

## Homeland Security Plano style

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Starting Oct. 16, a Plano native will step in to fill the newly developed Director of Homeland Security position. Shane Stovall is returning home from New Port Richey, Florida to fill the position that was, in previous years, only one of the responsibilities of former fire Chief William Peterson.

The graduate of Plano Senior High, Collin County Community College and the University of North Texas says that he is ecstatic to begin his work in emergency management.

"I always had an interest in public sector work and this opportunity arose and I was fortunate to be chosen for it," said Stovall. "The challenges are going to be establishing new policies and guidelines and I will be working with everyone in emergency management with citizens as well as our corporate partners."

"We are very pleased to be able to attract someone with Shane's experience and credentials to our Office of Homeland Security," stated City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck. "He has vast experience in emergency preparedness and planning and served in the Charlotte County, Florida Office of Emergency Management as Emergency Coordinator, Plans and Operations Supervisor, and Emergency Planner."

Stovall beat out the five other finalists for Director of Homeland Security: Colonel Brian Attaway, National Guard, Austin, Tex; James Delaney, national consultant for emergency preparedness in Palm Coast, Fla.

Patrick McMacken, emergency management coordinator in Irving, Tex.; Jamie Moore, director of the office of emergency management in Douglas County, Col. And Dan Summers, director bureau of emergency services in Naples, Fla.

In his most recent position with General Physics Corporation, Stovall supervised four staff members and managed planning, training and exercise projects for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Business Unit.

Stovall says that before any projections for his tenure can be made, he will first meet with his staff and assess the strengths and weaknesses of current procedures.

"I need to get in there and see what's already in existence to determine what projects that we want to take and what turn we want to go in," he said. "The department is not only going to be covering terrorism. It is going to be an all hazards approach and taking a comprehensive approach to emergency and disaster mitigation, preparedness response and recovery."

Stovall says that his department is not simply to prevent, protect against and respond to acts of terrorism on local soil.

"We are going to be preparing and planning for all disasters man made as well and technological," said Stovall. "I think homeland is a lot of times associated with terrorism but it encompasses all hazards."

Former Plano Fire Chief William Peterson in past years has served as both chief and director of Homeland Security.

LaShon Ross, the city's human resources director says that the city has decided to split the responsibilities into separate positions.

"We felt that the level of responsibility and the amount of time that needed to dedicate to homeland security required that we separate the positions," said Ross. "We feel that as the responsibilities and the activity continue to grow we wanted someone in that office at all times."

Stovall says that he will definitely consider what his predecessor has done, adding that he will work Peterson in his new role as regional director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"I'm going to absolutely look at what Chief Peterson has done," he said. "It's very key that the homeland security in Plano work hard to secure working relationship with local, state and federal partners."

In anticipation of his October move, the father of three says that his family is very pleased with the opportunity to relocate to Plano.

"I think that they will adjust fine. We talked about it and everyone is very accepting to the opportunity and looking forward to moving to Plano," he said.

"I'm very happy I am honored to be coming back home to serve Plano and its citizens," he said. "I am proud to come back home and make it a safer place to live."