

Critical Infrastructure

Mark Listes

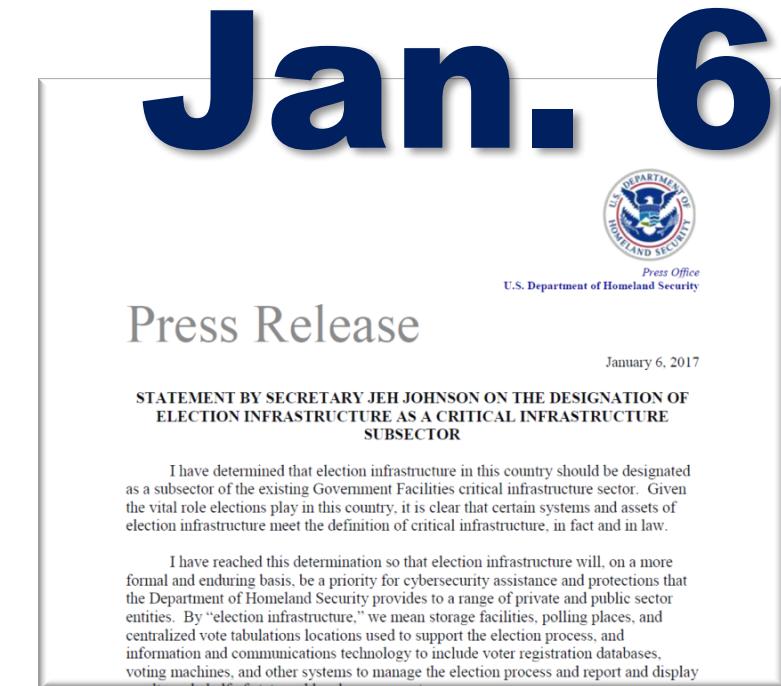
Critical Infrastructure – Where did it come from?

Critical Infrastructure:

- Modern definition created by the Patriot Act in 2001
- A designation made by DHS that affects how resources are allocated to certain fields

Elections As Critical Infrastructure:

- DHS designated Elections to be part of the Nation's Critical Infrastructure on January 6, 2017
 - Secretary Jeh Johnson signed the order



Critical Infrastructure – What is it?

- **Designation made by Department of Homeland Security**
 - Shapes how the Federal Government views and interacts with a sector
 - Establishes priority for certain entities to get security resources

Definition: “Sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.” - Presidential Policy Direct 21 (PPD-21)



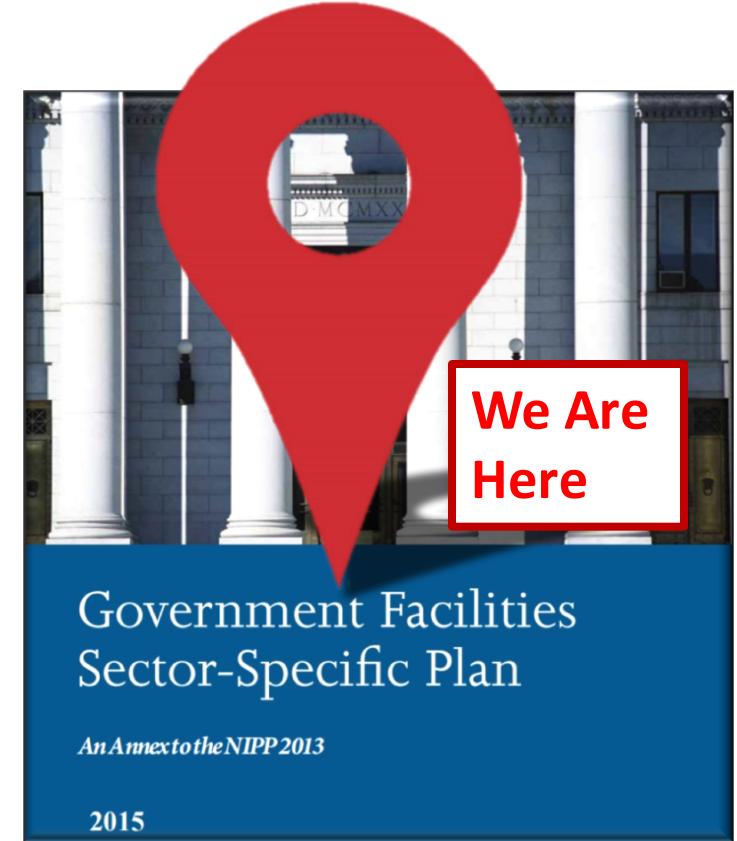
Critical Infrastructure – Key Terms

- **Sector:** a distinctive group of entities that are cohesive in purpose
 - Here: **Elections**
- **Sector Specific Plan:** the document that establishes and governs the sector and the information sharing protocols within it
- **Sector Specific Agency:** the federally agency charged with crafting and administering the sector specific plan.
 - Typically DHS. When a subsector is created often DHS and another agency
- **Coordinating Council:** a group of people and entities, both private and public sector, that help communicate stakeholder perspectives, information, and interests to the SSA.

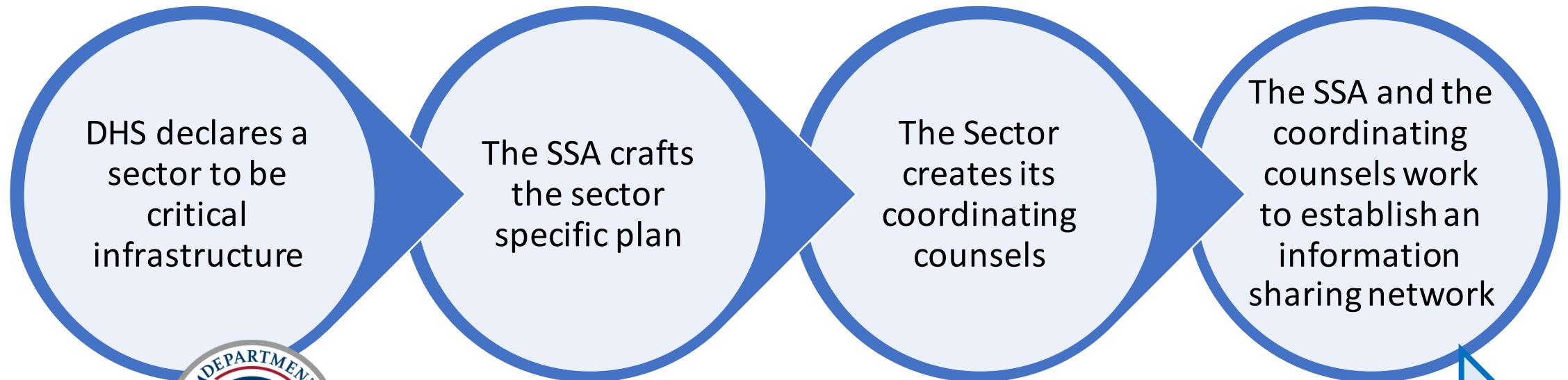


Government Facilities Sector

- This is the sector to which Elections have been assigned
- Includes:
 - General-use office buildings
 - Special-use military installations
 - Embassies,
 - Courthouses
 - National laboratories
- Currently contains two subsectors:
 - Education Facilities and Monuments and Icons.



The Process



Sector Entities Get Priority Access to DHS Resources

EAC Starts Producing Critical Infrastructure Tools and Resources

Key Entities and Roles Within a CI Sector

- **Department of Homeland Security** – Leading the national effort by providing strategic guidance, promoting a national unity of effort, and coordinating the overall Federal effort.
- **Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs)** – Coordinate and collaborate with DHS and other relevant Federal departments and agencies, with critical infrastructure owners and operators.
- **Sector Coordinating Councils (SCCs)** – SCCs serve as principal collaboration points between the government and private sector owners and operators. Consisting of representatives from the private sector.
- **Government Coordinating Councils (GCCs)** – Consisting of representatives from across various levels of government (including Federal and SLTT), as appropriate to the operating landscape of each individual sector.
- **State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC)** – SLTTGCC promotes the engagement of SLTT partners in national critical infrastructure.



The EAC and DHS

- **Started working together before the election**
 - To help DHS understand elections
 - To communicate security information to election officials and administrators
 - To help DHS understand election administrators' feedback and represent them
- **Has continued working together to represent election administrators in the critical infrastructure process**
 - Acted as the federal agency helping DHS understand what will and will not help election administrators
 - Acting as a microphone for election officials and administrators to ask questions and get answers about critical infrastructure



Current EAC Efforts

The EAC is:

- Currently working with DHS to help election administrators understand the impacts of the designation
- Dedicating staff to best be able to help you
- Facilitating the conversation between election officials and DHS
- Starting to produce toolkits and other products to help you navigate critical infrastructure
- Publishing information about critical infrastructure and elections as critical infrastructure



The U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Sample/Possible Questions Concerning
Elections as Critical Infrastructure

Last Revised February 6, 2017

Structural: What is the framework that defines Elections as Critical Infrastructure, and how does it work in practicality?

General Questions:

1. Why is CI needed?
2. What is different by the formal distinction and 2016 is the relationship between the public and private sectors?
3. Who leads each sector's involvement?
4. What is the vendors' role in CI?
5. What vendors are impacted?
6. How can the private sector influence CI?
7. What government agencies now have a role in local elections?
8. How can the private sector influence CI?

Elections as Critical Infrastructure

3

Getting the CI Scoop

- **CI Scoop – Blog**
 - A new blog every few days
 - Covering all topics CI and elections as CI
 - Updates on the EAC and CI
- **Starting Point Document**
 - 6 page in-depth overview of Critical Infrastructure and Elections as Critical Infrastructure

The screenshot shows the U.S. Election Assistance Commission website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EAC logo, the text "U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION", a "REGISTER TO VOTE" button, and dropdown menus for "VOTERS" and "VOTING EQUIPMENT". Below the navigation, the text "Home > Blogs" is visible. The main content area is titled "BLOGS" and "CI Scoop". It features two blog posts by Mark Listes:

- CI Scoop: History of Critical Infrastructure** (May 17, 2017) - This post discusses the history of critical infrastructure designation, mentioning its development in 1996 under President Clinton.
- A New Home Base for Critical Infrastructure** (May 11, 2017) - This post introduces a new series that will regularly discuss critical infrastructure issues surrounding the designation, with the goal of sharing information to help voters be more informed.

On the right side of the page, there is a large graphic with the text "STARTING POINT" vertically on the left and "U.S. Election Systems as Critical Infrastructure" horizontally across the middle. The background of the graphic is a blurred image of a road or highway under a cloudy sky. At the bottom right of the page, there is contact information for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission: "U.S. Election Assistance Commission", "1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300", "Silver Spring, MD 20910", and the EAC logo.



Security Resources Already Available

- **Security Checklists**
 - Securing Voter Registration Data
 - Securing Election Night Reporting Systems
- **Guidance Documents**
 - Security Planning
 - Contingency Planning
 - Selecting voting systems
 - Managing aging voting systems
- **Machine Testing and Auditing Information**
 - Clearinghouse of state practices and information
 - Guidance Documents



U. S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
Voting System Testing and Certification Program
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Checklist for Securing Voter Registration Data

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that each State, acting through the chief State election official, shall implement, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the State level that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the State and assigns a unique identifier to each legally registered voter in the State...

State requirements for registration differ greatly, but every State maintains personally identifiable information associated with the voter's name to determine eligibility and precinct information. Due to the sensitive nature of this personal information, there is a natural concern on what security protocol has been used to secure the data.

This list is intended to provide election officials information on best practices to protect their voter registration data. State and local election officials have already implemented many of these items. Election officials may use it to provide assurance to members of the public who may question the security measures that have been implemented in their State.

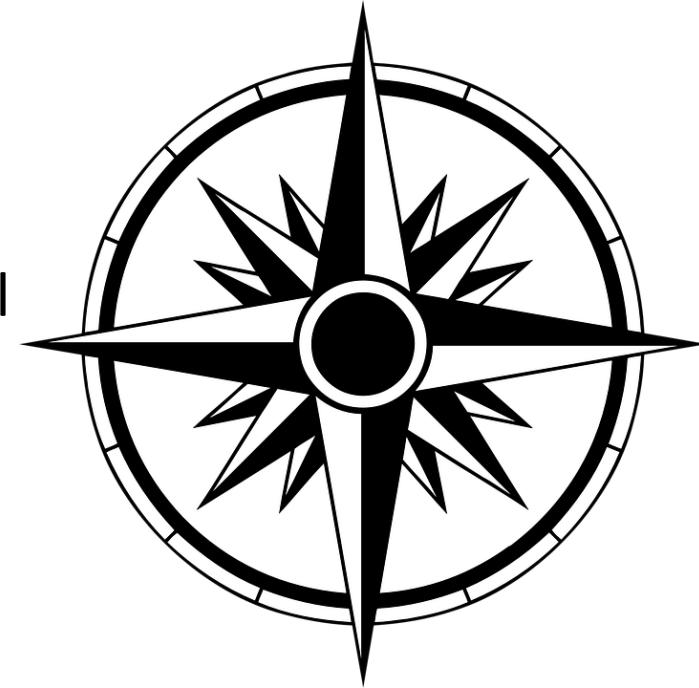
Access Control – only authorized users can access the voter registration database. Each user must log in with a unique password.



Moving Forward

The EAC's perspective moving forward:

- The EAC is pursuing a formal role in the sector establishment process
- The EAC will start producing Critical Infrastructure products for election officials and administrators and will start to send them out soon
 - Tool kits
 - Guidance Documents
 - Presentations
 - Regular Updates
- The EAC hopes that you will continue to see us as your go-to resource on this issue

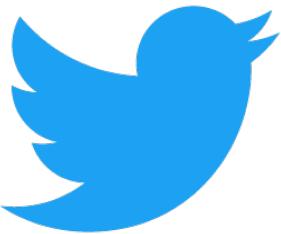


Learn More

- **Reach out to us with any questions that you have concerning Critical Infrastructure**
- **Tune-in to CI Scoop**
- **Send an email to:**
 - Mark Listes at mlistes@eac.gov
 - Bob Sweeney at rsweeney@eac.gov
- **We have more information and resources about Critical Infrastructure on our website:**
 - Public Hearing between EAC, election officials, and DHS
 - Educational Presentations
 - Presentations by others
 - Running list of questions from election officials that we continually communicate to DHS



Social Media



@EACgov



Facebook.com/eacgov1



listen@eac.gov



YouTube Channel:
Election Assistance Commission

www.eac.gov





Contact Us:

Bob Sweeney

Email: rsweeney@eac.gov

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Phone: 1-866-747-1471

Email: havainfo@eac.gov