Unit 6: Planning
Unit 6 summarizes planning structures that are relevant to the National Response Framework. The Framework fosters unity of effort for emergency operations planning by providing common doctrine and purpose.
By the end of this unit, you should be able to describe the relationship between planning and national preparedness.
Video Description: Video: Planning

Key Points

This video provides an overview of planning structures that are relevant to the NRF.

Video Transcript:

Planning is the cornerstone of national preparedness. The National Response Framework provides a foundation for unified planning for all response partners.

Plans are continuous and evolving. They anticipate actions, maximize opportunities, and guide response operations. That is why plans are best described as “living” documents.

Effective planning allows jurisdictions to influence the course of events by determining actions, policies, and processes in advance of an incident. Planning promotes unity of effort by providing a common blueprint for activity in the event of an emergency.

Emergency planning is a national priority. To address this priority, the National Preparedness Guidelines have been developed.
These Guidelines are comprised of four critical elements. The first element is the National Preparedness Vision, which provides a concise statement of the core preparedness goal for the Nation.

The next element is the National Planning Scenarios, which form a basis for coordinated planning, training, and exercising. These scenarios are planning tools that depict a full range from terrorist attacks to natural disasters.

The third element is the Universal Task List, which provides a menu of unique tasks linked to prevention, protection, response, and recovery strategies. This invaluable resource identifies the critical tasks for which response capabilities must be developed.

The final element is the Target Capabilities List, which defines specific response capabilities that all levels of government should possess.

In addition to these elements, the National Preparedness Guidelines integrate key guidance documents such as: the National Incident Management System, the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, and other national continuity policies and directives.

The Federal planning structure involves the development of three levels of plans for each of the National Planning Scenarios. The first level includes a Strategic Guidance Statement and Strategic Plan. Together these documents define broad national strategic objectives, delineate roles, and establish capabilities and performance measures.

Next is the development of the National-Level Interagency Concept Plan. This plan describes the concept of operations for integrating and synchronizing Federal capabilities.

The third level encompasses Federal department and agency Operations Plans. These plans identify the specific resources, personnel, and assets needed to support the national concept of operations.

The State, tribal, and local planning structure is supported by Federal preparedness assistance.

All levels of government have responsibility to develop detailed, robust, all-hazards plans. These plans are developed using hazard identification and risk assessment methodologies. To ensure that our national planning system is fully integrated, these plans must be tested against all manner and magnitude of threats and hazards.

Planning across the full range of homeland security operations is an inherent responsibility of every level of government. By providing common doctrine and purpose, the National Response Framework lays the foundation for a mutually supportive planning system that fosters engaged partnerships at all levels.

[end of transcript]
Key Points

Plans anticipate actions, maximize opportunities, and guide response operations. That is why plans are best described as “living” documents.

Planning across the full range of homeland security operations is an inherent responsibility of every level of government and should include stakeholders from the private sector and nongovernmental organizations.
Components of the National Preparedness Guidelines include:

- **National Preparedness Vision**

  The National Preparedness Vision provides a concise statement of the core preparedness goal for the Nation. The vision for the National Preparedness Guidelines is:

  “A NATION PREPARED with coordinated capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all hazards in a way that balances risk with resources and need.”

- **National Planning Scenarios**

  The National Planning Scenarios are planning tools that represent a minimum number of credible scenarios depicting the range of potential terrorist attacks and natural disasters and related impacts facing our Nation. These scenarios form a basis for coordinated Federal planning, training, and exercises.

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The Universal Task List is a menu of unique tasks that link strategies to prevention, protection, response, and recovery tasks for the major events represented by the National Planning Scenarios. The List provides a common vocabulary of critical tasks that support development of essential capabilities among organizations at all levels.

The Target Capabilities List defines specific capabilities that all levels of government should possess in order to respond effectively to incidents.

Note that the National Preparedness Guidelines define capabilities as providing the means to accomplish a mission or function and achieve desired outcomes by performing critical tasks, under specified conditions, to target levels of performance.

Each capability includes a description of the major activities performed within the capability and the critical tasks and measures associated with the activity. Critical tasks are those tasks that must be performed during a major event in order to minimize the impact on lives, property, and the economy.
Visual Description: Integrating Other Key Documents: NIMS, NIPP, Other National Continuity Policies and Directives

Key Points

The National Preparedness Guidelines integrate key guidance documents such as:

- The National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)
- Other national continuity policies and directives

The National Planning Scenarios are the focus of Federal planning efforts. These scenarios represent examples of the gravest dangers facing the United States and have been accorded the highest priority for Federal planning.

Using a shared set of scenarios provides a common yardstick for determining how to achieve expected planning results.
The Federal planning structure involves the development of the following three levels of plans for each of the National Planning Scenarios:

- **Strategic Guidance Statement and Strategic Plan.** Together these documents define broad national strategic objectives, delineate roles, and establish capabilities and performance measures.
- **National-Level Interagency Concept Plan.** This plan describes the concept of operations for integrating and synchronizing Federal capabilities.
- **Federal Department and Agency Operations Plans.** These plans identify the specific resources, personnel, and assets needed to support the national concept of operations.
State, Tribal, and Local Planning

Visual Description: State, Tribal, and Local Planning

Key Points

State, tribal, and local governments:

- Have responsibility to develop robust all-hazards plans and hazard- or incident-specific annexes with supporting procedures and protocols to address their locally identified hazards and risks.
- Use hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA) to identify hazards and associated risks to persons, property, and structures and to improve protection from natural- and human-caused hazards.

In most instances, Federal plans are implemented when a State’s resources are not sufficient to cope with an incident and the Governor has requested Federal assistance.
Successful plans meet standards for:

Acceptability
A plan is acceptable if it can meet the requirements of anticipated scenarios, can be implemented within the costs and timeframes that senior officials and the public can support, and is consistent with applicable laws.

Adequacy
A plan is adequate if it complies with applicable planning guidance, planning assumptions are valid and relevant, and the concept of operations identifies and addresses critical tasks specific to the plan’s objectives.

Completeness
A plan is complete if it incorporates major actions, objectives, and tasks to be accomplished. The complete plan addresses the personnel and resources required and sound concepts for how those will be deployed, employed, sustained, and demobilized. It also addresses timelines and criteria for measuring success in achieving objectives, and the desired end state. Completeness of a plan can be greatly enhanced by including in the planning process all those who could be affected.

Consistency and Standardization of Products
Standardized planning processes and products foster consistency, interoperability, and collaboration.

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Feasibility
A plan is considered feasible if the critical tasks can be accomplished with the resources available internally or through mutual aid, immediate need for additional resources from other sources (in the case of a local plan, from State or Federal partners) are identified in detail and coordinated in advance, and procedures are in place to integrate and employ resources effectively from all potential providers.

Flexibility
Flexibility and adaptability are promoted by decentralized decisionmaking and by accommodating all hazards ranging from smaller-scale incidents to wider national contingencies.

Interoperability and Collaboration
A plan is interoperable and collaborative if it identifies other plan holders with similar and complementary plans and objectives, and supports regular collaboration focused on integrating with those plans to optimize achievement of individual and collective goals and objectives in an incident.
Visual Description: Activity: NRF Response Doctrine (1 of 2)

Key Points

Instructions:

1. Working individually, review the questions presented on the next visual.
2. Use your Student Manual to find the answers, being sure you can explain your rationale.
3. Be prepared to share your responses in 5 minutes.
## Activity: NRF Response Doctrine (2 of 2)

### Questions:
1. Who has the responsibility to plan?
2. What is the Target Capabilities List?
3. True or False: The National Planning Scenarios represent examples of challenges that local responders handle on a daily basis.
4. What is the relationship between the National Preparedness Guidelines and other guidance documents such as the National Infrastructure Protection Plan?
5. How does hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA) help with the development of plans?

### Key Points

1. Who has the responsibility to plan?

2. What is the Target Capabilities List?

3. True or False: The National Planning Scenarios represent examples of the challenges that local responders handle on a daily basis.

4. What is the relationship between the National Preparedness Guidelines and other guidance documents such as the National Infrastructure Protection Plan?

5. How does hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA) help with the development of plans?
**Visual Description:** Summary

**Key Points**

Are you now able to describe the relationship between planning and national preparedness?

The final lesson describes the additional resources available to implement the National Response Framework.