regulations to improve quality of care, educates residents, family, and staff about residents' rights, provides technical assistance in establishing Resident and Family Councils, and provides information and referral regarding long-term care programs and services to any interested party.

WHO TO CONTACT — Call the Appalachian Council of Governments' Long Term Care Ombudsman toll free:

Anderson County	225-3268
Cherokee County	489-6960
Greenville County	242-9733
Oconee County	882-7538
Pickens County	855-0163
Spartanburg County	582-1403

SE4A Scholarship

Once again, the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging has established a scholarship to be awarded to a student interested in pursuing a career in Gerontology or Geriatrics. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in the fall of 2002.

To apply for the scholarship, a student must be a junior, senior or graduate student presently enrolled in an accredited university within the eight Southeastern states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please contact Michael Stogner at the ACOG office for a copy of the application and a list of the criteria. Completed applications must be returned before May 31, 2002.

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successful economic development in Upstate South Carolina. Please visit WWW.UPSTATEALLIANCE.COM to learn more about the Upstate Alliance. For more information about *InfoMentum*, please contact Carol Andersen at ACOG (andersen@scacog.org).

VIEWPOINT

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