Validating National Capabilities

Presentation to Executive Office of the President National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

July 13, 2017
National Preparedness Goal

A secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

**Preventing**, avoiding, or stopping act of terrorism

**Protecting** our citizens, residents, visitors, assets, systems, and networks against the greatest threats

**Mitigating** loss of life and property by lessening impact of future disasters.

**Responding** quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs

**Recovering** through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening, and revitalization of infrastructure, housing and the economy
National Preparedness System

Provides a systematic approach for identifying preparedness challenges to help set priorities and close gaps

- **Common system of processes and tools** that enables the whole community to move in the same direction and speak the same language to achieve the **National Preparedness Goal** of a secure and resilient nation.

- As a key component of the National Preparedness System, the **National Exercise Program (NEP)** builds upon other components by **examining and validating core capabilities** across all preparedness mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery).

- Provides a means to assess the ability to build, sustain, and deliver core capabilities of national focus; validate plans, training, and equipment; draw out resource gaps; and identify areas for improvement.
National Exercise Program Governance

- Establishes **Principals’ Objectives** that serve as the overarching strategic goals for each NEP two-year cycle.
- Places active stewardship of the program with senior policy coordinating committees
  - **Domestic Resilience Group Interagency Policy Coordination Committee.** Is the main forum for interagency coordination of homeland security and preparedness policy.
  - **Exercise and Evaluation Policy Coordinating Committee.** Is the main day-to-day forum for interagency coordination of national exercise policy.
  - **Exercise Implementation Committee.** EIC serves as the main interagency body charged with coordinating the day-to-day decisions needed to execute each NEP cycle.
National Exercise Program Two-Year Cycle

Exercises inform preparedness analysis

National Exercise Program
- Develop after-action reports and improvement plans
- Identify lessons learned
- Validate core capabilities
- Engage the whole community

National Preparedness Analysis
- Extract trends from SPR, THIRA, and NPR data
- Distill insights from intelligence and risk assessments
- Examine real-world events for emerging threats
- Generate key analytical findings

Principals’ Objectives

Preparedness analysis informs focus of NEP
1. **Intelligence and Information Sharing**: Examine and validate core capabilities and processes to rapidly exchange and analyze appropriate information (classified and unclassified) among federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private sector, and international partners prior to and during an incident that threatens the security of the nation.

2. **Lead Federal Agency Coordination**: Examine the ability of departments and agencies to identify and validate appropriate authorities and roles, lead federal agency responsibilities, incident management resources, and organizational and operational structures to prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents where there is no clear lead federal agency identified in statute or regulation.

3. **Multidisciplinary Response Operations**: Examine the ability of federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions to conduct integrated multijurisdictional and multi-disciplinary response planning, and to coordinate operations among law enforcement, fire and medical services, emergency management, and other whole community stakeholders for incidents with crisis and consequence management components such as complex terrorist attacks.
4. Cyber Coordination: Examine the ability of whole community stakeholders to implement national policy, frameworks, and guidance, and to apply relevant authorities, plans, procedures, and available resources to achieve a coordinated response to significant cyber incidents.

5. Recovery Coordination: Demonstrate the ability of the whole community, especially state, territorial, tribal, and local governments, to perform effective recovery coordination and planning in parallel with response operations to achieve long-term community recovery objectives.

6. Infectious Disease and Biological Incidents: Examine the ability of federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions to implement coordinated, integrated response structures and strategies; detect and categorize disease threats; address domestic and international public health implications; control and contain disease outbreaks; deliver public health and medical services; and communicate with external partners and the public during infectious disease pandemics and biological incidents.

7. Catastrophic Incidents: Examine the ability of the whole community to deliver lifesaving and life-sustaining capabilities to survivors following a catastrophic incident that severely affects communities and critical infrastructure.
National Exercise Program 2017–2018 Cycle Schedule
National Exercise Program Benefits

- **Contribute to Preparedness:** Influence and inform policy, resource allocation, and preparedness programs

- **Expanding Relationships:** Enhance relationships with national partners

- **Tools and Resources:** Access tools and resources, such as templates and analysis, that will help whole community to design exercises that link to other preparedness activities

- **Exercise Design and Delivery Assistance:** Opportunity for support to assist with exercise design, scenario development, planning, conduct, and evaluation
Exercise Resource Assistance

Pre-packaged exercise toolkit development to assist exercise planners develop tabletop exercises aligned to the National Exercise Program 2017-2018 Cycle Principals’ Objectives

- Each of the seven toolkit packages will include ready-to-use materials and templates to develop, conduct, and evaluate an exercise aligned to one of the seven Principals’ Objectives
- These materials are in the pilot phase, after which they will be made available to whole community.
National Exercise Program Participation

- Determine exercises that align with one or more of the Principals’ Objectives and that support your organization’s priorities
- Identify collaboration points with local, state, and/or Federal partners
- Submit nomination forms to the NEP e-mail account (nep@fema.dhs.gov)

For more Information and to Download National Exercise Program Nomination Form at the FEMA Website: (www.fema.gov/nep)
National Level Exercise 2018 serves as the culminating event for the National Exercise Program 2017-2018 Cycle

The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 states that the FEMA Administrator shall conduct national level exercises biennially to:

- “test and evaluate the capability of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to detect, disrupt, and prevent threatened or actual catastrophic acts of terrorism, especially those involving weapons of mass destruction” (as the Capstone 2016 exercise did last year), and
- “test and evaluate the readiness of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to respond and recover in a coordinated and unified manner to catastrophic incidents.”

United States Code, Title 6, Chapter 2, Subchapter II, Part A, Section 748(b)(3)
National Level Exercise 2018 will examine the ability of all levels of government, private industry, nongovernmental organizations, communities, and individuals to protect against, respond to, and recover from a major hurricane with localized catastrophic impacts.

- **Principals’ Objectives Under Examination:**
  - Catastrophic Incidents
  - Recovery Coordination

- **Scenario:** Catastrophic East Coast Hurricane Impacting the National Capital Region

- **Exercise Themes:**
  - Pre-Landfall Protective Actions
  - Sustained Response in Parallel with Recovery Planning
  - Continuity in a Natural Disaster
  - Long-Term Power Outage Consequence Management
Scenario Elements

- Category 3 or 4 hurricane makes landfall in Virginia, causing severe loss of life and damage to residences, businesses, and critical infrastructure throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

- Storm causes long-term power outages and cascading effects to critical infrastructure in the National Capital Region, including transportation and communications systems.