

Regional Consortium Coordinating Council

Charter

Background

Critical infrastructure are the assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.

As noted in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, voluntary collaboration between private sector owners and operators (including their partner associations, vendors, and others) and their government counterparts has been and will remain the primary mechanism for advancing collective action toward national critical infrastructure security and resilience. As the nature of the critical infrastructure risk environment precludes any one entity from managing risks entirely on its own, partners benefit from access to knowledge and capabilities that would otherwise be unavailable to them. This allows more informed decisions when identifying and addressing national critical infrastructure priorities. Participation in this effort is based on a clear and shared interest in ensuring the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure and an understanding of the comparative advantage each element of the partnership can bring to achieve this shared interest.

Partnerships enable more effective and efficient risk management. Within the context of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, a partnership is defined as close cooperation between parties having common interests in achieving a shared vision. For the critical infrastructure community, leadership involvement, open communication, and trusted relationships are essential elements to partnership.

Article I – Official Designation

This organization will be known as the Regional Consortium Coordinating Council (RC3).

Article II – Mission and Purpose

This Charter formally recognizes and establishes the governance of the RC3 as a national forum for regional coordination among alliances for the purpose of critical infrastructure security and resilience (CISR). The mission of the RC3 is to strengthen

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regional collaborations that enhance protection, response, recovery, and resilience of the Nation's CISR by:

- Promoting and fostering protection and resilience efforts;
- Developing a national policy framework for regional infrastructure protection, prevention, deterrence, response, recovery, and longer term restoration;
- Providing the foundation for regional cross-sector collaboration;
- Fostering the development of risk-based protection and mitigation measures to enable measurable progress towards robust security and disaster resilience; and
- Enhancing the education and awareness of critical infrastructure interdependencies.

Article III – Objectives and Scope of Activity

To accomplish this mission, the RC3 will conduct the following general functions:

- Support the Nation's critical infrastructure resilience plans and strategies, specifically those described in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan;
- Promote collaboration and share best practices among regional coalitions in implementing NIPP-related CISR risk assessment, risk-based protection, and disaster resilient activities;
- Facilitate education and awareness of interdependencies of critical infrastructures and key resources and the vulnerabilities of their disruption in a regional context;
- Coordinate regional exercise and training programs, including a focus on multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary collaboration across the public and private sector boundaries;
- Work with State, local, tribal, territorial, and international governments and the private sectors as appropriate to evaluate and prioritize CI interdependencies and their vulnerabilities, including cyber considerations, and to identify regional mitigation strategies;
- Conduct appropriate regional planning efforts and undertake appropriate partnership agreements to enable regional critical infrastructure response, and recovery activities to enhance long-term community resilience;

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- Facilitate information-sharing and two-way situational awareness, applying information-sharing tools and platforms provided by government, where appropriate, thus fostering trust among public and private partners by sharing best-practice protocols involving regional consortium partners and highlighting the importance to communities of having adequate threat, warning and emergency communications systems; and
- Inform policy and planning processes, and provide recommendations on critical infrastructure protection and resilience requirements with the Department of Homeland Security, Sector Specific Agencies, the States, and other critical infrastructure partners, as appropriate.

Article IV - Membership and Governance Structure

The RC3 serves as a recognized forum for national coordination and collaboration among regional consortia for the purpose of CISR.

The RC3 shall maintain close coordination and cooperation with the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC), described in the NIPP, through a mutual liaison function.

Members – All members of the RC3 must align to the mission, purpose activities and scope outlined above. Specific member criteria shall be specified in the RC3 Bylaws.

Governance – The RC3 shall be governed by an Executive Committee led by a Chair and Vice Chair. The Executive Committee shall adopt bylaws establishing the manner in which the RC3 will operate.

The RC3 may not speak or act on behalf of the United States Government or of the Department of Homeland Security and no one other than the RC3's duly elected officials may speak on behalf of the RC3. No RC3 sub council may exist absent creation by the RC3 Chair or Vice-Chair acting on behalf of the RC3 Chair. The roster of RC3 regional consortia members shall be publicly accessible via a public-facing website.

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Article V – Meetings

Specific Meeting definitions, descriptions, decision-making, and quorum definitions are included in the RC3 Bylaws.

Article VI – Recordkeeping

Definition of records, and description of how these records are to be managed is not addressed in the Charter or Bylaws.

Article VII – Communications

Specific descriptions of communicating with members, external to Council entities and/or other critical infrastructure partners are included in the RC3 Bylaws.

Article VIII – Working Groups and Special Committees

The RC3 may develop sub councils based upon geographic coordination, topical issues, or any other interdependent factors that it deems relevant to its regional consortia or their member entities.

Additional Working Group information is included in the RC3 Bylaws.

Article IX – Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) Membership and Representation

Council Participation in CIPAC

The Department of Homeland Security has established the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) to facilitate effective coordination between federal infrastructure protection programs with the infrastructure protection activities of the private sector and of state, local, territorial, and tribal governments.

The CIPAC represents a partnership between government and critical infrastructure owners and operators and provides a forum in which they can engage in a broad spectrum of activities to support and coordinate critical infrastructure protection.

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When participating in CIPAC activities, the Council will comply with all requirements defined in the CIPAC Charter and guidance issued by the CIPAC Designated Federal Official within the CIPAC Executive Secretariat.

Article X – Amendments

Article XI – Bylaws

RC3 has a set of bylaws that assist with Council governance. Bylaws may be amended or repealed, and new bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Council provided such change is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Council present at the next scheduled Council meeting, in-person or teleconference.

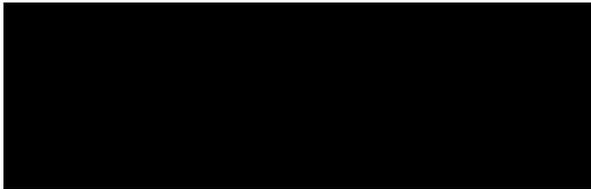
Article XII – Duration

This charter shall stay in effect until it is changed by the Executive Committee.

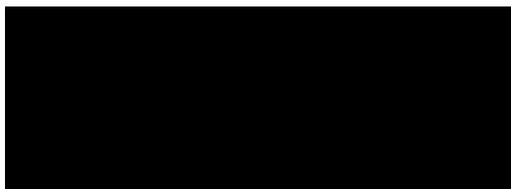
Article XIII – Approval

Approved on December 30, 2014

The Regional Consortium Coordinating Council Chair and Vice Chair hereby approve this charter.



Christopher Terzich
Past President,
Minnesota InfraGard Members Alliance



Tom Moran
Executive Director,
All Hazards Consortium

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