



DHS LEXICON TERMS AND DEFINITION

July 21, 2008

The following information represents the definitions for various terms used by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Components. This information is being provided to facilitate information sharing and knowledge transfer within and from DHS. As additional definitions are developed and approved they will be incorporated for use.

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
1. activation (message)	message providing notice of intended potential reaction	None	When an incident occurs that could result in the activation of Federal response resources, the FEMA Operations Center (FOC) will issue an Activation notification via the Communicator system. Other Federal departments and agencies should immediately advise the FOC of their intended response and deploy their representatives to staff the teams at the Headquarters or Regional level(s), as specified in the Activation notification.	Upon receipt of the activation notification the response teams of the Department of Energy where authorized to procure transportation services.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group
2. advisory (message)	message highlighting trends, developments, or situations that may threaten life and/or property	issued for information purposed only and not requiring formal action	Within the homeland security community an advisory warns of a credible terrorist threat to US personnel, facilities, or interests with information that is general in both timing and target, or details significant trends and developments in terrorism that may lead to an increased threat situation.	The regional FEMA office logged the most recent weather advisory to be certain the information was sharable by all individuals involved.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group

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3. alert (message)	message directing activity in preparation of a response to an actual or probable situation that may require response operations to protect life, health, and property	provides situational awareness of an urgent nature about a potential or ongoing emergency situation and is an indicator of a change in state	Alerts are the highest level of Intelligence Community terrorist threat warning and informs of a credible, specific, imminent threat against US personnel, facilities, or interests, with information the community considers sufficiently specific and credible to enable implementation of local security measures.	Although an advisory notifies and informs, an alert is a call to action.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group
4. alien removed	compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal	None	An alien who is removed has administrative or criminal consequences placed on subsequent reentry owing to the fact of the removal. Ineligibility to remain in the United States is based on grounds of inadmissibility (INA § 212) or deportability (INA § 237).	The alien was considered removed after verification of the alien's departure followed issuance of a final order of removal.		Immigration Data Community of Interest
5. alien returned	confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States not based on an order of removal	None	Ineligibility to remain in the United States is based on grounds of inadmissibility (INA § 212) or deportability (INA § 237)	The alien returned to his home country after agreeing to voluntarily depart the United States.		Immigration Data Community of Interest
6. all hazards	grouping classification encompassing all conditions, environmental or man-made, that have the potential to cause injury, illness, or death; damage to or loss of equipment, infrastructure services, or property; or alternately causing functional degradation to	None	All hazards preparedness ensures that if disaster occurs, people are ready to get through it safely, and respond to it effectively. FEMA began development of an Integrated Emergency Management System with an all-hazards approach that included "direction, control and warning systems which	COOP exercises are conducted in preparation for an all hazards incident.		ESEC

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	societal, economic or environmental aspects		are common to the full range of emergencies from small isolated events to the ultimate emergency - war."			
7. apprehend	to take physical control or temporarily detain a person suspected of wrongdoing or posing a potential threat to National security without actual arrest	None	An arrest always includes an apprehension; however, an apprehension does not always result in an arrest.	The combined efforts of ICE, USCG, and USSS enabled local authorities to apprehend the suspected terrorist.		Immigration Data Community of Interest
8. arrest	act of detaining an individual by legal authority based on an alleged violation of the law	None	An arrest is indicated when an officer observes behavior that is contrary to criminal or administrative provisions of law, or reasonably believes the individual has engaged in such behavior, or upon warrant issued by a competent legal authority. Arrests are generally made in order to guarantee a person's appearance at a criminal or administrative proceeding.	The arrest of the illegal alien was predicated upon the use of fraudulent documents to illegally gain employment.		Immigration Data Community of Interest
9. assessment (message)	message supplying the evaluation and interpretation of measurements and other information to provide a basis for decision-making	provides credible but non-specific threats, or provides in-depth analysis on a specific topic, trend, or development for decision-making and policy support	Within the homeland security community, an assessment may also warn of credible but non-specific terrorism threats, or provide in-depth analysis on a specific terrorism topic, trend, or development for decision-making and policy support	The assessment provided evaluation of the probable threat effects and various remedies to counter the potential.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group
10. asset	tangible or intangible items owned or employed by the Federal government which would	includes: contracts, facilities, property, records, unobligated or unexpended balances of appropriations, and other	Use of the simple term asset has many different meanings to many different people. It is important to	The DHS telephone system is an asset of significance to all		ESEC

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	have probable economic benefits that can be obtained or controlled by the Federal government entity in support of its mission and the continuity of its operation	funds or resources, personnel, intelligence, technology, or physical infrastructure, or anything useful that contributes to the success of something, such as an organizational mission; assets are things of value or properties to which value can be assigned; from an intelligence standpoint, includes any resource – person, group, relationship, instrument, installation, or supply – at the disposition of an intelligence organization for use in an operational or support role	emphasize the delineation between using the word asset and “key asset.” A “key asset” is identified as a broad array of unique facilities, sites and structures whose disruption or destruction could have significant consequences across multiple dimensions (National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets)	Components.		
11. asylee	individual granted asylum under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act	None	Asylees may not be removed from the United States to their countries of nationality. Asylees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the United States after being granted asylum.	An asylee may petition for a spouse or child living abroad to join him or her in the United States.		Immigration Data Community of Interest
12. asylum	form of protection provided to aliens physically present in the United States who meet the definition of refugee and are not otherwise barred from applying for or receiving asylum	the term “refugee” means any person who is outside his or her country of nationality and who cannot return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. [Source 8 U.S.C.A. §	An alien is “barred” from applying for asylum if (A) the alien may be removed pursuant to a bilateral agreement to a country in which the alien's life or freedom would not be threatened and where the alien may file a claim to asylum; (B) the alien filed his or her application for asylum more than one year	Individuals who fear that they may be persecuted if returned to their countries of nationality may seek asylum in the United States.		Immigration Data Community of Interest

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		1101(a)(42).]	after his or her arrival into the United States, and the alien does not qualify for an exception; (C) the alien previously was denied asylum. [Source 8 U.S.C.A. § 1158(a)(2).] An alien is “barred” from receiving asylum if (i) the alien participated in the persecution of any other person; (ii) the alien is a danger to the United States because he or she has been convicted for having committed a serious crime; (iii) the alien has committed a serious nonpolitical crime outside the United States; (v) the alien has been involved with terrorist activity; or (vi) the alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States. [Source INA § 208 (b)(2)(A).]			
13. bilateral	affecting or undertaken reciprocally between two nations or parties	as especially pertains to political, cultural, or trade relations between two nations or states	None	The current trade agreement between the United States and China is a form of bilateral relations.		ESEC
14. biological	relating to life, living organisms, or the materials derived from them	None	None	The Department of Homeland Security has taken significant steps to thwart the use of biological weapons by terrorists.		ESEC

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15. bioterrorism	use of, or threatened use of, biological agents, such as manmade or natural disease pathogens, for terrorist purposes	None	Agents used in bioterrorism include both living microorganisms (bacteria, protozoa, rickettsia, viruses, and fungi), and toxins (chemicals) produced by microorganisms, plants, or animals.	The use of anthrax, a form of bacillus, by a terrorist organization is a form of bioterrorism.		ESEC
16. cancellation (message)	message revoking a previously transmitted message	None	Within FEMA, the FEMA Operations Center (FOC) will use the communicator to notify the FEMA teams and Federal Departments and Agencies. Federal departments and agencies should cease emergency operations, based on this message.	Upon receipt of the cancellation message the support team from Region 5 stopped their travel to the disaster site and returned to their home base.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group
17. canine inspection	use of a dog team to detect specific substances or the presence of property or persons that may pose a threat, are not in compliance with laws, or are at risk	None	None	A routine canine inspection of the vehicle lead to the confiscation of a large quantity of illegal drugs.		ESEC
18. cargo scanning	use of nonintrusive equipment, including imaging and radiation detection equipment, to capture data relative to any form of cargo container and/or container contents	None	None	The equipment and processes for cargo scanning are improving on a daily basis.		ESEC
19. civil support	(SEE – defense support of civil authorities)					
20. Component	(SEE – DHS Component)					

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21. continuity	state or quality of being consistent, uninterrupted or unbroken	maintain uninterrupted support to essential functions in spite of natural or man-made disasters; efforts to assure continuance of minimum essential functions across a wide range of potential emergencies, including localized act or nature, accidents, technologies and/or attack related emergencies	A generally broad term used to define the ability to continue operations with minimum interruption.	Continuity of health and human services is an essential component in the response to an incident.		ESEC
22. country	territory of a nation or state	None	1. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use coding lists for countries aligned with the political and geographical configurations for independent states and dependencies as specified by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/sates/)	Ralph intends to visit five countries on his vacation.		Immigration Data Community of Interest
23. country of birth	country in which a person is born	a person's country of birth is the country where the place in which that person was born is located according to the geographical and political configuration of countries at the time of data collection by DHS; if there have been boundary changes affecting the country of birth of a person, then the country shall be recorded according to the configuration at the time of data collection	1. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use coding lists for countries aligned with the political and geographical configurations for independent states and dependencies as specified by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/sates/) 2. A code for "Born on board plane/vessel" must be added to any country of birth coding list in order to	Lillian's mother, a U.S. citizen, was in Mexico, waiting to cross the U.S. border, when she suddenly went into labor and gave birth to her daughter June. Today, June feels strange telling people that her country of birth is actually Mexico, a place in which she spent only a few minutes of her		Immigration Data Community of Interest

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			account for those persons born on a vessel or aircraft in international territories.	life.		
24. country of chargeability	country to which an immigrant in a numerically limited classification is charged by the U.S. Department of State for purposes of numerical control	None	1) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use coding lists for countries aligned with the political and geographical configurations for independent states and dependencies as specified by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/s/tates/) 2) A code titled "Not limited" must be added to any country of chargeability list in order to account for those persons not subject to limitation under the immigration system.	Tikka has lived in Canada for eight years, but as a woman born in Thailand, her country of chargeability is Thailand.		Immigration Data Community of Interest

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25. country of citizenship	country to which a person owes allegiance and by which he or she is entitled to be protected	None	<p>1. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use coding lists for countries aligned with the political and geographical configurations for independent states as specified by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/s/tates/)</p> <p>2. Dependencies are not valid countries of citizenship. Record the sovereign country for persons from dependencies (e.g., those born in Bermuda owe allegiance to the United Kingdom). The Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State maintains the list of dependencies and their sovereignty. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/r/ls/10543.htm)</p> <p>3. A code titled "Stateless" must be added to any coding list for citizenship in order to account for those persons who do not owe allegiance to any state.</p> <p>4. A person may owe allegiance to more than one country. In such an instance, code the independent country of the passport he or she is using to enter or qualifying to enter the United States.</p>	Peter was born and raised in Switzerland. He holds a U.S. permanent resident ("green") card, but Switzerland is his country of citizenship.		Immigration Data Community of Interest

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26. country of former allegiance	previous country of citizenship of a naturalized U.S. citizen	None	<p>1. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use coding lists for countries aligned with the political and geographical configurations for independent states as specified by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/states/)</p> <p>2. Dependencies are not valid countries of citizenship. Record the sovereign country for persons from dependencies (e.g., those born in Bermuda owe allegiance to the United Kingdom). The Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State maintains the list of dependencies and their sovereignty. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/rls/10543.htm)</p> <p>3. A code titled "Stateless" must be added to any coding list for citizenship in order to account for those persons who do not owe allegiance to any state.</p> <p>4. A person may owe allegiance to more than one country. In such an instance, code the independent country of the passport he or she is using to enter or qualifying to enter the United States.</p> <p>5. The United States is not a valid country of former</p>	<p>Ping Yu immigrated into the U.S. from Beijing and was subsequently naturalized. Although Ping Yu never felt a close connection to China-mainland, his immigration attorney indicated that, in fact, his country of former allegiance should be recorded as "China-mainland."</p>		Immigration Data Community of Interest

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			allegiance.			
27. country of last permanent residence	(SEE – country of last residence)					

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28. country of last residence	country in which an alien habitually resided prior to crossing the U.S. border and entering the United States	the country in which an alien last resided for 1 year or more prior to crossing the U.S. border and entering the United States	1. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use coding lists for countries aligned with the political and geographical configurations for independent states and dependencies as specified by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/s/tates/) 2. The United States is not acceptable as a country of last residence for those migrating to the United States; a U.S. territory is a valid entry. If an alien actually lives in the United States prior to immigration (e.g., an alien adjusting to lawful permanent resident status), then record the country resided in immediately prior to entering the United States.	Herra lived in Egypt all her life, despite much long-term travel. When she entered the U.S. and married an American, she had to fill out forms referring to her "country of last residence," which was Egypt.	country of last permanent residence	Immigration Data Community of Interest
29. country where you live	country in which an alien resides or intends to reside	the country in which an alien is living or expects to live for at least one year	1) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use coding lists for countries aligned with the political and geographical configurations for independent states and dependencies as specified by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State. (http://www.state.gov/s/inr/s/tates/) 2) The United States	As the Aeroflot flight was making its final approach into Dulles Airport, the stewardess requested that all passengers complete their I-94 and Customs Forms. Sergey quickly scribbled on his I-94: "Russia" under "Country Where You Live."		Immigration Data Community of Interest

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			and its territories are acceptable entries.			
30. critical infrastructure	systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital that the incapacity or destruction of such may have a debilitating impact on the security, economy, public health or safety, environment, or any combination of those matters, across any Federal, State, regional, territorial, or local jurisdiction	as established in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), includes the sectors of agriculture and food; drinking water and wastewater treatment systems; dams; public health and healthcare; emergency services; government and commercial facilities; defense industrial base; national monuments and icons; information technology; telecommunications; energy; nuclear reactors, materials and waste; transportation systems; banking and finance; chemical industry; postal and shipping	The term “key resources” is often used with “critical infrastructure.” The Homeland Security Act of 2002 defines key resources as “publicly or privately controlled resources essential to the minimal operations of the economy and government.” Reference: Homeland Security Act 2002; USA PATRIOT Act, 2001; HSPD-7; The Defense Production Act of 2003.	A successful attack against the critical infrastructure of the United States could have dire economic consequences.		ESEC
31. cyberspace	virtual environment, accessible via computer networks, where communication can take place and information can be shared	often interchanged with the word Internet, cyberspace is the artificial realm created by and accessible through computer networks with the intended function of sharing information and facilitating communication	Cyberspace is composed of hundreds of thousands of globally interconnected computers, servers, routers, switches, and cables that allow the critical infrastructures to work. It encompasses the logical layer where software applications, Web sites, bulletin boards, chat rooms, e-mail, and electronic exploits operate (e.g., viruses, Botnets, etc). While the Internet is part of cyberspace, it also includes the local and wide area networks, as well as the users connected to the Internet.	Due to the distance between the agencies, they have decided to hold their meeting using a virtual meeting place, exchanging their views and comments in cyberspace.		ESEC

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32. data mining	application of database technology and techniques to uncover hidden patterns and subtle relationships in data and to infer rules that allow for the prediction of future results (Source: GAO-05-866, p. 4)	SPECIAL USE DEFINITION: (NOTE: This Special Use definition is for the limited purpose of the specific Congressional reporting requirement referenced in the “source” section below, and is not used for any other purpose.) (1) a query or search or other analysis of 1 or more electronic databases, whereas-- (A) at least 1 of the databases was obtained from or remains under the control of a non-Federal entity, or the information was acquired initially by another Department or agency of the Federal Government for purposes other than intelligence or law enforcement; (B) a Department or agency of the Federal Government or a non-Federal entity acting on behalf of the Federal Government is conducting the query or search or other analysis to find a predictive pattern indicating terrorist or criminal activity, and (C) the search does not use a specific individual's personal identifiers to acquire information concerning that individual. (Source: Section 528 of the Senate version of the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill as submitted to the House, H.R. 2360 EAS (July 14, 2005). This is also the definition	None	Data mining activities are necessary to uncover links that may assist in identifying potential threats to National Security.		ESEC

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		required by Congress for annual reporting by DHS, DHS Appropriations for FY2006, Conference report 109-241, as well as the proposed DHS Appropriations for FY2007, H.R. 5441. [NOTE: this definition is the same as the one in the Department of Justice Appropriations for FY2006, P.L. 109-177.])				
33. data screening	visual or automated review of data to detect anomalies	includes manifest or entry documentation, computer systems, or documents submitted in advance of or associated with a person or shipment, e.g., Manifest and Entry Documentation review, Criminal History checks, Shipping History, AMS, Shipper Exportation Declarations, NCIC, NVMC, Criminal Databases	None	The data screening for a shipment of materials into the U.S. identified the potential for contraband and the subsequent inspection of the container led to the arrest of a known arms dealer.		ESEC
34. defense support of civil authorities	civil support activities provided by U.S. military forces, Department of Defense (DOD) civilians, DOD contract personnel, and DOD agency and component assets, in response to requests for assistance from civilian Federal, State, local, and tribal authorities under the auspices of the national response framework (for domestic emergencies)	None	Sources—DOD Joint Publication 3-28—“Civil Support” and www.dod.mil/policy/section/s/policy_offices/hd/index.html .	The <i>National Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support</i> calls for securing the United States from attack through an active, layered defense in depth	civil support	DOD

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35. detection technology	electronic and/or mechanical means used to assist in the discovery and identification of anomalies or the presence of property or person that may pose a threat or are not in compliance with law	None	None	Detection technology plays a key role in safeguarding the passage of passengers and cargo to and within the United States.		ESEC
36. DHS Component	any organizations which reports directly to the Office of the Secretary (including the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, the Chief of Staff, the Counselors, and their respective staff) when approved as such by the Secretary	None	Component is spelled with a capital "C" when used to represent an operational entity that directly reports to the Office of the Secretary of DHS.	The United States Coast Guard is a Component of the Department of Homeland Security.	Component	DHS Directive No 112-01
37. DHS Directive System	official means of communicating to DHS employees the policies, delegations of authority and procedures necessary for DHS to comply with pertinent Executive Orders, statutes, regulations, and policies	None	All DHS officers and employees are responsible for acting in accordance with the applicable policies and procedures as established in the Directives System. The System consists of Policy Statements, Directives and Instructions that are systematically prepared and revised to meet the needs of DHS.	The DHS Directive System is maintained by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.		DHS Directive No. 112-01
38. DHS Liaison for Volunteer Community Service	DHS officer or employee designated by the Secretary of DHS pursuant to E.O. 13401 to serve as the agency liaison for volunteer community service	None	None	The DHS Liaison for Volunteer Community Service performs the functions enumerated in E.O. 13401.		DHS Directive No. 254-01

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39. DHS screening and inspection process	Department of Homeland Security comprehensive process used to detect and assess whether persons or property pose a threat or are not in compliance with law	None	None	The DHS screening and inspection process is a vital element in providing security to our citizenry for both cargo and passengers.		ESEC
40. directive	statement of a policy, mission, program, or activity's purpose, scope, and authority, establishes and delegates responsibilities, and set forth policies and procedures	None	Briefly and broadly articulates and builds on DHS policy statements, policies, missions, programs, activities or business practices of a continuing nature that are required or authorized by statute, rulemaking, the President, or the Secretary to initiate, govern or regulate actions or conduct by DHS Components, officers, and employees.	DHS Directive 119-01 addresses the DHS Mail Management Program		DHS Directive No. 112-01
41. doctrine	authoritative statement of one or more guiding principles	None	Doctrine encompasses the fundamental principles which guide an organization and "shapes the effort." Policy includes the process implemented through plans and procedures towards realization of doctrine and "guides the effort." Strategy is the course of action to achieve policy goals and "accomplishes the effort."	DHS doctrine describes the planning process for incidents of national significance.		ESEC
42. domestic counterterrorism	measures, offensive and defensive, for the prevention and interdiction of terrorist activity within the United	primarily offensive in nature including use of investigations, prosecutions, screening, disrupting enemy communications, etc.	None	Expanding JTTF capabilities within the homeland is one strategy of domestic counterterrorism		ESEC

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	States			operations.		
43. emergency management	coordination and integration of all activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capabilities to prepare for, respond to, recover from, or mitigate against threatened or actual disasters or emergencies, regardless of cause	emergency management activities in response to an incident are a component of overall incident management and are aligned with parallel response processes associated with prevention and protection	The body of knowledge with respect to comprehensive emergency management includes the concept of emergency management "programs." These "programs" are comprised of functional areas including operations and procedures, hazard and risk identification, plans and procedures (strategic plans, operational plans, recovery plans), hazard mitigation, public information and public education, finance and administration, etc. etc.	Emergency management includes the planning and development of capabilities by States and communities to diminish the effect of disasters, regardless of cause, on their citizens, businesses, and economy.		ESEC
44. evacuation	organized and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from hazardous or potentially hazardous areas, and their reception and care in designated safe areas	None	None	The evacuation of all personnel from the hazardous area took place without complication.		ESEC
45. evacuee	individual subject to an organized and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal from a hazardous or potentially hazardous area	None	None	The evacuee was upset at having to abandon his personal possessions.		ESEC
46. event	planned, non-emergency activity occurring in a particular place during a particular interval of time	includes occurrences such as parades and sporting contests	An event which draws national attention is defined and considered as a "major event." Event should not be confused as an occurrence requiring a mitigating	The christening of the new Coast Guard cutter was an event that required a plan for additional		ESEC

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			response as defined in the term “incident.”	security measures.		
47. examine	process of performing direct, indirect, and/or informational investigation and inspection of a person, place, thing, or event to determine compliance or deviation	includes the process of comparing or testing financial and/or operational records against management’s assertions or other criteria during the performance of an internal review	None	All frontline DHS mission area positions require the skill to examine persons and materials.		ESEC
48. first responder	designation for a person who, in the course of their professional duties of responding to emergencies, and in the early stages of an incident, is responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, the environment, and for meeting basic human needs	may be a member of a Federal, State or local emergency public safety, emergency response, emergency medical, law enforcement, fire and rescue, military, or other recognized agency and authority, including a volunteer or private organization, as well as other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators, administrators, security personnel, etc.) who provide immediate support services during, response and protection operations	The designation of first responder does not cover actions involving inter-facility transport or other transportation of patients that does not initiate at the scene of the incident. Reference: Homeland Security Act of 2002 - Section 2, Paragraph (6); Public Law 107-296; U.S.C. 101(6); National Response Plan.	The impact of the incident was minimized due to the prompt actions of the first responders.		ESEC

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49. fusion center	physical or logical facility, encompassing all necessary infrastructure required to facilitate nationwide information-sharing between one or more Federal, State, and/or local law enforcement entities, dedicated to the integration of multiple diverse data sources within a defined functional domain	a collaborative effort of two or more agencies or program offices who provide resources, expertise, and/or information to the center with the goal of maximizing the ability to detect, prevent, apprehend, and respond to criminal and terrorism related activity by applying the concepts of fusion, and to provide a means of intelligence dissemination	A fusion center is also a conduit staffed with analyst, special agents, intelligence research specialist, etc., for sharing information and results of analysis in accordance with the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan (NCISP). (USDOJ, "Fusion Center Guidelines," Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative, Aug 2006)	A fusion center is an effective and efficient mechanism to exchange information and intelligence, maximize resources, streamline operations, and improve the ability to fight crime and terrorism by analyzing data from a variety of sources.		ESEC
50. global terrorism	terrorism activities conducted in, or encompassing international communities	A.) involves violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or any State; B.) appears to be intended—a. to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, b. to influence the policy or a government by intimidation or coercions; or c. to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and C.) occurs primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the	None	Al-Qaeda is an organization that practices global terrorism.		ESEC

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		locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum				
51. homeland (United States)	physical region that includes the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, United States territories and possessions, and surrounding territorial waters and airspace	None	None	Homeland Security is a concerted national effort to reduce the risk of catastrophic incidents to the homeland while maintaining the public's confidence.		ESEC
52. homeland defense	protection of United States sovereignty, territory, domestic population, and critical defense infrastructure against external threats and aggression or other threats as directed by the President of the United States	the Department of Defense is the lead Federal agency for homeland defense, including maritime interception, air patrols over U.S. airspace, land-based defense of critical infrastructure and key assets, and use of military forces to protect from attack when directed by the President or	Sources—DOD Joint Publication 3-27—“Homeland Defense” and www.dod.mil/policy/sections/policy_offices/hd/index.html .	The <i>National Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support</i> calls for securing the United States from attack through an active, layered defense in depth.		DOD

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		Secretary of Defense				
53. homeland security	concerted national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur	includes actions to prepare for, protect against, prevent, respond to, and recover from all threats or acts of terrorism	While the Department of Homeland Security is the lead Federal agency for mitigating vulnerabilities, threats and incidents from terrorism; its responsibilities also include preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, stemming drug flows, thwarting fraudulent immigration, strengthening border security, promoting the free flow of commerce, and maintaining civil rights.	"Homeland security requires a truly national effort, with shared goals and responsibilities for protecting and defending the Homeland." <i>(National Strategy for Homeland Security – Oct. 2007)</i>		ESEC
54. implementing document	supplemental information that provide guidance, technical or programmatic in nature, which assist in implementing Policy Statements, Directives, and Instructions	None	None	Certain DHS Directives will also have an implementation document to provide the guidance needed for implementation.		DHS Direction No. 112-01

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
55. incident	occurrence, caused by either human action or natural phenomena, that requires action to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources	includes major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, law enforcement encounters and other occurrences requiring a mitigating response	Incidents should not be confused with scheduled non-emergency activities as defined in the term “event.”	The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for reducing the risk of any catastrophic incident.		ESEC
56. incident management	management and coordination of prevention, protection, and emergency management activities associated with a specific threat, or an actual occurrence	includes, for example, major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, specific threats of terrorist attacks, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, cyber attacks, and any other occurrences	The Secretary of Homeland Security has overall responsibility for domestic incident management per HSPD-5.	The Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture were actively engaged in incident management with respect to the potential foot and mouth disease this past summer, which threatened a potential outbreak in the United States but did not result in such an occurrence.		ESEC
57. information requirement	specific data and processing specifications needed to complete a process	None	Is utilized to declare a standardized approach for defining the necessary data and summations necessary in order to promote analysis for consistency and quality	The information requirements for the new document tracking system identified specific needs to support diverse business processes.		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
58. information sharing	exchange between entities or individuals of data, information or knowledge stored within discrete information systems or created spontaneously using collaborative communication technologies	None	Information sharing is not simply ensuring the proper, appropriate, and timely dissemination of the product. It includes sharing information throughout all phases of the cycle—collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination. For instance, full sharing of watch list data in the pre-processing phase should continue with agencies sharing analytical observations to arrive at the proper conclusion about a possible threat. In the intelligence and enforcement communities, information sharing primarily relates to the sharing of intelligence data between multiple agencies; this is often deemed to be information matching and usually requires enabling legislation in order for agencies to operate this process	A recent development in information sharing has been the agreement between the U.S. and European Union to exchange airline passenger name records.		ESEC
59. information system	discrete set of defined procedures and information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information	a business application of a computer made up of the database, application program, and manual and machine procedures, and encompasses the computer system that does the processing	The key distinction between an information system and any type of embedded device or sensor is necessarily the level of complexity involved and the applicability to multiple end users. See: 44. U.S.C. § 3502(8).	An organization's procurement, payroll, inventory or accounts payable systems are each an example of an "information system."		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
60. information technology	equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment, used in the automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information	includes computers, ancillary equipment, software, still images, motion pictures, multimedia presentations, and related resources	Information Technology (IT) is an umbrella term for the entire computer industry and its latest moniker (e.g., IT) and includes the technology of computers, telecommunications, and other devices that integrate data, equipment, personnel, and problem-solving methods in planning and controlling business or operational activities. Information technology provides the means for collecting, storing, encoding, processing, analyzing, transmitting, receiving, and printing text, audio, or video information. See 40 U.S.C. § 11101(6).	Information technology is a critical component to the intelligence aspects of the DHS mission.		ESEC
61. inspect	critical examination and appraisal of a person, place or thing	either by physical or technological means, to confirm standards and/or laws are met and to detect violations of standards and/or laws or other deviations from a norm for regulatory authorities; it is the act of administering an official review of various criteria (such as documents, facilities, records, and any other assets) that are deemed by the authority to be related to the inspection	None	TSA screeners are on alert for explosive materials when they inspect carryon luggage.		ESEC
62. instruction	uniform procedures and/or prescription of the manner or a specific plan or action for carrying out	None	Instructions are used to implement or supplement DHS Directives, Executive Orders, regulations (Code of	The instruction document contained unambiguous text and detailed		DHS Directive No. 112-01

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	the policy, operating a program or activity, and assigning responsibilities		Federal Regulations) and Federal Register notices.	illustrations helping expedite installation.		
63. insular area	commonwealth, freely associated state, possession or territory controlled by the United States government that is neither a part of one of the fifty states nor a part of the District of Columbia	None	Insular areas may be described as dependencies, protectorates or dependent areas. Dependent areas need not be under the formal jurisdiction of the United States, but excludes areas that are clearly part of or governed by another state.	Guam is an insular area of the United States.		Immigration Data Community of Interest
64. intelligence community	certain designated Federal government agencies, services, bureaus, or other organizations that play a role in the gathering or use of national intelligence	includes a broad range of personnel in government, the private sector and military, both domestic and foreign, including gatherers, analysts, and end-users of intelligence information.	In the U.S., “[t]he term ‘intelligence community’ includes the following: (A) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence; (B) The Central Intelligence Agency; (C) The National Security Agency; (D) The Defense Intelligence Agency; (E) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; (F) The National Reconnaissance Office; (G) Other offices within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized national intelligence through reconnaissance programs; (H) The intelligence elements of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Energy; (I) The Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State; (J)	Information sharing among members of the United States intelligence community is critical to the success of their collective mission.		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
			The Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury; (K) The elements of the Department of Homeland Security concerned with the analysis of intelligence information, including the Office of Intelligence of the Coast Guard; (L) Such other elements of any other department or agency as may be designated by the President, or designated jointly by the Director of National Intelligence and the head of the department or agency concerned, as an element of the intelligence community.” National Security Act of 1947, Sec. 3, para. (4), as amended. The Intelligence Community was established by Executive Order 12333, enacted on December 4, 1981, by President Ronald Reagan.			
65. interdependency	mutually reliant relationship between entities (objects, individuals, or groups)	a relationship where the consequences of a positive or an adverse event affecting one will have cascading effects upon others	The degree of interdependency does not need to be equal in both directions. For example, public network telecommunications systems may be more dependent on the power grid than the power grid is dependent on public network telecommunications systems.	Today, the mission of one institution can be accomplished only by recognizing that it lives in a world of interdependency with conflicts and overlapping interests.		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
66. interoperability	ability of systems, personnel, and equipment to provide and receive functionality, data, information and/or services to and from other systems, personnel, and equipment, between both public and private agencies, departments, and other organizations, in a manner enabling them to operate effectively together	in the realm of information technology, refers to the ability of computer different systems or databases to exchange data in a commonly understood format and the ability to act upon such data without manual intervention	None	Ensuring optimum interoperability during an incident response is the most critical requirement for DHS.		ESEC
67. intervention	immediate action taken to confront, resolve or reduce impact by way of hindrance or modification	None	Intervention is an effect, or force, action that modifies a situation or condition. An intervention is a process that modifies behavior or the outcome of an event.	Prompt intervention by the local Emergency Director prevented the incident from becoming a major disaster.		ESEC
68. key resource	publicly or privately controlled asset necessary for the continuity of minimal government or economic operations or an asset that is of great historical significance to the Nation	an essential source of supply, support, information or expertise, may be a physical asset (energy plant or other building), cyber in nature (www/internet) or human (intelligence) whose destruction would not necessarily endanger vital systems, but could create a local disaster or profoundly damage our Nation's morale or confidence	This includes national symbols or historical attractions - such as prominent national, state, or local monuments and icons, and individual or localized facilities that deserve special protection because of their destructive potential or their value to the local community. Homeland Security Act, 6 U.S.C. § 101(9)	The Pentagon is considered a key resource as a physical asset, a repository of cyber-intelligence, and a national symbol.		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
69. law enforcement	activity directed toward the preservation of public order and safety, including protection of persons and property (real and other) in accordance with a statutory authority	includes efforts as authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law, and has statutory powers of arrest. (Derived from statutory definitions of law enforcement officer, see e.g., 42 U.S.C. 3746dd-8 and 18 U.S.C. 926.)	None	One challenge for a free society is to provide effective law enforcement without impinging on the rights and freedoms of its citizens.		ESEC
70. local government	public entities responsible for the security and welfare of a designated area as established by law	includes county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments; regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, a native village or native cooperation; or a rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity; State governments are separate entities and are not included in the definition of local government	Reference: 6 USC 101(10)(B); 6 USC 101(10)(C); 42 USC 5122(6)(C); Section 2 (10) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, et seq. (2002).; National Response Plan; National Incident Management System.	Local government plays a key role in establishing resources and priorities in preparedness and preparation activities in our Nation's counties and cities.		ESEC

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71. major disaster	natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby	None	Sec. 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), as amended by Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000	Hurricane Katrina was a major disaster.		ESEC
72. major event	planned, non-emergency activity that draws national attention	a significant or designated non-emergency activity requiring additional security, such as inaugurations, State of the Union addresses, the Olympics, and international summit conferences	A National Special Security Event (NSSE) is a major event declared by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assume Federal control of security measures normally employed by local law enforcement. It also releases Federal funding for security plans.	The NFL's Super Bowl is a major event.		ESEC

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73. major hazard	natural or human-induced phenomenon that has the potential for significant and substantial harm to human health, property, activity, and/or animals or the environment	None	A major disaster requires the President to declare that there is or will be damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship or suffering caused thereby.	As it began to gain strength in the Gulf of Mexico, Hurricane Katrina soon became viewed as a potentially major hazard.		ESEC
74. man-made disaster	human-caused incident resulting in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries	includes such events as airplane accidents, nuclear disasters, oil spills, structural flaws or failures, war, genocide, terrorist attacks	None	Poorly engineered gaps and erosion of weak construction materials accelerated and deepened flooding already under way, hampering rescue efforts in the wake of the storm making this at least partially, a man-made disaster.		ESEC
75. memo	message providing an abbreviated level of information	None	None	The memo from the US Secret Service advised of a hoax being planned to disrupt TSA services at a local airport.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group
76. mitigation	ongoing and sustained action to reduce the probability of, or lessen the impact of an adverse incident	actions may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident occurrence	Mitigation measures may include zoning and building codes, floodplain buyouts, and analysis of hazard-related data to determine where it is safe to build or locate temporary facilities. Mitigation can include	Through the use of mitigation measures, the impact of the tsunami on the local population was greatly reduced.		ESEC

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			efforts to educate governments, businesses, and the public on measures they can take to reduce loss and injury. Technical measures can include the development of technologies that result in mitigation and can be used to support mitigation strategy.			
77. multilateral	involving more than two distinct entities	None	This term almost expressly refers to two or more nations working in concert with a common purpose or goal. Economic treaties, joint military actions, and international organizations are all examples of “multilateral” efforts. Although most commonly used in international relations, multilateral can also refer to alliances and agreements between DHS and other governmental and non-governmental entities.	The United Nations is an example of a multilateral organization.		ESEC
78. national security	comprehensive program of integrated policies and procedures for the Departments, agencies, and functions of the United States Government aimed at protecting the territory, population, infrastructure, institutions, values, and global interests of the Nation	None	Refer to 50 U.S.C. §401	Al-Qaeda’s capabilities and its declared promise to destroy the United States create high potential for a future attack with grave consequences, making the organization a threat to national security.		ESEC

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79. notification (message)	message apprising an entity or individual of incident, event or threat information and generally notifies recipients of an emergency situation	None	Notifications may occur at any time throughout the lifecycle of an incident, event or threat.	The notification provided terrorism information across the Information Sharing Environment.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group
80. physical inspection	manual examination or search, with or without assisting detection technologies, to resolve anomalies, to confirm adherence to standards or compliance with laws, or to detect threats	for passengers and cargo, includes cavity search on passenger, pat-down, visual inspection, devanning of containers, etc.	None	During the physical inspection of a passenger at JFK, TSA personnel identified the presence of explosive materials and prevented a disaster.		ESEC
81. policy	directive body of rules intended to influence decisions and actions	None	Doctrine encompasses the fundamental principles which guide an organization and “shapes the effort.” Policy includes the process implemented through plans and procedures towards realization of doctrine and “guides the effort.” Strategy is the course of action to achieve policy goals and “accomplishes the effort.”	Policy can take the form of instructions, directives, and memorandums submitted from the Secretary of DHS to the Components to guide them in the execution of homeland security efforts.		ESEC
82. policy statement	declaration setting forth particulars that address the overarching objective of a entity’s major initiative or program	None	Within DHS, policy statements may or may not trigger the issuance of a Directive and are issued by or at the direction of the Secretary of Homeland Security, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, or Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security			DHS Directive No. 112-01
83. preparedness	activities necessary to build, sustain, and	activities and measures designed or undertaken to	Preparedness is a continuous process	DHS works with State, local and tribal		ESEC

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	improve readiness capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from natural or man-made incidents	prepare for or minimize the effects of a natural or man-made hazard upon the civilian population, to deal with the immediate emergency conditions that would be created by the hazard, and to effectuate emergency repairs to, or the emergency restoration of, vital utilities and facilities destroyed or damaged by the hazard; is a continuous operationally focused process for establishing guidelines, protocols, and standards for planning, training and exercises, personnel qualification and certification, equipment certification, and publication management	involving efforts at all levels of government and between government and private sector and nongovernmental organizations to identify threats, determine vulnerabilities, and identify required resources to prevent, respond to, and recover from major incidents. Preparedness refers to the existence of plans, procedures, policies, training, and the resources and equipment necessary at the Federal, State, local and tribal level to maximize the ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from incidents.	entities with regard to their emergency preparedness.		
84. President's Volunteer Service Award	program to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service	created by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation	None	The President's Volunteer Service Award may be used to recognize employees who participate in volunteer activities.		DHS Directive No. 254-01
85. prevention	actions taken and measures put in place for the continual assessment and readiness of necessary actions to reduce risk of threats and vulnerabilities, to intervene and stop an occurrence, or to mitigate effects	involves prescribed actions and measures put in place to impede the success of a natural or man-made disaster from adversely affecting the safety, security, or continuity of the Nation, critical infrastructures its citizens, and citizen's civil rights or civil liberties	Intelligence information is used to prevent terrorist attacks by taking steps such as analyzing and exploiting information to prevent or hinder efforts that would negatively affect the homeland. Applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as	DHS personnel consistently participate in community meetings to emphasize prevention strategies, vigilance, and public awareness.		ESEC

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			heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; and law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity. Includes offensive steps to target and preclude the movement, deployment and integration efforts of terrorists and other criminals prior to their attack on a system/infrastructure; stop or hinder an action; make an event or action impossible, or largely ineffectual, by removing the necessary conditions.			
86. private sector	individuals, and entities, including for-profit and non-profit, which are not part of any government	includes individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships, associations, and corporations, private voluntary organizations and non-public educational institutions, as well as all other nonprofit institutions	Private sector does not include any, Federal, State, territorial, local, or tribal governments, or any of their affiliated organizations in the US or abroad. Reference: 2 USC 658(9).	Programs such as the Container Security Initiative and the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism are examples of cooperative efforts between the U.S. Government and the private sector to combat terrorism.		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
87. protection	actions or measures taken to cover or shield from exposure, injury, or destruction	includes such actions and measures needed to ensure protective reactions do not unnecessarily interfere with citizen's freedoms and liberties	To take defensive steps designed to provide the last line of defense to stop an attack if preventative actions are unable to preclude a terrorist or criminal operation from being initiated; to shield or safeguard; to keep from harm, injury or attack. To safeguard our people and their freedoms, critical infrastructure, property and the economy of our nation from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.	Federal Protective Service agents provide physical protection for Federal buildings and personnel across the nation.		ESEC
88. protective action	step taken before, during, or after an incident designed to prevent, minimize, or contain impact of incident	methods for selecting the best actions within the time constraints of a fast-moving emergency; measures describe preparations taken before an emergency situation to ensure implementation is possible during an emergency; includes decision-making and implementation issues to rapidly reduce the effects of an emergency situation or contamination	Protective action involves actions taken to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or	Anticipating a release from the derailed chlorine tanker, a protective action for the evacuation of the areas within two miles downwind of the site had been ordered by the County Emergency Director.		ESEC

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			disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.			
89. quarantine	prohibition or restriction on travel or passage, imposed to keep contagious diseases, or harmful chemicals/biologicals from spreading	None	Quarantine is not the same as isolation. Isolation refers to the separation of persons who have a specific infectious illness from those who are healthy and the restriction of their movement to stop the spread of that illness. Isolation allows for the focused delivery of specialized health care to people who are ill, and it protects healthy people from getting sick. In sum, isolation is for treatment of a known illness and quarantine is for observation of possible exposure to an agent.	The ship was kept in quarantine after the discovery of a rat onboard carrying bubonic plague.		ESEC
90. radicalization	process of adopting an extremist belief system	may include the willingness to use, support, or facilitate violence as a method to effect societal change	None	The radicalization of inmates in our prisons is of major concern.		ESEC
91. radiological	emitting radiant energy in the form of particles or rays, as alpha, beta, and gamma rays, by the spontaneous disintegration of atomic nuclei	usually used for peaceful purposes such as X-ray machines, but may be used in weaponry to cause harm	None	Al-Qaeda is seeking to obtain a radiological device that would cause mass casualties.		ESEC
92. readiness	condition of being prepared and capable to act or respond as required	None	None	The readiness of DHS is measured by its capability to respond to terrorism.		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
93. refugee	status granted to an individual prior to departure for and arrival in the United States that has been determined by competent authority to be fleeing persecution or have a well-founded fear of persecution in their own country because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion	None	The term "refugee" means (A) any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, or (B) in such special circumstances as the President after appropriate consultation (as defined in section 1157(e) of this title) may specify, any person who is within the country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, within the country in which such person is habitually residing, and who is persecuted or who has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The term "refugee" does not include any person	A person who fears persecution in their country of nationality may ask to come to the United States as a refugee.		Immigration Data Community of Interest

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
			who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. For purposes of determinations under this chapter, a person who has been forced to abort a pregnancy or to undergo involuntary sterilization, or who has been persecuted for failure or refusal to undergo such a procedure or for other resistance to a coercive population control program, shall be deemed to have been persecuted on account of political opinion, and a person who has a well founded fear that he or she will be forced to undergo such a procedure or subject to persecution for such failure, refusal, or resistance shall be deemed to have a well founded fear of persecution on account of political opinion. [Source 8 U.S.C.A. § 1101(a)(42).]			

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94. regionalism	principle or system of defining a geographic area consisting of all or parts of 2 or more contiguous countries, States, counties, municipalities, or other local governmental jurisdictions or tribal entities for pooled resources or mutual-aid agreements; is also common within the collaboration of private-sector operations	can be further described as a sense of common interest and identity across an extended area, involving multi-jurisdictional entities, to address areas of mutual needs and concerns	When related to emergency preparedness and response, regionalism allows for the pooling and distribution of resources and capacity to address the burden of inadequate resources. In a regional model, the resource rich areas can share with the resource poor area.	In developing a broad-based rapid response capability to any incident, regionalism is an important consideration.		ESEC
95. resilience	ability to recover from, or adjust to, adversity or change	the ability of systems, infrastructures, government, business, and citizenry to absorb and/or quickly recover from an adverse event or series of events caused by attack or natural disaster which may cause harm, destruction, or loss of national significance and to restore minimum essential operations and reduce the consequences of its degradation or failure regardless of its cause	Resilience is determined by the degree to which the social system is capable of organizing itself to increase its capacity for learning from past disasters for better future protection and to improve risk reduction measures. Includes: 1) immediate efforts to coordinate, execute, and plan to restore operations and services for various reasons, and 2) immediate evaluation of an incident to identify lessons learned, post incident reporting and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.	The county was able to recover quickly from the disaster because of the resilience of their governmental support systems.		ESEC

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96. risk management	process of measuring or assessing the vulnerability to hazards, threats, or dangers, and subsequent development of strategies to minimize the overall levels of each	process includes identification, analysis, mitigation plan development, testing, evaluation of safeguards, security review, and monitoring	Risk management primarily strives to reduce or eliminate risk through mitigative measures (avoiding the risk or reducing the negative effect of the risk), but also includes the concepts of acceptance and/or transfer of responsibility for the risk as appropriate. Risk management principles acknowledge that, while risk often cannot be eliminated, actions can usually be taken to reduce risk.	Risk management framework establishes the process for combining consequence, vulnerability, and threat information to produce a comprehensive, systematic, and rational assessment of risk that drives risk reduction activities.		ESEC
97. screening	systematic examination or assessment, done especially to detect a potential threat or risk or any particular substance, attribute, person, or undesirable material	includes methods that agencies use to investigate locations or geographic areas, or an applicant's background to identify potential security risks and the degree/extent of the investigation may vary based on access/position requirements	None	"Passing" a screening process typically means that the person or entity is allowed entrance to a controlled area, or is allowed to proceed without detention (e.g. at a drunk-drivers checkpoint).		ESEC
98. secure	to gain possession of and/or to ensure protection from unauthorized use, harm, loss or risk	to reduce risk and protect information and/or critical infrastructure from a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other type of incident, either malicious or unintentional	The collective use of programs, plans, and procedures designed to protect the Nation's citizenry and infrastructures from malevolent attack and ensuring the continuation of normal operations.	Classified telephone discussions must be conducted using secure equipment.		ESEC
99. seizure	taking physical possession and/or control of property, merchandise or other articles from the possession or control of	includes confiscation of cash, real estate, or vehicles, etc., and/or assumption of unclaimed or abandoned property	Usually requires law enforcement to obtain a search warrant before engaging in any form of search and seizure;	The seizure of the container of farm equipment destined for Singapore was precipitated by the		ESEC

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	an individual or establishment		however, in the context of immigration and customs border search authorities, searches and seizures at Ports-of-Entry are warrantless.	discovery of illegal computer equipment.		
100. shelter-in-place	taking emergency refuge within the nearest designated safe area until notification or determination that the situation has been resolved	a precaution intended to keep people safe while remaining indoors where the shelter area is preferably a small interior room with no windows and may require efforts of sealing all cracks or openings with tape or other materials	Sheltering-in-place is used when evacuating the public would cause greater risk than staying where they are, or when an evacuation cannot be performed.	The preferred locations for any shelter-in-place action are interior rooms of the building that have no windows.		ESEC
101. strategy	statement for a course of action or actions to be taken in order to achieve objective(s)	None	Doctrine encompasses the fundamental principles which guide an organization and “shapes the effort.” Policy includes the process implemented through plans and procedures towards realization of doctrine and “guides the effort.” Strategy is the course of action to achieve policy goals and “accomplishes the effort.”	The Department used a strategy that integrated all available resources as effectively as possible to achieve its goals.		ESEC
102. surveillance	systematic observation or monitoring of areas, places, persons, or things	None	None	Border surveillance is a key element of an effective immigration enforcement policy.		ESEC
103. sustain	to support, supply, and maintain the necessary level and duration of activity to achieve a given objective	to maintain operations in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other type of incident of national significance, either malicious or unintentional; and to provide, on a continual basis, the resources (people, funding,	To physically maintain the integrity and operational capacity of the nation’s critical systems, infrastructures, and their ability to function properly under any circumstances particularly during a period	DHS will be a driving force to sustain and/or restore critical infrastructure.		ESEC

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		etc.) necessary to build, maintain and employ emergency response capabilities, as well as maintaining civil rights and liberties	of recovery associated with and immediately following an adverse event or series of events caused by attack or natural disaster. Maintain effective support at critical or alternate locations in spite of natural or man-made disasters.			
104. system	combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common organizational structure to achieve a single mission or outcome	None	None	A system of checks and balances assures consistency in response.		ESEC
105. targeting	process of establishing various parameters to identify particular types of products, individuals, groups of people, or other entities for a specific purpose	focus of identification is based upon particular characteristics, models, or patterns, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, or religion	The selection of specific persons (or other entities) from a general population. May be based on how well the observed or otherwise associated attributes of the individual match a pattern/model of attributes that is believed to be an efficient identifier of a specific set of persons or entities.	Cargo from the Caribbean might have historically higher incidences of seized marijuana, resulting in future targeting of Caribbean shipments for possible inspection over less risky source countries.		ESEC
106. technology	a manner, object or sequence of operations for accomplishing a task especially using technical processes, methods, or knowledge	refers to the body of advanced know-how about the means and methods of producing goods and services; is increasingly science-based, but also includes methods of organization as well as physical technique	Technology consists of tools, methods or systems developed and used to enable or automate.	DHS TSA utilizes technology for security (e.g., passenger and checked baggage) and screening and access control (e.g., intruder detection, anti-piggybacking, etc.).		ESEC

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TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
107. terrorism	premeditated threat or act of violence, against noncombatant persons, property, environmental, or economic targets, to induce fear or to intimidate, coerce or affect a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political, social, ideological, or religious objectives	usually conducted by an organization with an identifiable chain of command or conspiratorial cell structure, whose members are considered a sub-national or non-state entity	The term “terrorism” means any activity that (A) involves an act that (i) is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; and (ii) is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States; and (B) appears to be intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping (Homeland Security Act of 2002). For additional reference, also see: 28 C.F.R. Section 0.85; Title 22 of the US Code, Section 2656f(d); 6 USC 101(15); 8 USC § 1182 (a)(3)(B); 18 U.S.C.A. § 921 (22); 18 U.S.C.A. § 2331; 18 U.S.C.A. § 2332b; 18 U.S.C.A. § 3077; 22 U.S.C.A. § 2656f; 49 U.S.C.A. § 44703; 50 U.S.C. 1801 (c); 6 CFR +25.9; 27 C.F.R. § 478.11; and 31 CFR 594.311.	Protecting the United States against acts of terrorism is the Department of Homeland Security’s primary focus.		ESEC
108. threat	entity, action, or occurrence, whether natural or man-made, that has or indicates the	includes capabilities, intentions, and attack methods of adversaries used to exploit and circumstances or	None	There is a high threat of an asymmetrical attack using conventional		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
	potential to pose violence or danger to life, information, operations and/or property	occurrences with the intent to cause harm		weapons by al-Qaeda upon a U.S. infrastructure of critical importance both now and in the foreseeable future.		
109. tiering	system of organization utilizing ranked levels to sort information or things	None	Arranging something in rows, layers, levels or ranks, to indicate differences between tiers.	DHS is <i>tiering</i> chemical facilities into one of four preliminary risk-based tiers based on the information submitted by the facilities using the Chemical Security Assessment Tool Top-Screen.		ESEC
110. transnational infrastructure	public or private systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, used and maintained by more than one country or which cross international borders	includes the framework of interdependent networks and systems comprising identifiable industries, institutions (including people and procedures), and distribution capabilities that provide reliable flow of products and services, including transportation, communication, banking, finance, agriculture, food, water, energy, public health, emergency services, etc., essential to the national and economic security of neighboring countries, and facilitating worldwide government operations, global commerce, trade, and international communication.	Industrialized societies are built upon a highly networked, interdependent system of infrastructures connected across national boundaries. These infrastructures often form the basis for the communication, energy distribution and transportation systems upon which the citizenry rely.	Examples of a transnational infrastructure include the Russia-Europe natural gas pipeline, the electric grid serving the northern United States and Canada, international air routes, and shipping lanes or channels that cross territorial waters of more than one country.		ESEC
111. Volunteer	Non-obligatory service to	includes churches and other	None	Component heads or		DHS

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Community Service	a public entity or a private nonprofit organization that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and this is engaged in meeting human, educational, or environmental community needs	religious entities and community action agencies		designees may approve up to 40 hours of administrative leave each leave period for the performance of volunteer community service when the absence is directly related to the mission of DHS is specific mission areas.		Directive No. 254-01
112. vulnerability	weakness, condition or quality of being open to exploitation, or exposed to natural or man-made threats, harm or attack	considered weaknesses of design, location, security posture, operation, or any combination thereof, that render an asset susceptible to disruption, destruction, or exploitation	Vulnerability can occur in building characteristics, equipment properties, personnel behavior, locations of people/equipment/buildings, and/or operational and personnel practices.	Protecting America's critical infrastructure and key resources will not only make the United States more secure from terrorist attack, it will also reduce its vulnerability to natural disasters, organized crime, and computer hackers.		ESEC
113. warning (message)	message providing notice of an imminent threat, or sign of impending hazard, risk or incident posing a threat to life or property	is specific and actionable rather than merely stating a general concern about a potential event; provides notice for emergency response personnel and the public to the threat of extraordinary danger and related effects that specific hazards may cause	Warnings provide direction about an ongoing emergency situation that requires immediate action to protect life, health, and property.	A threat warning provides information about an existing or developing threat that may lead to an incident.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group
114. watch (message)	message by the National Weather Service indicating that, in a defined area, conditions are favorable for a specified type of severe	used when the risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location, and/or timing is still uncertain	The declaration of a watch is intended to provide enough lead time so that those who need to set their plans in motion can do so.	When the tornado watch was declared all residents took the appropriate actions.	None	Alert, Warning and Notification Working Group

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	weather					
115. watch list	a compilation of identified data attributes necessary to support activities addressing specific issues of concern	information is published or disseminated on a regular basis to appropriate entities for action	Particular watch lists include information on specific topics such as financial and operational information, people, organizations, items/goods, infestations, activities, etc., and may also include intelligence analysis of the information. NOTE: The term watch list is being defined as a general term. Specific types of watch lists will be defined in the future to address the differences in the type of information contained in the particular list.	Several individuals were not allowed to board the aircraft because their names appeared on the No-Fly watch list.		ESEC
116. weapon of mass destruction	weapon capable of a high order of destruction and/or of being used in such a manner as to destroy large numbers of people or an amount of property	None	Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332a (c) 2: (A) any destructive device as defined in section 921 of this title; (B) any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors; (C) any weapon involving a biological agent, toxin, or vector (as those terms are defined in section 178 of this title); or (D) any weapon that is designed to release radiation or	A weapon of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists is one of the gravest threats we face.		ESEC

TERM	DEFINITION	EXTENDED DEFINITION	ANNOTATION	EXAMPLE	SYNONYM	SOURCE
			radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life			
117. WMD detection technology	electronic and/or mechanical means used to assist in the discovery and identification of a weapon of mass destruction or components thereof	includes sensory gathering, imaging, radiation detection, etc.	None	The new “Rad/Nuke” WMD detection technology placed in Honduras and Pakistan is critical to implement the DHS requirement for early detection.		ESEC