



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSURANCE OFFICE

Summary of PDD 62 and PDD 63

The following summary of Presidential Decision Directives 62 and 63 was released by the White House in May 1998. We have mirrored this release here at the CIAO Web site to facilitate access to information about these directives.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 22, 1998

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENTIAL DECISION DIRECTIVES 62 and 63

President Clinton today ordered the strengthening of the nation's defenses against emerging unconventional threats to the United States: terrorist acts, use of weapons of mass destruction, assaults on our critical infrastructures and cyber-attacks.

The Combating Terrorism directive (PDD-62) highlights the growing threat of unconventional attacks against the United States. It details a new and more systematic approach to fighting terrorism by bringing a program management approach to U.S. counter-terrorism efforts.

The directive also establishes the office of the National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection and Counter-Terrorism, which will oversee a broad variety of relevant policies and programs including areas such as counter-terrorism, protection of critical infrastructure, preparedness and consequence management for weapons of mass destruction.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection directive (PDD-63) calls for a national effort to assure the security of the increasingly vulnerable and interconnected infrastructures of the United States. Such infrastructures include telecommunications, banking and finance, energy, transportation, and essential government services. The directive requires immediate federal government action including risk assessment and planning to reduce exposure to attack. It stresses the critical importance of cooperation between the government and the private sector by linking designated agencies with private sector representatives.

For more detailed information on Presidential Decision Directive 63, contact the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office at (703) 696-9395 for copies of the [White Paper on Critical Infrastructure Protection](#).

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CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSURANCE OFFICE

Combatting Terrorism

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May 22, 1998

COMBATING TERRORISM: PRESIDENTIAL DECISION DIRECTIVE 62

Since he took office, President Clinton has made the fight against terrorism a top national security objective. The President has worked to deepen our cooperation with our friends and allies abroad, strengthen law enforcement's counterterrorism tools and improve security on airplanes and at airports. These efforts have paid off as major terrorist attacks have been foiled and more terrorists have been apprehended, tried and given severe prison terms.

Yet America's unrivaled military superiority means that potential enemies -- whether nations or terrorist groups -- that choose to attack us will be more likely to resort to terror instead of conventional military assault. Moreover, easier access to sophisticated technology means that the destructive power available to terrorists is greater than ever. Adversaries may thus be tempted to use unconventional tools, such as weapons of mass destruction, to target our cities and disrupt the operations of our government. They may try to attack our economy and critical infrastructure using advanced computer technology.

President Clinton is determined that in the coming century, we will be capable of deterring and preventing such terrorist attacks. The President is convinced that we must also have the ability to limit the damage and manage the consequences should such an attack occur.

To meet these challenges, President Clinton signed Presidential Decision Directive 62. This Directive creates a new and more systematic approach to fighting the terrorist threat of the next century. It reinforces the mission of the many U.S. agencies charged with roles in defeating terrorism, it also codifies and clarifies their activities in the wide range of U.S. counter-terrorism programs, from apprehension and prosecution of terrorists to increasing transportation security, enhancing response capabilities and protecting the computer-based systems that lie at the heart of America's economy. The Directive will help achieve the President's goal of ensuring that we meet the threat of terrorism in the 21st century with the same rigor that we have met military threats in this century.

The National Coordinator

To achieve this new level of integration in the fight against terror, PDD-62 establishes the office of the

National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection and Counter-Terrorism The National Coordinator will oversee the broad variety of relevant polices and programs including such areas as counter-terrorism, protection of critical infrastructure, preparedness and consequence management for weapons of mass destruction The National Coordinator will work within the National Security Council, report to the President through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and produce for him an annual Security Preparedness Report The National Coordinator will also provide advice regarding budgets for counter-terror programs and coordinate the development of guidelines that might be needed for crisis management

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**CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSURANCE OFFICE**

Protecting America's Critical Infrastructures

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 22, 1998

PROTECTING AMERICA'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES: PDD 63

This Presidential Directive builds on the recommendations of the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection. In October 1997 the Commission issued its report, calling for a national effort to assure the security of the United States' increasingly vulnerable and interconnected infrastructures, such as telecommunications, banking and finance, energy, transportation, and essential government services.

Presidential Decision Directive 63 is the culmination of an intense, interagency effort to evaluate those recommendations and produce a workable and innovative framework for critical infrastructure protection. The President's policy:

- Sets a goal of a reliable, interconnected, and secure information system infrastructure by the year 2003, and significantly increased security for government systems by the year 2000, by
 - Immediately establishing a national center to warn of and respond to attacks
 - Building the capability to protect critical infrastructures from intentional acts by 2003
- Addresses the cyber and physical infrastructure vulnerabilities of the Federal government by requiring each department and agency to work to reduce its exposure to new threats,
- Requires the Federal government to serve as a model to the rest of the country for how infrastructure protection is to be attained,
- Seeks the voluntary participation of private industry to meet common goals for protecting our critical systems through public-private partnerships,
- Protects privacy rights and seeks to utilize market forces. It is meant to strengthen and protect the nation's economic power, not to stifle it.
- Seeks full participation and input from the Congress.

PDD-63 sets up a new structure to deal with this important challenge

- a *National Coordinator* whose scope will include not only critical infrastructure but also foreign terrorism and threats of domestic mass destruction (including biological weapons) because attacks on the US may not come labeled in neat jurisdictional boxes,
- The *National Infrastructure Protection Center* (NIPC) at the FBI which will fuse representatives from FBI, DOD, USSS, Energy, Transportation, the Intelligence Community, and the private sector in an unprecedented attempt at information sharing among agencies in collaboration with the private sector. The NIPC will also provide the principal means of facilitating and coordinating the Federal Government's response to an incident, mitigating attacks, investigating threats and monitoring reconstitution efforts,
- An *Information Sharing and Analysis Center* (ISAC) is encouraged to be set up by the private sector, in cooperation with the federal government,
- A *National Infrastructure Assurance Council* drawn from private sector leaders and state/local officials to provide guidance to the policy formulation of a National Plan,
- The *Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office* will provide support to the National Coordinator's work with government agencies and the private sector in developing a national plan. The office will also help coordinate a national education and awareness program, and legislative and public affairs.

For more detailed information on this Presidential Decision Directive, contact the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office at (703) 696-9395 for copies of the [White Paper on Critical Infrastructure Protection](#)

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