

2008 Bridging the Gap

The 2008 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference & Expo was held April 22-24 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The conference focused on "Bridging the Gap" and was hosted by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD); Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness; Michigan Emergency Management Association; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Detroit Office.

More than 1,200 people were in attendance from a variety of disciplines including law enforcement, fire, public health and health care, school administration, emergency management, and private sector. A dynamic lineup of speakers presented, including Jose Maria Aznar, former President of Spain; Lou Holtz, former football coach at the University of Notre Dame; and Lt. Col. James Vance, Ret. U.S. Marine Corps.

Valuable workshops provided training and updated information in areas such as public health, critical infrastructure protection, school protection, communications, response, preparedness, bomb threat planning, and technology.

This gathering offered each of us a tremendous opportunity to learn, grow, observe, and become enriched with greater knowledge and perspective in the many aspects of homeland security. On behalf of the MSP/EMHSD, I would like to extend my appreciation to all participants and attendees who are instrumental in helping us fulfill our mission to foster, promote, and maintain partnerships to protect our state and homeland from all hazards.

Capt. Eddie L. Washington, Jr.
Michigan Department of State Police,
Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

Opening Video

A complimentary video is available for conference attendees per request to [Kristine Opsommer](#). Please include your name, organization, and mailing address.