



New Jersey Office of
Homeland Security & Preparedness
NEWS

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

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Richard L. Cañas, Director

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New Jersey's Homeland Security Director Appointed to National Homeland Security Council

-Richard Cañas will serve on U.S. DHS Secretary Napolitano's Advisory Panel-

HAMILTON — New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas was appointed today to the United States Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) by United States Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. The Homeland Security Advisory Council was created in 2002 as part of the congressional act that established the Department of Homeland Security. The Council, which serves in an advisory capacity, provides policy recommendations and strategic advice to the Homeland Security Secretary on matters related to the nation's homeland security. Council members are appointed by the Homeland Security Secretary and are drawn from various professions, industries and communities. The Council consists of national leaders in subject matter areas such as police, fire, and emergency medical services; public health; elected and appointed state and local government leaders; experts in academia; and private sector leaders, including owners and operators of critical infrastructure sites and key industries. Cañas will remain in his position as the state's Homeland Security Director.

"Director Cañas will be a valuable addition to the Obama administration's homeland security efforts," said Governor Jon S. Corzine. "His diverse and distinguished career experiences have proven to be an asset in New Jersey and will represent our state well on Secretary Napolitano's Homeland Security Advisory Council."

"I am humbled by the opportunity to help shape homeland security policy at the national level," said Cañas. "I am extremely proud of the job we have done in New Jersey and look forward to working with Secretary Napolitano and the Council to help DHS achieve its mission," Cañas said.

Governor Corzine created the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) after taking office in 2006 and appointed Cañas as its first Director. Prior to his appointment, Cañas had a 34-year career in law enforcement and national security. He has served as Director of the National Drug Intelligence Center, Special Agent in Charge of the Phoenix Drug Enforcement Agency office in Arizona and Special Assistant to the Central Intelligence Agency. During four years spanning the administrations of Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, Cañas served as a Director on the White House's National Security Council, where he headed the directorate for Counterterrorism and Counternarcotics. Cañas began his public service career as a police officer in Salinas, California. Cañas earned a Bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and holds a teaching credential from the University of California at Berkeley.

OHSP is responsible for leading the state's counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. OHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and preparedness funds on behalf of the State of New Jersey, which is considered by DHS to be at greater risk of a terrorist attack because of its close proximity to New York City and Philadelphia, population density, heavy reliance on mass transit and high concentration of critical infrastructure sites in and around urban, suburban and rural areas.



New Jersey's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) area, which consists of the seven counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic and Union, is one of 62 UASI areas in the nation designated by DHS and one of only seven Tier 1 areas considered to be at greater risk of a terrorist attack. The federal UASI program is designed to provide funding to high-threat, high-density urban areas to help them build capacity to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. Since 2003, New Jersey's UASI area has been awarded more than \$200 million. Under Cañas' leadership, OHSP has been nationally recognized for its grants management strategy, which follows Governor Corzine's mandate to distribute homeland security funds using a risk-based formula. These effective practices have resulted in annual increases in federal homeland security funds at a time when the overall amount of available funds has decreased. More information about OHSP can be found at www.njhomelandsecurity.gov.

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