The National Protection and Programs Directorate represents a unique set of skills, tools and platforms that work collaboratively with government partners and infrastructure owners and operators in the private sector. This coordination mitigates threats and improves the security and resilience of critical infrastructure.

The National Protection and Programs Directorate coordinates security and resilience efforts using trusted partnerships across the private and public sectors, and delivers training, technical assistance, and assessments to federal stakeholders as well as to infrastructure owners and operators nationwide.

NPPD also safeguards important and sensitive information that is volunteered by private-sector business partners through the Protected Critical Infrastructure program, and uses that information to inform DHS’ ongoing security measures.

Regionalization and Tailored Support to Partners

In 2017, NPPD continued shifting resources from the National Capital Region to the regional offices to better support its mission in the field.

The regional offices improve the delivery of services to state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector stakeholders. They also enhance support to existing field forces and provide a unifying framework for NPPD’s mission in the field.

This enables NPPD to develop a deeper understanding of each region’s risks, collaborate among diverse stakeholders, and help protect the assets, systems and networks in a variety of ways:

- Coordinating strategies and policies through the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council to 9 of the Nation’s 16 critical infrastructure sectors (dams, nuclear, commercial facilities, critical manufacturing, emergency services, chemical, communications, government facilities and information technology).
- Supporting response, recovery and mitigation for critical infrastructure efforts during national disasters and steady-state operations, focusing on cascading effects across sectors and lifeline functions.
- Improving cyber-physical risk analysis through integrated physical and cyberthreat mitigation and improved response time to stakeholder requests.
- Operating the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program to identify and regulate approximately 3,500 high-risk chemical facilities to mitigate threats posed by 322 potentially dangerous chemicals in use at facilities across the country.
- Developing and delivering a diverse curriculum of training to build nationwide capabilities to counter threats from improvised explosive devices (IED) through the Office for Bombing Prevention.
• Conducted 734 Infrastructure Survey Tool assessments in coordination with facility owners and operators to identify and document the overall security and resilience of the facility.

• Conducted 21 assessments of high-value government and private sector enterprise networks;

• Provided 71 cyber risk and vulnerability assessments and 40 assists to cyber incident response coordination by Cybersecurity Advisors;

• Conducted 570 active shooter preparedness briefings; 60 active shooter preparedness workshops; 690 security surveys; and 2,485 assist visits across the country, focusing on coordination, outreach, training and education.

• Rolled out an enhanced risk assessment tiering methodology and a streamlined CSAT 2.0 to support facility submissions.

• Supported over 22,000 users on TRIPwire, DHS’s free, online information-sharing resource on IED incidents and protective measures. It combines expert analyses and reports with relevant documents, images and videos gathered directly from terrorist sources to help users anticipate, identify and prevent IED incidents.

Hometown Security Initiative

NPPD engages small and medium-sized business, along with faith-based organizations, to mitigate risk and increase the security and resilience of public gathering sites and special events.

• In FY 2017, 2,270 activities were conducted in support of the Hometown Security Initiative.

• Conducted 211 in-person workshops related to bombing prevention in 36 states, Washington, DC and Canada.

Jewish community outreach: In February 2017, Jewish community centers came under threat. In response, NPPD coordinated with Jewish executives to provide active shooter training and other support. Specifically, NPPD supported community centers by conducting facility vulnerability assessments and providing assistance with active shooter preparedness training, bombing prevention training and guidance, tabletop exercises. Protective measures, guides and other tools to strengthen security were also provided.

» By March 3, 2017, Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) had made initial contact to 165 Jewish Federation executives, which was 100 percent of the facilities identified in the initial list. Throughout the course of the outreach, 142 additional facilities were identified and contacted by the PSAs.

» PSAs completed 135 assist visits in which they provided information on DHS resources and available training opportunities.

• Sector outreach: NPPD works with government officials and critical infrastructure stakeholders to plan, develop and facilitate exercises that build capacity, improve security and bolster resilience.

» In FY17, NPPD led 21 discussion- and operations-based exercises across the country with more than 1,600 active participants. Exercises ranged in scope and scenario, and included a multitude of facility types ranging from soft targets to pipelines, ports, and chemical facilities.

SUPPORT FOR THE 2017 HURRICANE SEASON

NPPD deployed staff across Texas, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2017 to:

✓ Report on the status of critical infrastructure;

✓ Provide detailed analysis of likely consequences and cascading cross-sector impacts through advanced simulation and modeling tools; and

✓ Facilitate resource prioritization by providing risk-based assessments of critical infrastructure dependencies and interdependencies.