Overview of the National Exercise Program (NED)
October 12, 2011
Major NED Exercise Programs

- **National Exercise Program (NEP):** Primary focus on developing a consistent framework for the Federal departments and agencies to plan, execute, evaluate, and identify corrective actions in homeland security exercises.

- **National Level Exercise (NLE) Program:** Mandated to conduct national exercises with all levels of government to prevent acts of terrorism and to respond and recover from catastrophic incidents.

- **Senior Officials Exercise (SOE) Program:** Primary focus to exercise Federal department and agency executives to facilitate and inform the homeland security policy development process.

- **Regional Exercise Support Program (RESP):** Established as a formal application-based process to provide SME assistance to state, territorial, local governments for discussion and operations-based exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.

- **Terrorism and Prevention Exercise Program (TPEP):** Designed to enhance national terrorism prevention capabilities through the conduct of prevention-focused exercises to increase cooperation and information sharing among homeland security and law enforcement officials at all levels of government.
Creating a Unified Exercise Strategy

In response to presidential and congressional requirements, the National Security Staff—in coordination with DHS and FEMA-created and put into place the National Exercise Program to unify homeland security preparedness exercise strategies.

National Exercise Program (NEP)

- Provides the U.S. Government (USG) a national, interagency-wide program and a multi-year planning system to focus, coordinate, plan, conduct, execute, evaluate, and prioritize national security and homeland security preparedness-related exercises events.
- Works as the mechanism for delivery of exercise assistance to state and local governments.
- Strengthens preparedness capabilities of federal, state, and local entities.
Old NEP Exercise Tiers

- **Tier I**: White House directed, U.S. Government-wide strategy and policy focused. (1 NLE and 4 PLEs annually)

- **Tier II**: Federal strategy and policy focused. (≤3 annually)

- **Tier III**: Other federal exercises operational, tactical or organizational focused

- **Tier IV**: State, territorial, local, tribal or private sector focused
National Exercise Program Revised

The new National Exercise Program will actively engage stakeholders from across the homeland security enterprise in a series of realistic exercises that will foster learning and enhance preparedness.

- Scope: Encompass a series of exercises of all types, for participants at all levels, to be conducted over the course of a two-year cycle.
- Progressive: Actively engage and involve the participation of multiple stakeholders, feature an increasing level of complexity over time, leveraging existing exercises already scheduled.
- Objectives: Will be an objectives-driven program, with the Principal Objectives for each two-year cycle set by senior federal interagency principals.
- Realism: Feature a heightened degree of limited-notice exercises, with exercise play driven more by player actions than scripted injects, where possible, and the increased use of modeling and simulation into exercises (also a means of reducing costs).
- Readiness: Incorporate a heightened reflection of current risk assessment analysis.
- Capstone: Culminates in a biennial comprehensive, intergovernmental, “Whole Community” exercise incorporating the Principal Objectives of the given cycle.
NEP Base Plan & Transition Phases

- Base Plan was signed by Administrator Fugate and submitted to National Security Staff (NSS) on March 18, 2011

- Approved by the Domestic Resilience Group (DRG) and distributed to the DRG Exercise & Evaluation (E&E) sub-Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) as noted in summary of conclusions from March 30, 2011

- Formal launch of new NEP cycle slated for January 2013

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**Phase I**
- Implementation Plan Development
  - Mar–Sept 2011

**Phase II**
- Program Rollout

**Phase III**
- Program Buildup
  - Feb–Jul 2012

**Phase IV**
- Planning
  - Aug–Dec 2012

**Phase V**
- Launch 2013

**SUSTAINED OUTREACH**
NEP Implementation Plan

**Purpose:** To develop, in collaboration with the interagency and other key stakeholders, a detailed plan for implementing the NEP concept of operations that is presented in the Base Plan and in alignment with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

**Objectives:** The key objectives of the NEP I-Plan include the following:

- Develop a detailed plan that describes the processes, programs, organizational structures, roles, and responsibilities for successfully executing all aspects of the NEP
- Write, review, edit, coordinate, and deliver the NEP I-Plan and associated support documentation, in an open and collaborative environment, by no later than September 30, 2011

**Update:**

- Completed initial draft on June 30th; throughout July/August, writing team will be reaching out to the FPCs and REOs for review/comment
# Impacts of the new NEP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Is New</th>
<th>Still in Effect</th>
<th>Removed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progressive cycle <em>(CY 2013)</em></td>
<td>Use of National Exercise Schedule <em>(NEXS)</em></td>
<td>Tier system <em>(immediate)</em></td>
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<td>Whole community collaborative approach <em>(immediate)</em></td>
<td>State, Territorial, local, tribal, nongovernmental organization <em>(NGO)</em> private and public sector participation</td>
<td>Executive Steering Committee *(ESC) <em>(immediate)</em></td>
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<td>Strengthened governance and Exercise Implementation Committee *(EIC) <em>(FY 11)</em></td>
<td>Exercise types terminology <em>(TTX, Drill, FE, FSE)</em></td>
<td>Annual NLEs <em>(CY 2013)</em></td>
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<td>Objectives-driven and capability-based <em>(immediate)</em></td>
<td>Exercises should be conducted in accordance with HSEEP guidance</td>
<td>Unrealistic extensive preparation and scripting of exercises <em>(immediate)</em></td>
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<td>Greater use of limited-notice, less-scripted exercises <em>(immediate)</em></td>
<td>Use of lessons learned and Corrective Action Program <em>(CAP) System</em></td>
<td>NEP Charter dated January 26, 2007, is rescinded <em>(immediate)</em></td>
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<td>NEP Rolling Summary Reports <em>(CY 2013)</em></td>
<td>FEMA/NED facilitate day-to-day operations of NEP</td>
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<td>Biennial national-level exercises *(NLEs) <em>(CY 2013)</em></td>
<td>FEMA/NED will chair exercise implementation/planning committees</td>
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<td>Structured evaluation metrics for each cycle <em>(CY 2013)</em></td>
<td>FEMA/NED will coordinate national- and senior-level exercise participation</td>
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<td>Active incorporation of modeling and simulation technologies <em>(immediate)</em></td>
<td>Outlying exercises from May 2011-December 2012 <em>(e.g., Amber Waves)</em></td>
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Questions ?