

Note: The recommendations in this subcommittee report out are potential recommendations to FEMA as presented by the subcommittee to the NAC in a public meeting; only the recommendations discussed, deliberated, and voted on by the NAC will be forwarded to the FEMA Administrator in a memo.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

National Advisory Council (NAC) Meeting

Preparedness & Protection Subcommittee

Report Out

September 17, 2015

Chair: Lee Feldman

Vice Chair: Sarita Chung



FEMA

Subcommittee Mission

To advise and provide recommendations to the FEMA National Advisory Council regarding the missions of FEMA National Preparedness & Protection, including those specifically addressed in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA); and ensuring through deliberation and promulgation of recommendations that representation, awareness, engagement, and integration of the whole community and FEMA's strategic goals are addressed.



FEMA

Charges

1. Examine issues related to the whole community's preparedness and protection for natural, intentional (manmade) and accidental disasters;
2. Provide recommendations and/or opine on preparedness, protection, and prevention efforts currently underway or being considered by FEMA;
3. Independent of requests from FEMA, provide recommendations to the NAC upon reviewing new and innovative preparedness, protection and prevention efforts, lessons learned and best practices.



Issue #1: Tribal Government Participation in EMPG Program

- Tribal governments, with emphasis on those tribal governments which span across state boundaries, do not have consistent access to grant funds provided through the EMPG program.



Recommendation #1

- It is recommended that FEMA encourage, through incentives, states to ensure that tribal governments can apply, with equal stature as local governments, for eligible projects as sub-recipients for EMPG funding. This includes addressing the capability targets and gaps of tribal governments within the state's THIRA and SPR processes.



Recommendation #2

- It is recommended that FEMA take steps to modify, pending legislative amendment, the EMPG program to permit qualifying tribal governments to receive specific EMPG allocations similar to the EMPG funding allocations provided to the territories of the United States.



Recommendation #3

- It is recommended that FEMA audit other preparedness (non-disaster) grant programs to determine if there are barriers to participation for tribal governments, to include pursuing legislation when necessary.



Issue #2: Role/Responsibility of FEMA in Planning for and Responding to Cyberattacks

- Many stakeholders, including FEMA, will rely upon electronic communication systems and information services to coordinate response before, during and after a disaster event. A degraded technology mode (such as malicious activity or prolonged power outage) on the systems of a stakeholder will likely impede an effective response thereby denying the whole community access to vital services.



Recommendation #4

- It is recommended that FEMA review, primarily the National Response Framework, and secondarily the National Protection, National Prevention, National Mitigation and National Disaster Recovery Frameworks, to determine if (1) the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders are clearly defined; and, (2) the core capability targets for cybersecurity need to be modified based upon recent events.



Recommendation #5

- It is recommended that FEMA, through the states, evaluate the core capability of key stakeholders (i.e., local governments/first responders, hospitals, operators of critical infrastructure) to operate in a technology-degraded mode, both during the response to a disaster and during non-disaster periods.



Future Work

- Cybersecurity – Investigation into the needs related to cybersecurity for emergency management planning.
- Preparing for Active Shooter/Incidents of Mass Violence
- Prevention FIOP to the extent possible
 - Relevance to local agencies
- Protection FIOP
 - Relevance to local agencies
- NIMS Compliance



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