AIA News

AIA Encourages Architects to Participate in State Security Discussions

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States are taking new actions to evaluate security measures in the case of possible terrorist attacks. About half have either designated a cabinet-level homeland security position or are setting up task forces or committees to review security issues and policies, according to *Stateline.org*, a Web site that provides news on public policy issues affecting the states.

The mission of these positions is twofold: to identify weaknesses and strengths in existing security measures and to make viable recommendations that will help government officials and public-safety offices respond effectively to any future terrorist attacks.

Several opportunities exist for architects to offer their expertise to these new entities. State components can contact their respective state representatives or government agencies and offer their members' services. They may also pursue representation on the commissions and within the state security offices. By serving on these bodies, architects can influence the discussion and final recommendations that are offered.

Components sponsor November 5 security conference

Architects can learn what others in the profession are doing about safety issues. "Security by Design: Insights and Best Practices," a 90-minute virtual seminar addressing security design from the architect's viewpoint, will feature a number of security design experts.

Several AIA components are hosting the program, which will be offered Monday, November 5, from 1-2:30 p.m., EST., at 300 sites nationwide. As of October 24, these AIA components include: AIA Asheville NC, AIA Austin, AIA Baltimore, AIA Billings MT (Billings Architectural Association/AIA), AIA Charlotte NC, AIA Chesapeake Bay, AIA Chicago, AIA Columbus, AIA Corpus Christi, AIA Dallas, AIA Eastern Kentucky, AIA Eastern New York, AIA Eastern North Carolina, AIA Eastern Oklahoma, AIA Florida Southwest (Naples), AIA Hampton Roads, AIA Iowa, AIA Jacksonville FL, AIA Kentucky, AIA Las Vegas, AIA Lower Rio Grande Valley, AIA Maine, AIA Middle Tennessee, AIA Nebraska, AIA New York State, AIA Northern Virginia, AIA Orange County, AIA Piedmont NC, AIA Pittsburgh, AIA Portland OR, AIA Potomac Valley Chapter, AIA San Diego, AIA Seattle, AIA Southwest WA, AIA Spokane, AIA Triangle NC, AIA Winston-Salem NC, and AIA Wisconsin.

See This Week's "November 5 Virtual Seminar Helps Architects Help Clients Address Security Concerns" article for more information about the conference.

STATES ASSESS SECURITY NEEDS

states that have already appointed a cabinet-level homeland security position or that have announced the formation of a committee or task force to further evaluate preparedness and additional security needs

source: www.stateline.org

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