

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP)  
HSPD-8 Accomplishments and Future Milestones  
December 31, 2004

On December 17, 2003, the President issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 (HSPD-8): *National Preparedness*. HSPD-8 requires development of a National Preparedness Goal, mechanisms to improve delivery of Federal preparedness assistance, and specific actions to strengthen capabilities of entities at all levels of government to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events, especially terrorism.

**Accomplishments to Date:**

- Published **National Planning Scenarios** initiated by an interagency working group led by the Homeland Security Council. The scenarios illustrate the scope and magnitude of major events and provide the foundation for development of the target capabilities list.
- Established the **Universal Task List (UTL)**, which defines the tasks that must be performed from the incident scene to the national level for all homeland security missions. The UTL was developed with input of Federal, State, local, and tribal representatives from a wide range of emergency disciplines. The UTL will continue to be updated over time.
- Established the **National Exercise Program** that provides a national exercise strategy and a comprehensive national program, including senior official and national-level exercises.
- Established **Lessons Learned Information Sharing** ([www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov)) to collect, analyze, and disseminate lessons learned, best practices, and information from exercises, training events, research, and other sources, including actual incidents.
- Established a **Single Point of Access to Federal Preparedness Assistance Program Information** by developing a webpage and Centralized Scheduling Information Desk (CSID) hotline.
- Submitted first **Annual Report on Preparedness Funding** to the Secretary, which includes the obligation, expenditure status, and use of funds for all major Federal preparedness grants awarded to States, localities, and other non-Federal entities in FY 2004.
- Published **FY 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit** incorporating six separate grant programs with guidelines for specific requirements that grantees must meet in accordance with national preparedness initiatives, including HSPD-8 implementation.
- Completed the initial system description for a **Balanced Investments Mechanism** that will establish a unified national approach and tools for capabilities-based planning and resourcing. The description was developed by the Balanced Investments Integrated Concept Team (ICT) made up of Federal, State, local, and tribal representatives.
- Completed the initial system description for a **National Training, Exercises, and Lessons Learned System** that will establish a unified national approach and tools to demonstrate and evaluate capabilities to perform essential tasks. The description was developed by the Training, Exercises, and Lessons Learned ICT made up of Federal, State, local, and tribal representatives.
- Completed the initial system description for a **National Preparedness Assessment and Reporting System** that will establish a unified national approach and tools for feedback. The system will include self-assessment of compliance with national guidance, assisted self-

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assessment of current capabilities, against national targets, peer assessment of performance as demonstrated in exercises and emergency operations, and provide data for the annual report to the President on the Nation's level of preparedness. The system was developed by the Assessment and Reporting ICT made up of Federal, State, local, and tribal representatives.

**Future Milestones:**

- Publish the **National Preparedness Goal** with National Priorities that will guide the Nation's efforts to achieve and sustain nationally accepted-risk based target levels of capability to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events, especially terrorism. The Goal was developed with input from the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels of government and the private/non-profit sector. It will be published once approved by the President.
- Establish the **Target Capabilities List**, which defines target levels of capabilities that Federal, State, local, and tribal entities must achieve in order to perform the critical tasks for all homeland security missions. Target levels of capabilities will be scaled for different tiers of jurisdictions based on total population, population density, and critical infrastructure. The Target Capabilities List was developed in close coordination with a working group of State and local representatives, and is currently being reviewed by over 1500 Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations. The Targeted Capabilities List will be released by January 31, 2005.
- Publish **National Preparedness Guidance** in coordination with Federal, State, local, and tribal entities that describes the target levels of capability, and how to apply them in the development and update of supporting goals and objectives for Federal, State, local, and tribal preparedness assessments and strategies. The Guidance will be released by March 31, 2005.
- Publish the **First Annual Report to the President on the Nation's Level of Preparedness**. The report will include assessments of State capabilities, the readiness of Federal civil response assets, the utilization of mutual aid, how the Federal preparedness assistance programs support the National Preparedness Goal, and progress made on the National Priorities. The Report will be released one year from approval of the National Preparedness Goal.