Federalism and Crisis Management

Directions - The awesome and terrible events of September 11, 2001 in New York and Washington elicited a multitude of responses from the federal, state and local governments. This activity will allow you to get a real sense of the "marble cake" image of federalism as well as to develop an understanding of the choices that government leaders have to make. Particularly in crisis situations, the levels of government must sometimes depend on each other. As a class, we will brainstorm all the tasks the governments at the local, state and federal levels are facing in the wake of this tragedy, and devise strategies to attack the crisis.

1. The class will be divided into small groups of three. Group members should share their thoughts and compile three lists: 1) the tasks the national government must perform, 2) those of the state governments, and 3) the city/locality’s responsibilities.

2. We will then divide into "government level" groupings. The original groups (triads) will send one representative to each of the following "government level" groups: 1) federal government, 2) state government (NY in particular), and 3) local government. At this point, the government level groups will discuss the tasks to be performed and produce a chart with five headings:

   a. Prioritized list of tasks (before, during, and after the attacks)
   b. Responsible agencies and organizations
   c. Private or non-profit organizations involved or needed
   d. Resources required
   e. Anticipated problems and recommendations to fix them

3. Presentations: Each government group will present their findings to the rest of the class. Other groups may ask questions and make comments.

4. Debriefing: After the presentations, the class will discuss the questions below.
   a. Identify the tasks that most be shared by all three levels of government. How should coordination occur to carry out these tasks (i.e. who’s in charge)?
   b. Identify the tasks that could/should only be carried out by the local, state or federal governments.
   c. What generalizations can you make regarding a domestic terrorist attack and its impact on American federalism?
   d. As an “expert” representing your level of government, if you were asked to testify before Congress, what recommendations would you make to assist in America’s preparedness in the future for a terrorist attack?
Government Agencies Responding to a Domestic Terrorist Attack

Federal Government (includes the President, White House Staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Congress, Independent Agencies)

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives – Investigates and enforces federal laws and regulations regarding firearms, explosives and arson.
Central Intelligence Agency – Obtains and analyzes information about foreign governments, corporations, terrorist cells and individuals.
Department of Defense – Coordinates military response and assists FEMA and National Guard after a terrorist attack for security.
Department of Health and Human Services - Deploys U.S. Public Health Service Officers to affected areas on standby for deployment to support medical response.
Department of Homeland Security (created as a result of 9/11) – Protects American people from harm and its property from damage, and manages federal assistance and provides resources to affected areas.
Department of Labor – provides disaster unemployment assistance and National Emergency Grants and assists in job recovery programs.
Department of State – Communicates with other countries and international organizations like the U.N. to coordinate assistance and foreign cooperation through diplomatic channels.
Federal Bureau of Investigations – Acts as the federal police force whose primary purpose to detect and investigate crimes against the United States.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Provides supplies, equipment, financial assistance to victims and Disaster Medical Assistance Teams to areas domestic terrorist attacks.
National Security Agency – Collects and analyzes message communications.
Secret Service – Provides primary protection for the President, Vice-President and high ranking government officials.
U.S. Coast Guard – Provides aircraft, patrol boats and cutters to conduct search, rescue and humanitarian aid operations.

State Government (includes the Governor, State Legislatures and Agencies)
National Guard – Though a federal entity, may be called by governors to provide search and rescue, assisting local law enforcement, and supplies to victims.
State Department of Health – assists in disease control, and management of public health crisis in affected areas.
State Emergency Management Agencies – helps to coordinate shelters, supplies, health care, transportation for recovery efforts.
State Police – state law enforcement.

Local Government (includes Mayors, Municipal or County Boards or Councils, Agencies)
Local Emergency Services – first responders to medical emergencies.
Local Fire Department – first responders to carry out search and rescue operations.
Local Law Enforcement – police, sheriff departments with primary law enforcement responsibility.
Local Public Transportation (buses, trains, subways) – transportation for possible evacuation.
Social Services – provides assistance to families, individuals in need.

Private or Non-Profit Organizations
American Red Cross – provides temporary shelter, supplies, relief workers and support to victims.
The Salvation Army - provides services (food, clothing, etc.) to survivors and first responders in the affected areas

Sources:
http://www.firstgov.gov
Federalism and Crisis Management

Directions - The awesome force and powerful destruction of Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 left much of the Gulf Coast in ruin and precipitated an almost unprecedented national emergency, particularly in the city of New Orleans. The events before, during and after the hurricane elicited a multitude of responses from the federal, state and local governments. This activity will allow you to get a real sense of the "marble cake" image of federalism as well as to develop an understanding of the choices, sometimes very difficult ones, that government leaders have to make. Particularly in crisis situations, the levels of government must sometimes depend on each other. As a class, we will brainstorm all the tasks the governments at the local, state and federal levels are facing in the wake of this tragedy, and devise strategies to attack the crisis.

1. The class will be divided into small groups of three. Group members should their thoughts and compile three lists: 1) the tasks the national government must perform, 2) those of the state governments, and 3) the city/locality’s responsibilities.

2. We will then divide into "government level" groupings. The original groups (triads) will send one representative to each of the following “government level” groups: 1) federal government, 2) state government (Louisiana and Mississippi in particular), and 3) local government (especially New Orleans, LA and Biloxi, MS) At this point, the government level groups will discuss the tasks to be performed and produce a chart with five headings:

   a. Prioritized list of tasks (before, during, and after the attacks)
   b. Responsible agencies and organizations
   c. Private or non-profit organizations involved or needed
   d. Resources required
   e. Anticipated problems and recommendations to fix them

3. Presentations: Each government group will present their findings to the rest of the class. Other groups may ask questions and make comments.

4. Debriefing: After the presentations, the class will discuss the questions below.
   a. Identify the tasks that most be shared by all three levels of government. How should coordination occur to carry out these tasks (i.e. who’s in charge)?
   b. Identify the tasks that could/should only be carried out by the local, state or federal governments.
   c. What generalizations can you make regarding a major natural disaster and its impact on American federalism?
   d. As an “expert” representing your level of government, if you were asked to testify before Congress, what recommendations would you make to assist in America’s preparedness in the future for a natural disaster?
American Government AP

Government Agencies Responding to a Natural Disaster

Federal Government (includes the President, White House Staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Congress, Independent Agencies)

National Hurricane Center – Tracks, names and predicts the likely behavior of tropical storms and hurricanes and issues appropriate watches and warnings to the public.

Department of Homeland Security – Manages federal assistance and provides resources to affected areas.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – manages federal assistance and provides resources to affected areas.

U.S. Coast Guard – dispatches aircraft, patrol boats and cutters to conduct search, rescue and humanitarian aid operations.

Department of Health and Human Services - dispatches trucks deliver millions of meals ready to eat, water and supplies, mobile homes, generators, etc. to affected areas; assists in long-term repair/rebuilding of roads and other transportation infrastructures.

Department of Agriculture - coordinates damage assessments to area crops, livestock, and other agriculture-related operations.

Department of Defense - assists FEMA and National Guard after disaster declarations are issued for assistance in security, clean-up, search and rescue.

Department of Labor – provides disaster unemployment assistance and National Emergency Grants and assists in job recovery programs.

State Government (includes the Governor, State Legislatures and Agencies)

National Guard – though a federal entity, may be called by governors to provide search and rescue, assisting local law enforcement, and supplies to victims.

State Department of Health – assists in disease control, and management of public health crisis in affected areas.

State Emergency Management Agencies – helps to coordinate shelters, supplies, health care, transportation for recovery efforts.

State Department of Education – help displaced school children and teachers integrate back into other schools.

State Police – state law enforcement.

Local Government (includes Mayors, Municipal or County Boards or Councils, Agencies)

Local Law Enforcement – police, sheriff departments with primary law enforcement responsibility.

Local Fire Department – first responders to carry out search and rescue operations.

Local Emergency Services – first responders to medical emergencies.

Social Services – provides assistance to families, individuals in need.

Private or Non-Profit Organizations

American Red Cross – provides temporary shelter, supplies, relief workers and support to victims.

The Salvation Army - provides services (food, clothing, etc.) to survivors in the affected areas.

Sources:

http://www.firstgov.gov
Chart 1: For use with 9/11

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Chart 2: For use with Katrina

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