



**Homeland
Security**

Protective Security Advisor Program

The Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) operates the Protective Security Advisor (PSA) Program. PSAs facilitate field activities in coordination with IP divisions and other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offices. The PSA Program maintains a robust operational field capability, conducting assessments of nationally significant critical infrastructure through Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Protection (ECIP) security surveys, Site Assistance Visits, and incident response and providing access to IP resources, training, and information.

PSA Program

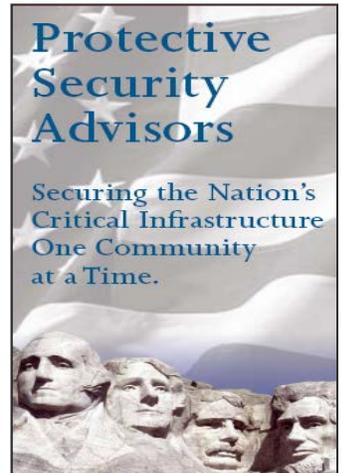
Established in 2004, the PSA Program's primary mission is to protect critical infrastructure. The five mission areas mentioned below are carried out in direct support of this primary mission objective. Regional directors (RDs) and PSAs also conduct crosscutting information sharing and coordination activities in support of these mission areas:

- Plan, coordinate, and conduct security surveys and assessments
- Plan and conduct outreach activities
- Support National Special Security Events (NSSEs) and Special Event Activity Rating (SEAR) Level I and II events
- Respond to incidents
- Coordinate and support improvised explosive device awareness and risk mitigation training

PSAs are security subject matter experts who engage with State, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government mission partners and members of the private sector stakeholder community to protect the Nation's critical infrastructure. They serve as regional DHS critical infrastructure security specialists, providing a local perspective to—and supporting the development of—the national risk picture by identifying, assessing, monitoring, and minimizing risk to critical infrastructure at the regional, State, and local levels.

There are 96 RDs and PSAs, including 89 field-deployed personnel serving in 73 districts in 50 States and Puerto Rico. RDs and PSAs are strategically deployed across the United States and provide SLTT and private sector stakeholders with access to steady-state DHS risk-mitigation tools, products, and services, such as training and voluntary vulnerability assessment programs, in addition to supporting officials responsible for planning and leading NSSE and SEAR events. PSAs also support response to all-hazard incidents through field-level coordination and information sharing and provide expertise on reconstituting affected critical infrastructure. During incidents, PSAs serve as the infrastructure liaisons at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Joint Field Offices, Regional Coordination Centers, and in State and county Emergency Operations Centers. They provide expert knowledge of the affected infrastructure; maintain communications with owners and operators; and prioritize and coordinate response, recovery, and restoration efforts for critical infrastructure. Recent examples include Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Irene in 2011.

PSAs also conduct joint site visits and vulnerability assessments of critical infrastructure assets with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They work with the United States Secret Service to provide vulnerability assessments, security



planning, and coordination during NSSEs and other large-scale special events, such as the Presidential Inauguration, the Super Bowl, and major international summits.

ECIP Security Surveys

By assessing the overall security posture of a facility, ECIP security surveys provide protective measures to critical infrastructure; inform facility owners and operators of the importance of their facilities and current terrorist threats; and develop strong relationships between critical infrastructure owners and operators, DHS, and Federal, State, and local law enforcement partners. During an ECIP visit, PSAs focus on coordination, outreach, training, and education, cataloguing existing relationships with Federal, State, local, and private sector partners. In addition, they discuss the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative and the “If You See Something, Say Something”™ campaign with owners and operators.

ECIP visits are often followed by ECIP surveys to collect, process, and analyze facility assessment data and develop a detailed assessment of physical security, security management, security force, information sharing, protective measures, and dependencies to identify cascading effects. Data collected during ECIP surveys allows DHS and facility owners and operators to track the implementation of recommended protective measures, to conduct sector-by-sector and cross-sector vulnerability comparisons, to identify security gaps, to provide owners and operators with a view of their facility’s security in relation to similar facilities, and to track progress toward improving critical infrastructure security. Owners and operators are given security survey data in interactive ECIP Dashboards, which enables them to improve security postures in a cost-effective and measureable manner.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact PSCDOperations@hq.dhs.gov.