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Importance of the National Preparedness System to DHS Mission

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Abstract

This paper will examine the importance of the national preparedness system to the Department of Homeland security (DHS) mission. The establishment of National preparedness system (NPS) and National Preparedness Report (NPR) was aimed to ensure that the nation's preparations for the occurrence of calamities are evaluated. Therefore, the mission of DHS is to provide security to American citizens and American soil. Similarly, NPS aims to provide the tools a country can utilize to develop, manage and offer the essential proficiencies to attain the goals of a protected and resilient country. The directives, plans, procedures and structures that sustain every element of the NPS allow a collective individual's method to countries preparedness involving people, communities and organizations. The paper will also discuss how the national preparedness goal (NPG) is a comprehensive system allowing flexibility and when disseminating resources as well as can be changed to fit the ever-changing world. The information will be provided after data has been collected from different peer-reviewed sources and hence provide an accurate conclusion to the research question and make reasonable recommendations on how to improve the NPG on achieving its goals.

Keywords: Emergency preparedness, Homeland security, Interconnected risks, Resilience

Introduction, Research Question and Hypothesis

DHS was developed to be among the federal agency that will work towards enhancing the protection of the United States. Due to increased threats and natural disasters, DHS was established to counteract and ensure the citizens of the United States are secured. Safety of Americans is an enormous task that requires a lot of effort and resources. Coincidentally, national security is an idea that everyone can get behind and those resources are abundantly provided. According to Doty (2015), being part of the DHS's aim in providing security for American citizens, the national preparedness system was established. The national preparedness goal comprises thirty-one varied abilities that have been recognized as essential resources that are required. Moreover, some of the resources mentioned are information sharing, border control, risk management, cybersecurity and public health. While the mission of the DHS being to protect the American individuals, their land and values, these resources operate independently but they all work towards improving homeland security mission. Fjäder, (2016) argues that as technology continues to advance so does the need for new countermeasures. The framework for a national preparedness system helps ensure national security by providing security and resources in every area and implementing procedures on how security and resources should be implemented. Therefore, this paper will focus on answering the research question, how the ³national preparedness system/goal and the national preparedness report contribute to improving DHS mission in securing the United States national security.

Review of the Literature

The main purpose of this part is to analyze and review several pieces of literature including peer-reviewed materials. Therefore, through analyzing the existing knowledge on the focus of the research, the gaps will be identified. Similarly, by analyzing different themes and

theories concerning the topic from the summaries of existing literature, theories concerning this research will be identified. Again, considering that the NPG is a comprehensive system that allows flexibility when disseminating resources as well as a system that can be altered to fit the need for an ever-changing world, different capabilities will be described focusing on how they have enhanced DHS mission on securing the United States national security.

According to the research conducted by Fjäder (2016), focused on discovering the security landscape and found out that the current world has caused a threat to national security and therefore, it is only through the incorporation of security as a social role to everyone in the society. Moreover, the research also focused on the opportunities and challenges obtained through the hyper-connectivity to national security particularly on the economic security perception. Globalization has resulted in people linking with each other and increasing threats to national security, thus, to secure the contact to international networks and movement the administration will be required to augment their associations different with policy dominions (Fjäder, 2016). For example, they can enhance their operations by working with foreign policy, economics and security towards getting a comprehensive strategy that will secure the share in the international system.

Advancement in technology makes people connect at every corner of the world and thus resulting in cyber crimes hence posing a challenge to national security. For that reason, the security team is required to ensure they counter the hyper-connectivity as early as possible as individuals, infrastructure and information are universally connected through the internet (Fjäder, 2016). The foremost feature in the hyper-connectivity is the vast amount of people who are interconnected virtually. Kemp (2018) accentuates that more than four billion people are connected to the internet in 2018, and the number is expected to double by the year 2030.

Therefore, with the development of the internet of things which are aimed to bring more opportunities to national security, it is also accompanied by challenges. Consequently, through the establishment of the NPG, these infrastructures will be monitored and make the DHS ready in countering such issues when they emerge.

Clovis (2006), focused on the national preparedness and DHS in the creation of public safety. Clovis stated that the establishment of the DHS was due to the event which occurred in 2001 concerning the 911 incident in New York. Therefore, the main aim of the formation was to secure the nation from threats. Moreover, the different divisions of the administration have focused on the methods of how they can easily evaluate the national preparedness that will enhance the making of suitable resource decisions to promote the countries ⁴ capacity to avert, defend against, respond to and recover from disastrous events (Clovis, 2006). Furthermore, in almost all national divisions' policy brochures focusing on homeland security, they were involving the value of federalism as the basis of American administration and governance. Thus security issue is a national issue that requires national involvement in providing solutions, and for that reason, the development of national preparedness goal was delivered to ensure that the homeland security can obtain the best preparation by focusing on the five different missions including the anticipation, fortification, mitigation, response and recovery as well as the thirty-two essential capabilities that discourse the highest risk to the security of the nation.

Consequently, O'Sullivan (2015), expounded on the practices for homeland security risk analysis on environmental hazards and risks associated with human-induced factors. Furthermore, the study also indicated that there are more human-caused climate alterations and the relation with other human ecological pressures such as pollution and population that results

in deteriorating climate interruptions designs and disaster predictions indicating long series hazards to humans. Also, the relationship between the ecological risks, human economic and partisan uncertainty as well as the advancement of partisan ferocity O'Sullivan (2015), focused on the how and why ecological security and homeland security are associated. For example, the risk-increasing concept of climate change risk issues momentarily contextualizes their progressing interrelations in system and policy exercise. Similarly, another catastrophe extenuation and resilient variation policy insinuations of climate variations include dangerous storms, heat and drought as well as food and water calamity.

Moreover, another research conducted by Kahan (2015), focused on how the term resilience has been of significance in the field of homeland security. With an increase in the utilization of the term, resilience is because it is one of the results obtained using the preparedness security strategy (Kahan, 2015). Preparedness ensures that homeland security incorporates the public in preparation for the coming risks or factors that may interfere with the safety of the people. Therefore, resilience is one of the outcomes that is obtained from the national preparedness system. National security is a broad field and hence, integrating the system with homeland security in providing resources to the public in how they can share information and analyze them to prepare and responding to such dangers will save people's lives and safeguarding individuals' safety.

Kahan (2015), states that resilience has been used in different concepts of disaster relief including the effects of the earthquake. However, the term has been included in homeland security authoritatively in reaction to the disastrous 9/11 event. Although there have been significant operations including the establishment of the national preparedness system in the DHS, the awareness of resilience did not overlook the United States administration cycle.

Therefore, while reacting to the sanction of the 9/11 commission to ensure the United States has emerged sturdier, harmless and more resilient, the concept appeared to be more projecting in national security policy development (Kahan, 2015). Furthermore, as time moved the term was integrated into different DHS processes including the execution plans, operational programs and planning procedures.

Although the term resilient does not have an agreed definition its utilization is significant. According to Homeland Security (2011), the usage of the term in the DHS is due to the definition brought about the President Barack Obama and was referred to as the capacity to adjust to the changing situations and endure and quickly recuperate from distractions due to emergencies. Hence, to ensure the DHS mission on national security is obtained they must have resilient national preparedness systems that are elastic and adaptable. Similarly, such systems must be able to engross instabilities, reduce elegantly and restore their roles because they are less vulnerable to disturbances such as terrorisms. Also, national security requires a more resilient system that can continue in operation as well as safeguard United States citizens regardless of the disturbances that are happening. Moreover, the system must be in a position to endure the effects and reestablish its services to the existing disruptions.

Shimizu & Clark (2015), concentrated on the study about Tohoku and Katrina's tragedies focusing on the specific problems that emerged and the effects they caused as well as capability in response regarding the existing administration, policy and infrastructure. Currently, the intensification of disaster is identified and therefore, with one area being impacted by the catastrophe it causes other areas to also be affected hence causing a network of calamity. Moreover, to counter the problem of national security there is need to focus on other composite and unified calamities. However, the same source also stated that administrations and

communities have made tremendous efforts in promoting preparedness, response, early warnings and recovery plans as well as implementation of disaster risk reduction processes which enhances national security (Shimizu & Clark, 2015). Nonetheless, despite the increase in preparation systems, there are increased security threats that emanate from human-induced disasters, geophysical and technological that make the process become more intricate and unpredictable. Similarly, this variation makes it hard for the increased risk factors to be related to a more intricate societal, economic and ecological susceptibility which can cause immense threats to national security when they are not well prepared hence leading to increased effects to United States citizens.

Threats to national security are changing as time moves and this leads to variations in national preparedness. Shimizu & Clark (2015) states that the notion and understanding of the features of a disaster are continuously varying, for example, several years ago, calamities were determined by different sites and were easily predicted as well as the effects evaluated. Moreover, the calamities were known to be more organized. Similarly, with the advancement in technology and globalization, the terrorists have also progressed their attack methods hence needing the national security institutions to employ sophisticated methods that will enhance national security and safeguard individuals.

Again Tallis et al. (2017) focused on the ¹emergency management insinuation of a terrorist attack that was prearranged and implemented by ISIL in America. The authors organized the DHS national preparedness goal to indicate how ISIL conducted attacks could lead to pressure on national preparedness fundamental capabilities. Moreover, to provide an analysis of how the attack affected national preparedness goal essential capacity, the authors presented the interpretations of the ISIL intimidations through the emergency preparations lens that can

assist in benchmarking the prevailing national preparedness events and policies against developing coercions. ISIL has been involved in terrorist activities in different countries including Syria and Iraq hence allowing them to pose great challenges to the United States national security (Bouzis, 2015). Moreover, considering that the DHS has developed the NPG that will help them in combating such crimes, it is important to understand the threats that can occur when the American deliberate on essential policies to be set on the plan. Tallis et al. (2017) argue that to design the credentials for strategies essential for experts in all points of the administration, every strategy to the emergence preparedness framework designed by DHS including the establishment of ¹the national preparedness goal to assist in safeguarding all the levels of administration can operate within a mutual homeland security aims utilizing a joint language. Therefore, the aim of the preparedness activity is divided into five missions including prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery.

Methodology and Research Strategy

The research will be part of the study to determine the success of the national preparedness goal and national preparedness report in contributing to the DHS of protecting the United States. Therefore, the information contained in this research paper will be obtained from published works including peer-reviewed sources. Moreover, using peer-reviewed sources provides access to better-vetted information and cultivates collective ideas that get concentrated into one piece of work. Furthermore, information collected concerning the importance of the national preparedness system on national security is difficult to verify because limited research is done regarding the topic. With the increase in disasters and events that might cause a threat to national security, the DHS developed the NPG which is required to provide them with strategies

and ways of implementing them to prevent, protect, mitigating, responding and recovering from a disaster.

The different peer-reviewed sources were obtained online and the search criteria were on the national preparedness systems and national security. The technique used to analyze data was simply weights and measures type evaluation. After factual data is received it will be evaluated against the impact that it has on the current situation in regards to national security to determine what category it would go into, positive or negative impacts. Data collection and analysis can be time-consuming, however, to accurately conclude the hypothesis was correct there would need to be a continuing evaluation because the significance of the national preparedness system and the report would change due to changing activities. As people move from one place to another, change their normal activities and the development in technology results in increased risks hence the need for DHS to up their game and reassess the national preparedness goals and report to deal with the dangers of national security. Furthermore, these changes could come over a short period or take a long time to be recognized. Information will continue to be collected during creating this paper to ensure that accurate and up to date information is being used to provide the most accurate results.

Analysis and Findings

Based on the information gathered the national and preparedness system and the report has contributed a lot to the achievement of the department of homeland mission on securing national security. Although the emergence of events and catastrophe have been changing based on the information especially due to the human-induced factors that lead to changing in ecological seasons and events as well as technology advancement which has resulted in increased threats to national security, the NPG has provided an opportunity for the DHS to

develop strategies on how they can prevent and mitigate the risks as well as recover from them when they happen (National Preparedness Goal, 2017).

Technology advancement is a very critical aspect as it allows people to interact and share more information and infrastructures that might interfere with national security. This has led to the increased population using the internet and development of new software and devices which may result in increased chances of crimes such as human trafficking and terrorism which might lead to risking Americans' lives. The NPG developed by the DHS will help enhance national security because most of the individuals are involved in security matters (Nelson & Wise, 2013). DHS has realized that the problem of national security cannot be handled with the department alone and other levels of defense departments, but it is a joint responsibility which will require the incorporation of all individuals and community to allow sharing of information and allocation of resources hence enhancing national security.

According to National Preparedness Goal (2017), the process of preparedness is a collective responsibility of the whole nation hence requiring all citizens of the United States to be involved. Since all citizens are needed to contribute to ensuring national security is achieved, for instance, the communities, religious institutions, for-profit and nonprofit organizations and all administrations including the state, federal and local governments. Moreover, the NPG defines the security and resilience position using the essential capabilities that are needed to pact with the risks encountered. Furthermore, the goals are based on the incorporation of the security team and the society in developing and sustaining the fundamental capabilities and preparing to deliver them efficiently.

With the aim ² of the national preparedness goal being a secure and resilient country with the capacity needed in the whole society to avert, defend, alleviate, respond and recuperate from

intimidations and dangers that result in highest risks. Resilience plays a critical role in the success of the company having the ability to recover from the risks. Resilient systems can pact with unpredicted disasters through suppleness and resourcefulness (Homeland Security, 2011). Similarly, the systems use more determination or utilize adaptive arrangements that moves past the integral capacity of an organization to endure antagonistic occurrences. Furthermore, they can go through modification, study from tragedies and enhance their resilience due to experiences obtained from major interferences.

The increased human-induced factors such as the rise of population and the use of other methods of farming have altered the prediction of climatic conditions leading to more climatic dangers. The calamities can now result in making people homeless and loss of lives. However, through the core capabilities in the national preparedness system, the DHS can enhance national security by protecting United States individuals and visitors against the risks and dangers in a way that permits the welfare, ambitions and the methods of life properly (National Preparedness Goal, 2017).

The different values that are associated with the national preparedness system including the federalism system are also crucial in ensuring the DHS mission of ensuring national security is achieved in the United States. The fundamental capabilities confined in the goal are the discrete vital elements required for the achievement of the national security in the country. Therefore, they are extremely inter-reliant and necessitates DHS to utilize prevailing preparedness systems and events, organize and merge energies, enhance training and exercise plans as well as encourage innovation, influence and augment technology abilities (Homeland Security, 2011). Similarly, with the increase in the incorporation of people from diverse backgrounds in the preparedness program, DHS needs to guarantee organizational, monetary and

logistic schemes are available to promote the competences. The fundamental proficiencies act as both readiness paraphernalia and as a method of organized enactment. Therefore, every type of prevalence in the country has demonstrated the effectiveness of the fundamental proficiencies and the managing edifices that manage and distribute them.

The field of technology and terrorism is among the most hit and progressing due to sophisticated devices being utilized. Thus, specific intricate strategies, and countering precise strategies could demonstrate operative at avoiding an identified enemy. Again, being considerate of certain coercions is essential in certifying that programmatic choices being made below a comprehensive fundamental capability are knowledgeable of developing pressures and threats (Homeland Security, 2011). Moreover, being ready for people's strategies only leads to less convenient assistances for primary responders, however, when the strategies are recognized and realized to be explicit ¹ to ISIL, then the national preparedness goal and report that supports is planned to enhance the capability of initial responders and emergency managers to train and be ready for any eventualities.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The NPG was developed as the foundation of the execution of president policy directive 8, recognized beneath it are the essential capabilities across the ² prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. Similarly, the national preparedness system is a tool the country will utilize to develop, withstand and offer the essential proficiencies to attain the goals of a protected and resilient country. Therefore, the direction, plans, procedures and schemes that sustains every element of the national preparedness system allows a concerted, and all community methods to national preparedness that involves people, families, administrations and organizations. Consequently, the DHS's mission on securing the United States national security

is attained through the NPG and report. However, more research concerning the importance of the national preparedness system to DHS mission needs to be performed due to the variations in threats and calamities.

NPG will promote the achievement of the DHS mission concerning the safeguard of national security because it focuses on people and community preparations as essential to national achievement. Therefore, through the implementation of the fundamental proficiencies people and communities will have relevant information and resources in dealing with emergencies that may interfere with their lives. Ecological calamities have been significant which results in disruptions in people's lives as well as operations, however, providing individuals with the required resources can protect themselves through anticipation, defense, extenuation, respond and recuperate rapidly from the disaster. Furthermore, through the providence of resources problems emanating from cyber issues will be handled easily as individuals will have the skills required to counter cybercriminals and link up with DHS professionals for actions to be taken hence reducing such criminals from happening again. As indicated in catastrophic occurrences, every person can engage in protecting the country from destruction, thus, the national resilience can be increased for instance by creating awareness of the strategies that protect other individuals through essentials such as preventing excessive bleeding. Furthermore, by issuing the required acquittance and skills, individuals can benefit from NPG.

With the increase in the use of sophisticated technologies, DHS needs to put more effort into developing more measures on how they can mitigate the risks associated with it. For instance, although they can utilize internet of things there are other risks related to it that might interfere with national security. Another thing is to increase funds that will cater for more

resources available in training and exercise that will increase their expertise within nations in the capacity of prohibition and interruptions as well as physical protective measures. Improving the capabilities to ensure they contribute to DHS mission accomplishment individuals need to be proficient in identifying the risk factors to national security.

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