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Emergency Services
Sector Coordinating Council
Cross-Sector Collaboration White Paper
For
Brigadier General Michael C. McDaniel, Chair, SLTTGCC

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Purpose: To explore, and encourage where appropriate, increased direct cross-sector collaboration and information sharing between the Emergency Services SCC (ESSCC) and the State Local Tribal Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC).

Background: The Emergency Services Sector (ESS) is a system of prevention, protection, preparedness, response, and recovery elements that forms the Nation's first line of defense for preventing and mitigating the risks presented by all hazards events.

As the first line of defense and primary protector of the public and – in the direct context of national CIKR protection efforts, the other CIKR sectors – the loss or incapacitation of ESS capabilities would clearly impact the Nation's security, public safety, and morale. Thus, the mission of the ESS in regards to its own critical infrastructure protection is to provide an inward-looking perspective that focuses on maintaining the ability of the response community to engage in its mission activities during an all-hazards event.

The emergency services sector encompasses all fire, rescue and emergency, sworn law enforcement, EMS, and emergency management personnel. The extent of the sector extends beyond "first responders" to those who provided specialized, prevention, or investigative capabilities, and personnel and services that directly support emergency services capabilities, including but not limited to emergency services administrative/operational staff, public safety answering points and dispatch, corrections and public works. The sector is primarily a public sector, but does include private sector holdings such as industrial fire departments, sworn private security officers, private EMS providers, etc. [1]

The **Emergency Services GCC** (ESGCC) represents the Federal component of this system, while the **ESSCC** represents emergency response and security elements primarily across *State, local, tribal and territorial* emergency responder communities. The ESSCC is an independent, unfunded coalition of organizations that represent the emergency services sector.

The Problem: Across the spectrum of DHS, and in the organizations representing the ESS, there are many significant programs and projects that fall into the scope of ESS CIKR. To the extent possible, the SCC has attempted to focus their efforts on "protecting the protector" under the premise that we must protect the assets of the sector in order the sector to be able to fulfill its mission to protect others. However, we are also extremely cautious not duplicate or derail successful programs; we prefer, rather, to connect points of contacts that already exist.

Given that the ESSCC is primarily comprised of State, local, tribal and territorial stakeholders, it is apparent that the ESSCC and SLTGCC share common stakeholders and constituencies. However, the ESSCC sees a clear distinction in the roles and functions of both the ESSCC and the SLTTGCC in relation to these shared constituencies:

- The ESSCC is the primary conduit for information to the State, local, tribal and

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[1] As there has been some historical confusion on the issue, it should be noted that the ESS *does not* include emergency rooms and their personnel, which are health care sector assets. The ESSCC and the Health Care SCC are in agreement that the transfer of a patient to definitive care represents a transfer point between the two very-interdependent sectors.

territorial components of the emergency responder community pertaining to critical infrastructure protection (CIP) of the emergency services sector (i.e. "protecting the protector").

- The SLTTGCC is a cross-sector council that addresses State, local, tribal and territorial initiatives regarding CIP across all 18 CIKR Sectors.

Despite this distinction, however, an overlap in the activities of the ESSCC and the SLTTGCC may occur as both Councils work towards more robust information sharing, communication, and CIP engagement with its respective constituencies.

There is an inherent value in being able to segment our engagement, while at the same time working together toward the end goal of preserving the ability to protect our communities at the state and local level.

The Proposed Resolution: The ESSCC would like to engage the SLTTGCC in identifying areas of mission overlap and work towards leveraging resources to complete projects of mutual interest. For the ESSCC, it is clear that increased collaboration with the SLTTGCC is necessary to achieve effective and efficient execution of its mission goals vis a vis CIP and the emergency response community for a number of reasons. First, is the need to make sure we working together to build programs that serve both our missions, rather than building duplicative or conflicting systems. For example, either of our programs to enhancing information sharing will clearly impact the others constituents. Emergency responders need streamlined information sharing, not multiple portals offering duplicative or conflicting information. The ESSCC sees this as an immediate opportunity to work collaboratively to produce the best product and services for emergency responders and the communities they serve.

The second reason is more practical, ESSCC, while broadly representative of the emergency responder community, does not currently have the man-power to address a number of important issues and initiatives on its own, such as developing a risk-management framework, which again, will have significant impact on your constituents as well.

Similarly, the ESSCC sees a real opportunity for the SLTTGCC to utilize the resources that exist within the framework of the ESSCC to enhance the SLTTGCCs own information sharing, communication and collaboration capabilities with shared stakeholders.

The ESSCC has the capability to broadly reach out through the entirety of the Sector through not only its membership, but also through its relationship with the Emergency Management and Response Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC). The EMR-ISAC, which reaches a constituency of over 40,000 ESS personnel and more than 15,250 ESS leaders vetted to receive U/FOUO information, serves as the primary information sharing vehicle for the ESSCC. Rather than create a separate outreach process for the SLTTGCC to reach shared stakeholders, the ESSCC suggests that the SLTTGCC utilize processes that are already in place via the ESSCC.