



# National CISR R&D Plan

Advancing the National CISR R&D Priority Areas  
through Stakeholder Collaboration



**Homeland  
Security**

Science and Technology

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# Background

- Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 21 directed DHS to coordinate with OSTP and other Federal departments and agencies to develop a National CISR R&D Plan *“that takes into account the evolving threat landscape, annual metrics, and other relevant information to identify priorities and guide R&D requirements and investments.”*
- DHS led the development of the Plan, through a collaborative two-year process involving stakeholders from across the critical infrastructure community.
- The National CISR R&D Priority Areas represent the core of the Plan.

# Development of Priority Areas

- During Plan development, DHS facilitated a workshop involving government and private sector stakeholders.
- Workshop discussions focused on grand-scale R&D challenges as a way to identify the R&D priorities called for in PPD-21.
- Five overarching topics emerged that represent the National CISR R&D Priority Areas.
- The Priority Areas are intended to inform R&D investments, promote innovation, and guide research across the CISR community.

# National CISR R&D Priority Areas

- A. Develop the **foundational understanding of critical infrastructure systems and systems dynamics**;
- B. Develop **integrated and scalable risk assessment and management** approaches;
- C. Develop **integrated and proactive capabilities, technologies, and methods** to support secure and resilient infrastructure;
- D. Harness the power of data sciences to create **unified, integrated situational awareness** and to understand consequences of action;
- E. Build a crosscutting culture of **CISR R&D collaboration**.

# CISR R&D Priority Area A

## Foundational Systems Understanding

A.1. Develop a foundational understanding of CI systems, systems dynamics, and the relationships underlying interdependencies and cascading effects (including strategic, national-level effects)

- Develop avenues of foundational science research, including structural / dynamic attributes, effects of human factors, and linkages to natural systems, to support enhanced security, resilience, and continuity of operations.
- Develop a R&D roadmap for acquiring an integrated understanding of infrastructure systems— technological, physical, and natural—to include interdependencies and cascading effects.

# CISR R&D Priority Area B

## Integrated and Scalable Risk Assessment and Management

B.1. Develop and field integrated risk assessment methodologies across the critical infrastructure community

- Develop an integrated system-of-systems approach to risk assessment and risk management to include external/cross-domain factors and characteristics.

B.2. Develop the technical basis and analytical tools needed to incorporate dependencies and interdependencies into risk assessment and risk management methodologies

- Identify and characterize dependency and interdependency dynamics for inclusion in risk assessment methodologies, appropriate to scale.

# CISR R&D Priority Area B, cont.

## **Integrated and Scalable Risk Assessment and Management**

B.3. Develop and disseminate best practices and methodologies for risk assessment and risk management

- Develop methods to link essential community functions to the critical infrastructure systems that provide enabling services to build a systems understanding of community-wide functions that supports prospective risk management and response strategies.

# CISR R&D Priority Area C

## Integrated and Proactive Capabilities for CISR

C.1. Characterize the predictive and proactive capabilities needed to forecast and prepare for threats and hazards

- Leverage advances in sensor technologies, data sciences, and analytics to develop improved all-hazard predictive capabilities for cyber & physical systems.

C.2. Identify policies, governance structures, and regulations that support and enable timely and responsive actions

- Develop standards of practice to harmonize existing policies, regulations, and codes and standards to enhance community resilience.

# CISR R&D Priority Area C, cont.

## Integrated and Proactive Capabilities for CISR

C.3. Develop capabilities to identify and rapidly integrate new technologies and respond to the evolving threat environment

- Leverage complexity sciences to characterize the challenges, implications, and opportunities presented by the increasingly distributed, complex, and richly connected critical infrastructure environment.

# CISR R&D Priority Area D

## **Harness Data Sciences for Integrated Situational Awareness**

- D.1. Investigate the potential for increased situational awareness from data sciences and the increased use of sensor networks, augmented by networked intelligent systems and analysis
- D.2. Develop the data sciences to support unified, integrated situational awareness
- D.3. Develop modeling and analysis capabilities that properly characterize critical infrastructure systems and integrate cross-sector dynamics

# CISR R&D Priority Area E

## Culture of Collaboration

### E.1. Encourage broad initiatives to develop a crosscutting culture of CISR R&D collaboration

- Encourage the development of training and education curricula focused on cross-disciplinary approaches that support system, organizational, domain, and cross-domain security and resilience.
- Develop a crosscutting culture and skills to examine and communicate the operational complexity and interdependencies of critical infrastructure, through integrated multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary teams.

# Advancing the R&D Priority Areas

- Requires active collaboration and information sharing across the broad critical infrastructure community, including academic and research institutions
- The following activities present opportunities for collaboration:
  - Documenting and sharing current R&D activities and their transition to use
  - Aligning sector R&D planning with the National CISR R&D Priority Areas
  - Coordinating the planning and execution of new and future R&D activities
  - Identifying barriers to implementation
  - Developing and implementing effective measures to demonstrate progress against the National CISR R&D Priority Areas

# For More Information

- The Plan is available for download at:  
**[www.dhs.gov/publications](http://www.dhs.gov/publications)**
- Search “National Critical Infrastructure”
- **<http://go.usa.gov/cVXhj>**
- Questions?

National Critical Infrastructure  
Security and Resilience  
Research and Development Plan



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