

National Capital Region (NCR) 2022 Regional Guidance

NCR PROFILE

The NCR encompasses twenty-four local jurisdictions within the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland, as well as state and federal partners. In a regional system, each sovereign jurisdiction must coordinate, share information, and allocate resources when needed during mutual aid events that require situational awareness. The NCR possesses a distinct risk profile that reflects the region's unique operating environment. In addition to bearing risks associated with any large American population and commercial center, the NCR carries substantial symbolic importance as the physical hub of American political and military power, making the region a particularly attractive terrorist target. The region's concentration of residents, tourists, jurisdictions, authorities, critical infrastructure, wealth, cultural touchstones, and commercial facilities is unlike any other region in the United States.

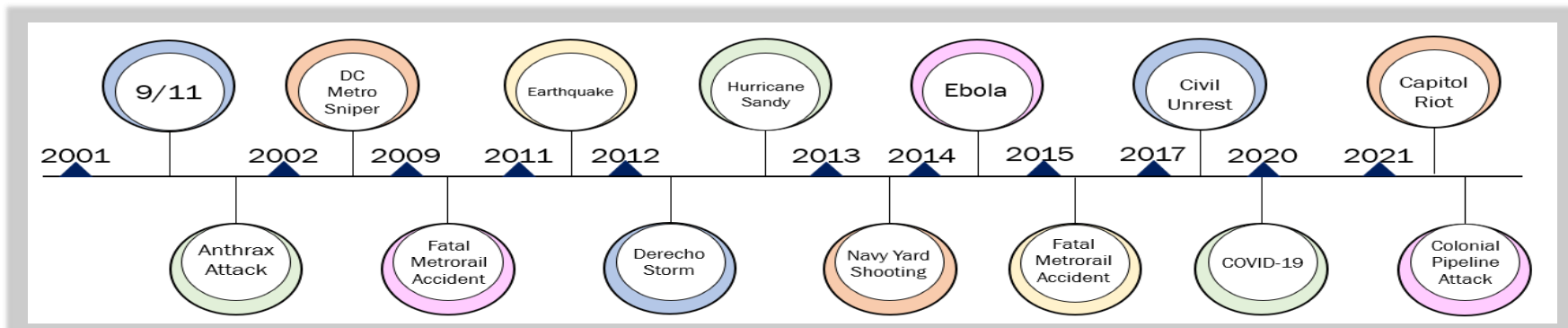
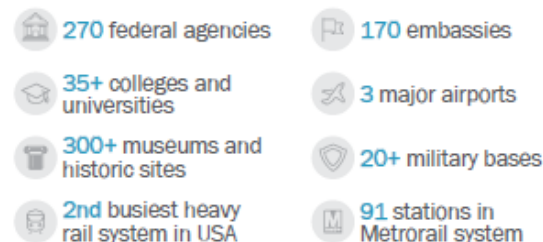
RECENT EVENTS IN THE NCR

The NCR has endured numerous natural and man-made crises in recent years that led to extensive examinations of and changes to the NCR's preparedness efforts, priorities, and overall coordination. NCR stakeholders continue their commitment to learn from each emergency and work regionally to emulate key successes and correct critical failures.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION SNAPSHOT



THE NCR IS HOME TO...



KNOWN THREATS IN THE NCR¹

- ⇒ **Terrorism threats**, particularly domestic violent extremist (DVE) attacks.
- ⇒ **Cybersecurity**, and the NCR's reliance on inter-connected systems and equipment, particularly the threat of ransomware and distributed denial of service (DDOS) attacks to vulnerable critical infrastructure assets.
- ⇒ **Civil unrest** and acts of violence regionally and nationally, particularly politically motivated unrest in the NCR.
- ⇒ **Public health emergencies**, including COVID-19, H1N1, etc. and associated vaccination and testing efforts, reopening strategies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and supply chain management.
- ⇒ **Weather patterns and natural hazards**, including rising water levels and extreme heat and cold.

NCR 2022 Regional Guidance

The NCR Regional Guidance is intended to help drive regional strategic investments and assist local jurisdictions incorporate regional priorities into local planning efforts. The Regional Guidance also informs local, state, and federal stakeholders to work towards common regional objectives.

The goal of the regional priorities is to effectively build and sustain capabilities, mitigate or close capability gaps, drive strategic investments, and buy-down risk across the region. The future state outcomes build towards the realization of the identified priorities. The regional priorities and future state outcomes were developed by the Advisory Council based on discussions with the Regional Emergency Support Functions (RESF) and Regional Programmatic Working Groups (RPWG), also known as the subject-matter expert (SME) universe. The Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC) reviewed and approved the priorities and future state outcomes in October 2021.

2022 Regional Priorities and Future State Outcomes

OPERATIONAL COORDINATION

Priority Statement: Regional coordination of capabilities and resources for an effective operational response to incidents in the NCR.

- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Strengthened regional governance, policies, and processes for coordinated response operations during large-scale, multi-jurisdictional incidents.
- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Coordinated regional information-sharing and integration of intelligence analysis among regional stakeholders, before, during, and after incidents.
- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Standardized regional governance, policy, and equipment for the operationalization and maintenance of interoperable communications.

CYBERSECURITY

Priority Statement: Regional approach to prevention, mitigation, and response to cyber events.

- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Mechanism and associated governance to increase the coordination of cyber threat analysis across the region and the sharing of time-sensitive information on cyber events with regional partners.
- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Regional methodology to strengthen critical infrastructure against cyber events, including cross-discipline and cascading supply chain impacts.

WORKFORCE

Priority Statement: A quality, diverse, and effective workforce across public safety disciplines in the NCR, with an emphasis on recruitment, retention, mental wellness, and leadership development.

- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Identification of challenges and solutions to workforce recruitment, training, and retention across public safety disciplines.
- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Regional commitment to new and ongoing mental health and wellness initiatives in the public safety disciplines.
- ⇒ **Future State Outcome:** Leadership development training for future leaders in public safety disciplines to ensure an ongoing commitment to regionalism, knowledge sharing, and succession planning in the NCR.



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NEXT STEPS

The Advisory Council assigns the priorities and future state outcomes to existing or new time-limited working groups that will work to identify comprehensive solution strategies. Solution strategies, which are funding agnostic and include funded projects, policies, tactical operations, etc., will provide a roadmap for the multi-step process to build, sustain, or close capability gaps and achieve future state outcomes. All project proposals must correlate to a solution strategy; it is the role of the assigned working groups to prioritize projects before submission to the Advisory Council and the HSEC.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant is not a sustainable or sufficient method of resourcing regional initiatives and addressing regional priorities. The HSEC will explore a variety of funding options, including the UASI grant; local jurisdictional budgets; other grant funding opportunities; federal support (e.g., Emergency Communications Division, DHS); university partnerships; and emergency response system (ERS) funding.

The Regional Guidance highlights the importance of fostering collaboration, building trusting relationships, and investing in regional preparedness and response. All NCR homeland security and public safety stakeholders play a critical role in achieving the regional priorities and future state outcomes.



ROLE OF THE NCR HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY

Everyone plays a critical role in fostering collaboration, building trusting relationships, and investing in regional preparedness and response. To be successful, the NCR homeland security and public safety community must maintain a collective regional perspective at the local, state, and federal levels and commit to working collaboratively across jurisdictions and disciplines.

The HSEC is responsible for increasing regional collaboration, demonstrating leadership, considering all solutions to address regional gaps, leveraging local assets to promote cost sharing/savings, and building regional capacity.

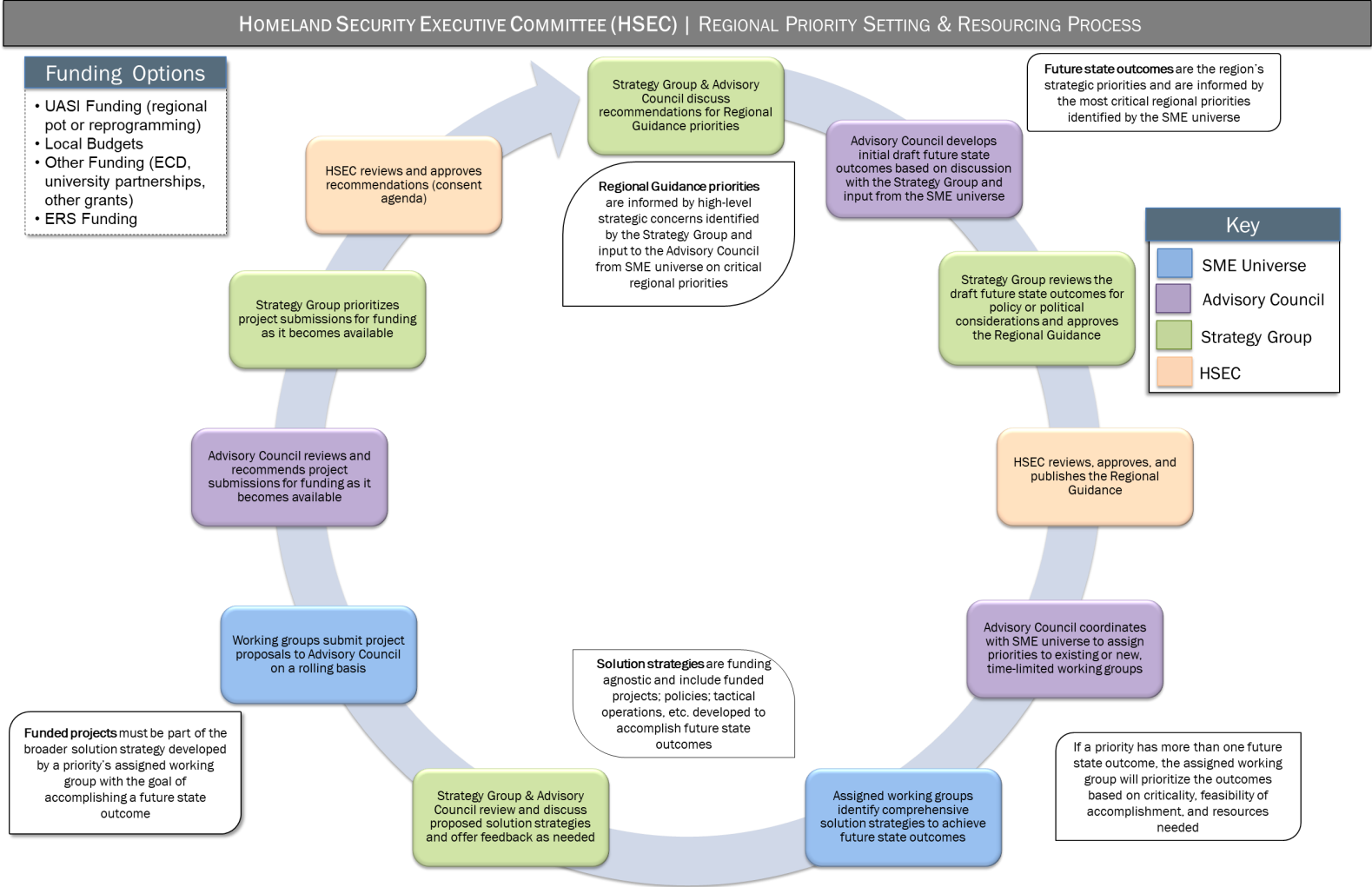
Discipline chiefs, department leaders, and SMEs are responsible for incorporating regional priorities into strategy and work plan development and contributing to the development of programmatic solutions for addressing regional gaps, developing capabilities, and building capacity.

Appointed and elected officials in the NCR should consider a regional perspective and the regional priorities outlined in the Regional Guidance during jurisdictional budget planning cycles.

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REGIONAL PRIORITY SETTING & RESOURCING PROCESS

The graphic below provides a visual of the Regional Priority Setting & Resourcing process. The HSEC acknowledges interdependent priorities; the identified priorities are interdependent and cross-cutting. The HSEC and Advisory Council will leverage the region’s homeland security and public safety SMEs through existing and/or new working groups to develop impactful solutions in service of addressing as many regional priorities as possible. The 2022 regional priorities and future state outcomes were developed in 2021 and will be periodically evaluated by the Advisory Council and HSEC to ensure they remain relevant and progress is made.



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HISTORICAL PRIORITIES OVERVIEW

Published annually since 2017, each iteration of the Region Guidance has been an opportunity to reflect on progress towards identified priorities and for the SME universe to offer input on emerging threats for consideration by the HSEC. The priorities listed below were previously identified by the SME universe. These priorities remain important, and in some cases, have re-emerged as focus areas for the 2022 Regional Guidance. For more information on the historical priorities and milestones achieved see 2021 NCR Regional Guidance document.

2017-2020 PRIORITIES

- Interoperability
- Complex Coordinated Attack (CCA)
- Programmatic Approach to Regional Exercises

2018–2021 PRIORITIES

- Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Situational Assessment
- Cybersecurity
- Operational Coordination

2020–2023 PRIORITIES

- Screening, Search, and Detection
- Interdiction and Disruption
- Impacts of Severe Weather and Natural Hazards

THE HOMELAND SECURITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (HSEC)

The HSEC exists to help jurisdictions anticipate and prepare for situations that require regional coordination and response. Its members are charged with establishing a shared perspective across local, state, and federal decision-makers on the risks and unmet security needs of the region. The intent of regional alignment is to set direction, collect information on threats and opportunities, assess gaps, and determine how to focus resources to address risks.

POETE ELEMENTS

Planning, organizing, equipping, training, and exercises (POETE) are critical and foundational components to mitigating gaps and achieving the future outcomes. As such, the POETE continuum elements are a significant component within the operationalization of each of the priorities.

