



CHARTER
of the
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER REDUCTION
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The National Preparedness Science and Technology Task Force (NPST) is hereby established under the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR), by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability.

B. Purpose and Scope

Science and Technology (S&T) components to the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery from acts of terrorism and technical or natural hazards are focused on understanding, monitoring, characterizing, and modeling hazards to inform all levels of national preparedness. In 2011, Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8, *National Preparedness*, set forth the principles and direction for national preparedness policy against all-hazards. Two key components of PPD-8 provide the structure for national preparedness efforts: The *National Preparedness Goal* establishes the focus and core capabilities to support national preparedness; while the *National Preparedness System* identifies the tools, processes, and systems to build, sustain, and deliver those capabilities. Together these documents describe an all-of-nation approach to national preparedness that addresses all hazards across the five PPD-8 mission areas: prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The White House implementation plan for PPD-8¹ instructs the Secretary of Homeland Security to work in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) (and the heads of other appropriate executive departments and agencies) to identify and incorporate national preparedness priorities into the Department of Homeland Security's research and development (R&D) activities. The NPST will aim to not only address the requirements of the PPD-8 Implementation Plan, but also act as the interagency conduit to more fully integrate S&T into all facets of national preparedness across all Federal departments and agencies under PPD-8.

¹ *Implementation Plan for Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness*, May 2011

C. Functions

- Assessing the current status of Federal S&T investments across the five PPD-8 mission areas by leveraging the *National Preparedness Report* and other sources, including: evaluating current progress on the National Science and Technology Council, Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction's Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction implementation plans.
- Designing a structured process for use by departments and agencies to identify and prioritize efforts between the Federal interagency S&T community and the national preparedness community for S&T program planning under PPD-8. This should include prioritizing interagency national preparedness S&T efforts with the Department of Homeland Security.
- Developing recommendations for formal protocols required to conduct joint, interagency post-event science and technology evaluation and assessment. This process would leverage recent event experiences and lessons learned to identify critical science needs and inform the prioritization of future national preparedness science and technology investments.
- Developing recommendations for a process for projecting future science and technology needs in support of national preparedness requirements.
- The NPST Co-chairs, or their designees, shall report on progress to the SDR principals at meetings of the SDR, as requested.

The task force may form short-term working groups, as necessary, to identify S&T capabilities, needs, and protocols necessary to assess the current use of S&T in national preparedness activities and plan for future S&T investments relevant to national preparedness. SDR Co-chairs will keep all relevant NSTC Committees informed of the NPST work. Liaisons from all NSTC Committees may attend SDR meetings where the NPST reports.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the NPST:

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security (Co-chair)
- Department of the Interior (Co-chair)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following offices of the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the NPST:

- Office of Science and Technology Policy
- National Security Council Staff
- Office of Management and Budget

Cooperating interagency subcommittees shall include:

- CENRS Subcommittees: Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, U.S. Group on Earth Observations;
- Committee on Homeland and National Security Subcommittees: Subcommittee on Biological Defense R&D, the Infrastructure Subcommittee;
- Committee on Technology Subcommittee on Network and Information Technology R&D Subcommittee;
- PPD-8 Implementation Coordination Groups: Mitigation Federal Leadership Group, the Emergency Support Function Leadership Group, and the Recovery Support Function Leadership Group; and
- Other Executive organizations, departments and agencies as the Co-chairs may, from time to time, designate.

E. Private-Sector Interface

The NPST may seek advice from members of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and will recommend to the NSTC Committees requesting its support and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, through the OSTP Liaison to the SDR, the nature of additional private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The NPST may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.²

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the SDR prior to its expiration, the NPST shall terminate no later than March 20, 2017.

G. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the National Preparedness Science and Technology Task Force is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

² The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define “private sector,” but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, international bodies, etc.