

Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPD)

Since 29 October 2001, President George W. Bush has issued nine Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPD). The HSPD numbers, titles and dates released are shown below.

Number	Title	Date
HSPD 1	Organization and Operation of the Homeland Security Council	29 October 2001
HSPD 2	Combating Terrorism Through Immigration Policies	29 October 2001
HSPD 3	Homeland Security Advisory System	11 March 2002
HSPD 4	[National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction] (unclassified version)	11 December 2002
HSPD 5	Management of Domestic Incidents [Initial National Response Plan, 30 September 03]	28 February 2003
HSPD 6	Integration and Use of Screening Information	16 September 2003
HSPD 7	Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection	17 December 2003
HSPD 8	National Preparedness	17 December 2003
HSPD 9	Defense of United States Agriculture and Food	30 January 2004

The three most recent Directives, HSPD 7, 8 and 9, are of particular interest to security professionals and law enforcement. The Directives are briefly described below. Please note that all HSPDs can be read in their entirety at <http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/index.html/>.

December 17, 2003 – Homeland Security Presidential Directive – HSPD 7

Subject: Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection

Purpose

- (1) This directive established a national policy for Federal departments and agencies to identify and prioritize United States critical infrastructure and key resources and to protect them from terrorist attacks.

Background

- (2) Terrorists seek to destroy, incapacitate, or exploit critical infrastructure and key resources across the United States to threaten national security, cause mass casualties, weaken our economy, and damage public morale and confidence.
- (3) America's open and technologically complex society includes a wide array of critical infrastructure and key resources that are potential terrorist targets. The majority of these are owned and operated by the private sector and State or local governments. These critical infrastructures and key resources are both physical and cyber-based and span all sectors of the economy.
- (4) Critical infrastructure and key resources provide the essential services that underpin American society. The Nation possesses numerous key resources, whose exploitation or destruction by terrorists could cause catastrophic health effects or mass casualties comparable to those from the use of a weapon of mass destruction, or could profoundly affect our national prestige and morale. In addition, there is critical infrastructure so vital that its incapacitation, exploitation, or destruction, through terrorist attack, could have a debilitating effect on security and economic well being.

- (5) While it is not possible to protect or eliminate the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure and key resources throughout the country, strategic improvements in security can make it more difficult for attacks to succeed and can lessen the impact of attacks that may occur. In addition to strategic security enhancements, tactical security improvements can be rapidly implemented to deter, mitigate, or neutralize potential attacks.

December 17, 2003 – Homeland Security Presidential Directive – HSPD 8

Subject: National Preparedness

Purpose

- (1) This directive establishes policies to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent and respond to threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies by requiring a national domestic all-hazards preparedness goal, establishing mechanisms for improved delivery of Federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments, and outlining actions to strengthen preparedness capabilities of Federal, State and local entities.

January 30, 2004 – Homeland Security Presidential Directive – HSPD 9

Subject: Defense of United States Agriculture and Food

Purpose

- (1) This directive establishes a national policy to defend the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Background

- (2) The United States agriculture and food systems are vulnerable to disease, pest, or poisonous agents that occur naturally, are unintentionally introduced, or are intentionally delivered by acts of terrorism. America's agriculture and food system is an extensive, open, interconnected, diverse, and complex structure providing potential targets for terrorist attacks. We should provide the best protection possible against a successful attack on the United States agriculture and food system, which could have catastrophic health and economic effects.