



The Business of Counterterrorism. Public-Private Partnerships in Homeland Security.  
By Nathan E. Busch & Austen D. Givens.  
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***The Business of Counterterrorism. Public-Private Partnerships in Homeland Security.* By Nathan E. Busch & Austen D. Givens. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2014. ISBN 978-1-4331-1954-5. Sources cited. 342 pp., (paperback).**

This book could serve as the text book for the “The Roles and Responsibilities of Private Industry and the Business Community in Homeland Security.” Neatly crafted to be a bridge from traditional/proven emergency management and business continuity doctrine and practices; this trade document translates well into the science and processes which have defined the discovery of the defining principles and practices for the integration and synchronization Homeland Security within the business and private industry communities within the United States.

The book’s outline tells the story. It is organized to give the learned practitioner in emergency management an easy to follow road map in homeland security lessons learned while still reiterating a simple backdrop to the basic phases of Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM); those being Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. Keeping aligned to these basic tenets, the contributing authors expand upon these foundations and personify them with proven applications that traverse not only the nation’s private interests but also the full spectrum of homeland security concerns. It is not just an issues book, filled with problem solving initiatives, nor is it simply a cookbook of magical remedies to the most common problems experienced by local governments. The text offers both the tenured and the newcomer to homeland security the opportunity to experience the realm of considerations that all sectors of the business and private industry community will face eventually as they build and mature their homeland security services and partnerships.

Notable in the document are the notes pages that provide a bountiful sampling of source documents that validate and offer the reader more sources to explore. In addition, each chapter introduces the reader to not only the subject content but also the intended expectation of “lesson take-a-ways.” In the world of emergency management and homeland security these are categorized as “lessons remembered” versus just “lessons learned,” offering the reader the opportunity to channel them into “lessons applied.”

Another area of interest to the reader is the prescribed and anticipated responsibilities expected from each of the partners when it comes to such things as infrastructure protection, information sharing, and management. Many of these areas are still in their infancy and the responsibilities are still unclear and are undergoing continual review and definition. As a result, it is clear that it will be many years before such defining relationships become clear and instituted. One of the largest of those areas will be the need to solidify relationships with the Business and Private Industry Community in Homeland Security/Emergency Management by categorizing it as an Emergency Support Function (ESF) in the National Response Framework.

Yes, it is a “best (expected) practices” book, but it is also presented in a methodical manner to move the tenured practitioner and absorbing student from

understanding the challenges, to analysis of the opportunities, and finally prescribing the solutions.

In Chapter I of the text the authors establish the essential foundations for partnerships in homeland security and explain the relationship, obligations, and purposeful place of the business community in this arena. In the supporting chapters they expand upon the purpose behind emergency management/homeland security and the essential partnership with the business and private industry community; an essential espousal for each of the members' survival. From Infrastructure and Information systems, to Ports of Entry, to Collaboration in both Disaster Response and Recovery, this text provides the "first reader perspective" to what should become an expanding and scholarly study.

In conclusion, this is not just a work inclusive of homeland security best practice recipes for the business community. It is a textbook which translates the doctrinal practices of Comprehensive Emergency Management in partnership with business and private sector interests from a decade of discovery and reflection on what homeland security really ought to be, through the experiences of multiple governments and their business partners. Of course, it frames many successes and prescribes anticipated relationships. However, more importantly, it profiles some of the many minefields which others have crossed in better defining what homeland security is across America.

Again, it could be the text book for the "Homeroom of Homeland Security Sector – and the Private Sector/Business Community," and is a must read for anyone practicing in the field or entering into study within the discipline. It was written to have "lessons learned," translate into "lessons remembered;" becoming "lessons applied."

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