



NATIONAL LEVEL EXERCISE 2012

OVERVIEW

National Level Exercise (NLE) 2012 is part of a series of congressionally mandated preparedness exercises designed to educate and prepare participants for potential catastrophic events. The NLE 2012 process will examine the nation's ability to coordinate and implement prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event or a series of events. NLE 2012 will examine national response plans and procedures including the National Response Framework (NRF), NRF Cyber Incident Annex and Interim National Cyber Incident Response Plan (NCIRP). Unique to NLE 2012 will be an emphasis on the shared responsibility among all levels of government, the private sector and the international community to secure cyberspace and respond together to a significant cyber incident.

MAJOR EXERCISES

NLE 2012 will include four major exercises, including a capstone event. These exercises will share common scenario elements, planning efforts and governance structure. Participation in each exercise will be determined respectively, but the NLE 2012 process includes the Executive Office of the President; federal, state, local, tribal and territorial department and agency officials and emergency operations elements, nongovernmental and private sector organizations and international partners. These four major exercises include:

Information Exchange: This discussion-based exercise is designed to evaluate the sharing of cyber related information among the intelligence community, law enforcement, federal, state, tribal and local governments, the private sector and international partners, as appropriate.

Cyber Incident Management/Virtual Effects: This exercise will examine the coordination and communication processes between public and private stakeholders in response to a significant cyber incident. This will include examining challenges related to managing a cyber event with national security implications.

NLE Capstone/Cyber Physical Effects: This functional exercise will examine challenges related to managing a cyber event with physical consequences and national security implications. This will include addressing cyber and physical interdependencies and impacts while coordinating a Whole

Community¹ level cyber and physical response.

Continuity Exercise/Eagle Horizon: This operations-based exercise will evaluate the continuity capability of federal departments and agencies. A component will include a nationwide exercise examining communications capability of the homeland security enterprise under conditions in which critical systems have been degraded or lost.

In addition to the major exercises, the NLE 2012 process will include senior level exercises, building-block events (i.e., seminars, tabletop exercises, and training) and routine exercise planning conferences.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NLE 2012 is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency/National Exercise Division. For more information on NLE 2012, please contact the National Exercise Division: NEP@dhs.gov

¹ Whole Community approach encompasses understanding and meeting the true needs of the entire affected community; engaging all aspects of the community (public, private, and civic) in defining those needs and devising ways to meet them; and strengthening the assets, institutions, and social processes that work well to improve resilience and emergency management outcomes.