



Terrorism Support Annex

Regional Coordinating Organizations

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Local Jurisdictions

Alexandria
Arlington County
Bowie
College Park
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Loudoun County
Montgomery County
Prince George County
Prince William County
Rockville
Takoma Park

State Government Organizations

District of Columbia
Commonwealth of Virginia
State of Maryland

Federal Government Organizations

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Homeland Security
Office of Personnel Management

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This annex provides additional communication and coordination mechanisms that apply to all R-ESFs and Annexes when the cause of the emergency is determined by the federal government to be a terrorist act and when that determination is made, the authorities of the U.S. Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN) and Presidential Decision Directives (PDDs) 39 and 62 are invoked by the FBI and/or FEMA.

Coordination and communication processes outlined in this annex do not supercede or replace existing local operational systems, but instead provide supplemental mechanisms to insure timely and complete links from the lead federal agencies to key decision makers in each participating jurisdiction.

B. Scope

The Terrorism Annex is intended to focus on enhancing existing communications and coordination processes for potential or actual terrorist events in the Metropolitan Washington region that require inter-jurisdictional coordination and information sharing.

II. Policies

- A. The Terrorism Annex will not override the authority, policies, or inter-jurisdictional agreements of any federal agency, state government, or local government or jurisdiction.
- B. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will facilitate coordination among member organizations to ensure that the Terrorism Annex procedures are maintained in concert with the stated missions and objectives of the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP).
- C. Jurisdictions agree to respect the existing contractual arrangements between jurisdictions and their contractors so that there will be no competition for resources that are already under contract to a jurisdiction.
- D. Essential elements of information (EEIs) will be coordinated through the Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System (RICCS) based on the regional emergency. For federally designated terrorist incidents, the FBI and/or FEMA will determine the most appropriate mechanism for informing state, district and local officials of critical information; to the extent possible, this will include coordination with R-ESF #5.

III. Situation

A. Regional Emergency Condition

A regional emergency condition or other significant event involving a terrorist act will potentially be of such severity and magnitude as to require immediate and comprehensive communication and coordination among regional decision makers to facilitate a synchronized, effective response. This annex will support the communication of timely and appropriate incident information before, during, and after an incident to support local jurisdictions and organizations in determining appropriate actions based on the collective regional knowledge of the situation. The Terrorism Annex will also support information sharing among jurisdictions related to the need for local, regional, state, or federal assistance.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. A terrorist attack would likely affect the entire Metropolitan Washington region and require the resources of a number of jurisdictions, agencies, or organizations.
2. The metropolitan Washington region is unique in that the high concentration of federal agencies and the nation's capitol located here heightens the need for local, state, regional, and federal coordination of response and protective action decisions.
3. The FBI is fully integrated at the operational level with local first response organizations and provides direct federal law enforcement support to local incident commanders, who participate in the FBI-managed Joint Operations Center (JOC).
4. The FEMA WMD National Capital Region Plan states that should a WMD event occur the NCR Team may be activated by the Director of FEMA. The Team will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating Federal Resources as outlined in the Federal Response Plan (FRP) with the District of Columbia and the states of Maryland and Virginia. Should a Presidential Disaster Declaration be made by the President, one disaster field office (DFO) would be established for the National Capital Region and one Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) named.

IV. Concept of Coordination

A. General

A terrorist event within the Metropolitan Washington region will necessitate timely and comprehensive coordination among local, state, and federal governments and agencies.

B. Organization

1. The FBI will be the principal federal agency responsible for disseminating information through RICCS regarding Crisis Management. If the FBI declines to exercise its authorities under the PDDs, R-ESF #13 agencies will coordinate Crisis Management actions.
2. FEMA is the principal Federal agency that will be responsible for coordinating Consequence Management. If FEMA does not activate the FRP, R-ESFs will help coordinate consequence management activities in accordance with the RECP.

C. Notification

1. When the FBI determines that terrorist response authorities are to be exercised, this determination will be distributed via the RICCS. To the extent possible, and with consideration of national security issues, FBI will utilize RICCS to provide critical information to state and local jurisdictions.
2. When FEMA determines that terrorist response authorities for consequence management are to be exercised, this determination will be conveyed to and distributed by RICCS. FEMA will manage Consequence Management operations through the FRP, and, to the extent possible, utilize RICCS for conveying critical information to affected state and local jurisdictions.

D. Coordination

The Office of Homeland Security will be responsible for coordinating the non-FRP activities and information from Federal agencies, such as determinations to evacuate federal buildings or to exercise continuity of operations plans.

V. Responsibilities

- A. To ensure the policies in PDD 39 and 62 are implemented in a coordinated manner, the CONPLAN is designed to provide overall guidance to local, state and federal agencies concerning how the federal government would respond to a potential or actual terrorist threat or incident that occurs in the United States, particularly one involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Together, these documents define “Crisis Management” as the law enforcement operations before, during, and after a terrorist incident. “Consequence Management” covers the civil operations related to response and the recovery from the impact of the incident.
- B. PDD 39 validates and reaffirms existing Federal Lead Agency responsibilities for counter terrorism. The FBI acts as the lead for Crisis Management while FEMA (with the support of all agencies in the FRP) has responsibility for Consequence Management.
- C. PDD 62 is a classified document. State and local officials should understand that PDD 62 reaffirms PDD 39, "United States Policy on Counter terrorism," signed June 21, 1995. As such, the FBI will continue to serve as the Lead Federal Agency for Crisis Management and FEMA will continue to serve as the Lead Federal Agency for Consequence Management.
- D. Exercise of these executive authorities is discretionary, and, if not exercised, the normal RECP roles of participating agencies will continue.

VI. Preparedness Cycle

The Preparedness Cycle is a means of assuring a high level of readiness for the RECP through a continuous improvement cycle. This cycle begins with sound planning practices, followed by training of personnel who will be engaged in executing operational plans and concludes with exercises or simulations designed to check planning assumptions against a range of scenarios. The performance of the respective organizations is evaluated as a means of refining plans, and the cycle repeats. The Terrorism Annex working group and COG are responsible for maintaining the preparedness cycle.

A. Planning

- 1. The Terrorism Annex working group is responsible for coordinating planning under the Terrorism Annex, including review and revisions of the Terrorism Annex. All Metropolitan Washington agencies and/or organizations that could be potentially involved in a terrorism response will contribute to this planning effort.

2. Planning will include a comprehensive assessment of the current capabilities of the Metropolitan Washington jurisdictions to respond to and recovery from a terrorist attack.

B. Training

Ongoing and scheduled training related to the RECP and the Terrorism Annex responsibilities will be developed and carried out by local, regional, state, and federal agencies and/or organizations.

C. Exercise

In order for the RECP to be effective, a series of simulations/exercises are to be conducted on a regularly scheduled basis. The exercise series is comprised of tabletop exercises, functional communications and coordination drills, and field exercises conducted by COG or other organizations.

D. Evaluation

To ensure continuous improvement in this Annex and in the RECP, the plans, policies, and procedures are evaluated through real world experience and exercises.

E. Corrective Action

Lessons learned from exercises and real world experiences will be captured in a corrective action system and the issues tracked to ensure that they are resolved and incorporated into plan revisions as appropriate.