

Maturing DHS Institutional Risk Analysis Capabilities



Science and Technology

THE CHALLENGE

Resilience and readiness programs have a common goal of reducing risks to the nation from threats and hazards presented by terrorism, criminal activity, natural disasters, and catastrophic accidents. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires clear guidance on risk analysis terms and methods, expert perspective on analyzing and managing emerging risks, and ready access to risks information and tools to inform programs.

THE SOLUTION

DHS's Science and Technology Directorate identified three goals to advance institutional risk analysis capabilities to support the Department's resilience and readiness programs. This effort, in coordination with the RAND Corporation's Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center (HSOAC), will provide research and analysis to assist the Department in achieving each of these goals:

- Convene a DHS-wide futures group to improve access to and awareness of the latest information on emerging risks and security challenges department-wide. This includes establishing a DHS-wide futures cadre and the necessary qualifications and training requirements to mature this department-wide resource
- Conduct an analytic inventory, including scientific review of department-wide risk information assets and tools, to ensure information leveraged by DHS resilience and readiness programs are high quality, credible, and fit for purpose (usable)
- Update the DHS risk lexicon and develop a top-level risk ontology that incorporates the latest science and understanding of risks. Standardize risk terminology into core policies, practices, and operations across the Department

IMPACT

- This effort will produce a report providing key insights to advance the practice of risk analysis across the DHS enterprise by:
 - Assessing the risk analysis qualifications and training guidelines for supporting a futures cadre with DHS

- Compiling an analytic inventory of key public-facing DHS risk information assets and tools
- Conducting a review of the DHS risk lexicon and developing recommendations for changes to improve the alignment of DHS guidelines
- This effort is expected to provide DHS with research and analysis intended to inform risk analysis qualifications and training guidelines to enable a stronger, better-informed futures cadre at DHS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Provided briefing on risk analysis qualifications and training guidelines

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Conduct Briefing DHS Risk Lexicon Assessment (Q1 FY24)
- Deliver Final HSOAC Report summarizing insights on advancing risk analysis capabilities (Q3 FY24)

PARTNERS

- The RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA

