

Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council 2011 Annual Plenary Short Summary

Introduction

The Department of Homeland Security's National Protection and Programs Directorate hosted the 2011 Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) Annual Plenary on October 6, 2011. Enacted to further the Department's efforts to protect the Nation's critical infrastructure, the annual Plenary is a public meeting that provides public and industry leaders with an update on activities, initiatives, and goals. In addition to representatives from the 18 critical infrastructure sectors, the session was open to public and private sector attendees to discuss critical infrastructure security and resilience planning.

The agenda focused on physical security and cybersecurity aspects of sector initiatives, resilience and regionalization efforts, and intelligence and information sharing. A recurring theme throughout was the importance and need for effective partnerships at all levels of government and private sector to secure a safe and resilient Nation. Speakers included partners from the Government Coordinating Councils (GCCs); Sector Coordinating Councils (SCCs); Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource (CIKR) Cross-Sector Council, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC); Regional Consortium Coordinating Council (RCCC); and the National Council of Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs). In addition, three moderated panels engaged in discussions about sector accomplishments, initiatives, challenges, and the path forward to strengthen the Nation's critical infrastructure.

Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, Todd Keil, emphasized the importance of working with Federal, State, Local, and private sector partners to identify and prioritize risks to critical infrastructure, and then allocating resources to mitigate those risks. He also stressed the importance of information sharing among all partners.

Partner Remarks

Each sector chair highlighted progress in improving the public-private partnership. With budget constraints adversely affecting State grants, leveraging relationships with the private sector becomes even more vital to help sustain projects.

The ISACs discussed their key projects:

- Creating a recurring meeting at the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center with liaisons and watch staff;
- Coordinating for National Level Exercise (NLE) 2012;
- Working with the Homeland Security Advisors to provide points of contact to move equipment and address other access issues;
- Furthering Cross-Sector Information Sharing Framework; and
- Working to have a representative on the National Cybersecurity Communications and Collaborations Integration Center floor.

Roundtable I: Sector & SLTT Initiatives

Panelists provided examples of effective partnership initiatives, and stressed the need to identify and bridge gaps in the partnership process.

Participants also discussed successes with the systems and assessments they have used. The Standing Information Needs progress enabled the intelligence community to relay their capabilities, and for the Oil and Natural Gas private sector members to share their needs, capabilities, and interdependencies. The Industrial Control Systems Roadmap for the Chemical Sector supported a comprehensive awareness campaign and implementation of industry standards and best practices. Both a Chemical-specific and a cross-sector roadmap are currently in the approval stage. The Risk Analysis and Management for Critical Asset Protection assessment, provided by the Water Sector, was expanded to include all-hazards, thereby helping partners better prepare and plan for events.

The National Critical Infrastructure Prioritization Program, a key public-private initiative, is evolving to identify critical assets and disseminate improved visibility. States and Federal government apply different criteria in deciding what assets are critical, but the coordination and communication involved in the annual updates helps reduce discrepancies in this area. Continued dialogue among the States, the Protective Security Advisors, and the owner/operators is imperative to the success of this program.

Roundtable II: Critical Infrastructure Resilience & Regionalization

This panel focused specifically on resilience and regionalization efforts, including a SLTTGCC report that identifies advances in State and local infrastructure resilience and protection. Emphasizing that business continuity is primarily the responsibility of owners and operators, the report also highlights the role of government to address dependencies and interdependencies. Plans to expand the study are currently underway.

The goals for the Department are to understand how States and regions are implementing the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, and how State programs and activities can be tailored to better address and support the SLTTGCC, agencies, and private sector. In 2012, additional data will be collected from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions IV, VI, VII, and IX. Specific findings from the FEMA Regions I and II initiatives noted that major urban areas tend to focus on systems and resources directly connected to and dependent on their own infrastructure. The Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP) process has helped identify and create communities of interest, opening the opportunity to have a strong connection with the State Homeland Security Advisor's Office.

The Department also had discussions with the Canadian government to address infrastructure resources and systems that cross international lines. A new tool is under development—scheduled for a January 2013 release—that will house site assistance vulnerability assessments. To make the tool more useful, the RRAP team will coordinate with Federal, State, local, and private partners to work toward standards and guidelines to support more resilient systems.

Panelists also underscored the importance of dependencies and interdependencies among sectors and leveraging relationships. In addition, panelists noted the shift from a terrorism-specific

approach toward an all-hazards approach to better address risk and improve resilience. Such a shift will enable better capacity to address risk and identify what resources are needed.

Roundtable III: Private Sector Engagement: Intelligence/Information Sharing Initiatives

This panel discussed the perception that the government has information that it should be sharing, something which relationships can help improve. However, rather than striving for information sharing, situational awareness should be the goal. When information sharing is observed from this perspective, then partners will be able to better evaluate what other actions can be taken to improve the process. It was noted that there is a limitation in information sharing, specifically, the relationship between information and trust. When needed information is not received in a timely and actionable fashion, this could increase risk for critical infrastructure entities.

A working group is reviewing strategies to strengthen and mature relationships within the industry. Challenges include improving the flow of information, strengthening local and regional capabilities, and reinforcing accountability within DHS to ensure information flows to the target audience without undue delay.

2012 Exercise Updates

Upcoming exercises are planned to include Federal, State, and local governments as well as the private sector. The National Level Exercise (NLE) 2012 will consist of four exercises which will occur throughout 2012, each with varying objectives and participants. They include: (1) Information Exchange, (2) Cyber Incident Management / Virtual Effects, (3) NLE Capstone Exercise, and (4) Continuity Exercise/Eagle Horizon. The Cyber Storm IV Exercise Series as well as the Resilient Constellation Exercise Series will also take place in 2012.

Summary Remarks

In his final remarks, Rand Beers, Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, emphasized the importance of collaboration among all partners. Assistant Secretary Keil reiterated the value of incorporating and sharing all feedback, no matter the perspective. He also urged an expansion of the partnership in the development and execution of initiatives. Through collaboration, communication, and flexibility, solutions will help drive improvement in the protection and preparedness of the Nation.