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State of Delaware Holds 2nd Cyber Security Tabletop Exercise

Dover - Delaware's second annual cyber security tabletop exercise was held on November 2, 2006 at DelTech's Terry Campus in Dover and was attended by over 150 participants/observers. The exercise was sponsored by the Department of Technology and Information (DTI) in partnership with the DEMA, the Delaware State Police and the Division of Public Health. Federal partners included the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Cert.

In addition to state government IT managers, the FBI, County and municipal officials and members of the education community, both K-12 and Higher Education, were all participants. Joining those in government were private sector representatives including Perdue Inc., DuPont Chemical, Applied Card Bank, IBM and a team from ING's Atlanta Georgia office.

The tabletop exercise featured a scenario involving terrorists and escalating pandemic conditions. Participants were assigned to tables with those in similar functions or areas of expertise and playbooks were distributed. The playbooks outlined changing conditions over a period of several weeks and the participants were encouraged to discuss the issues and react appropriately, as well as interact with others from various disciplines. New to this year's exercise were mock video news segments that appeared periodically during the exercise, very much in the same way as a network interrupts its programming with breaking news.

DTI Secretary Tom Jarrett described the tabletop exercise as a "fairly realistic, yet non-confrontational way of beginning to assess readiness levels in state government. The ability to maintain or bring back IT network services and protect data during an emergency incident or natural disaster is key to helping a state government assist its citizens."

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