

Preparedness Directorate Information Bulletin No. 224 November 21, 2006

TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads

All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact

All State Homeland Security Directors

All Urban Area Core City/Core County Points of Contact

FROM: Jim Kish

Senior Director, Exercise and Evaluation Division

Preparedness Directorate, Department of Homeland Security

SUBJECT: National Exercise Schedule System

The Preparedness Directorate is pleased to announce the activation of the new National Exercise Schedule (NEXS) System. The NEXS is a compilation of all national-level, federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial exercises. The new NEXS System, located on the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) website (https://hseep.dhs.gov), allows users to schedule exercises and view the existing calendar and customized reports (e.g., list of pandemic influenza exercises scheduled in a state).

Federal departments and agencies, states, and territories designated Exercise Administrative Authorities (EAAs) responsible for approving users and publishing all exercises for their organization in the NEXS System. Designated EAAs have been trained on the use of the system through numerous on-line sessions. Additional opportunities to attend training sessions are available.

The Exercise Scheduler compartment of the Centralized Scheduling Information System (CSIS), which resides on the Office of Grants and Training (G&T) Secure Portal, will be deactivated. From this point forward, please schedule all new exercises in the NEXS System.

Per FY '05 and FY '06 Homeland Security Grant Program guidance, State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) are required to schedule all exercises through the NEXS System, so that it can accurately reflect all the exercises (e.g., REP, CSEPP, public health, transit, port security, etc.) occurring throughout the nation.

If CSIS was used to upload After Action Report/Improvement Plans (AAR/IPs), please use the library on the G&T Portal to upload AAR/IPs into your respective state folder.

In the future, users will be able to input AAR/IPs through a Corrective Action Program (CAP) System. The NEXS System, Design and Development System and CAP System comprise the HSEEP Toolkit. These systems will be integrated so that users will be able to schedule their exercises in the NEXS System, plan their exercises in the Design and Development System, and report and track corrective actions in the CAP System.

If you have any questions related to this information bulletin, please email: nexs@dhs.gov.