# National Exercise Program (NEP)

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# Challenges for Federal Exercises

- Support U.S. Government Officers' preparation for managing national crises, and accountability of those who support them
- Limit ad hoc requests for U.S. Government Officers' involvement
- Maximize value of that involvement: make it worthwhile
  - Exercise what is important at a strategic/policy level
  - Exercise what is important, in sufficient depth
  - Follow through on exercises and correct/improve elements of national response policy and capability
- Avoid temptation to overcentralize and stifle needed exercise activity at operational and tactical levels



# National Exercise Program (NEP)

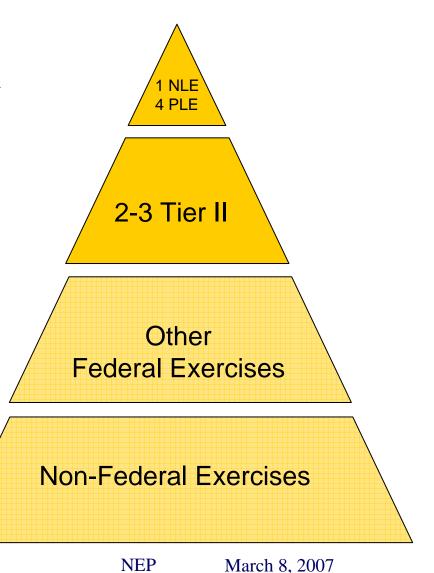
- Briefed and approved by the Deputies Committee
  - NEP Charter
  - NEP Charter Implementation Plan
- Tier of NEP Exercises
- Interagency Ownership
- Five Year Schedule
- Corrective Action Program (CAP)
- Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
- Loose Alignment of Other Exercises.



#### National Exercise Program Tiers

- Tier I: White House directed, U.S. Government-wide Strategy & Policy Focus, Full Participation
- Tier II: Federal Strategy & Policy Focus, Significant Simulation
- Tier III: Other Federal Exercises, Operational, Tactical or Organizational Focus, Simulation
- Tier IV: State, Territorial, Local, Tribal or Private Sector Focus





# Interagency Ownership

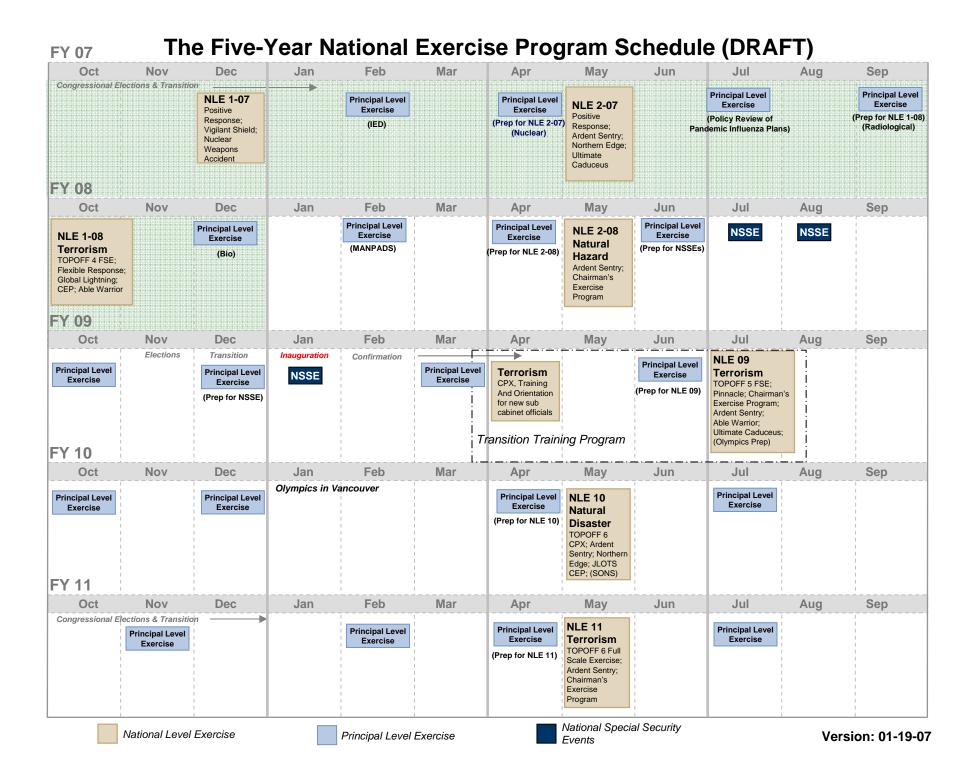
- NLEs and PLEs will reflect USG-wide priorities, not single department or agency programs (individual exercises should be made to fit NLEs, not vice versa)
- Full HSC Plans, Training, Exercises, and Evaluation Policy Coordination Committee (PTEE PCC) recommends priorities/goals/objectives, schedule, and corrective action issues to Deputies
- NEP Executive Steering Committee supports day-to-day coordination and staff work for PTEE PCC
  - DHS (chair), DOD, DOE, HHS, DOJ, DOS, DOT, ODNI, FBI
  - Up to three rotating members (one year term)
  - HSC, NSC, OMB representatives in non-voting oversight capacity

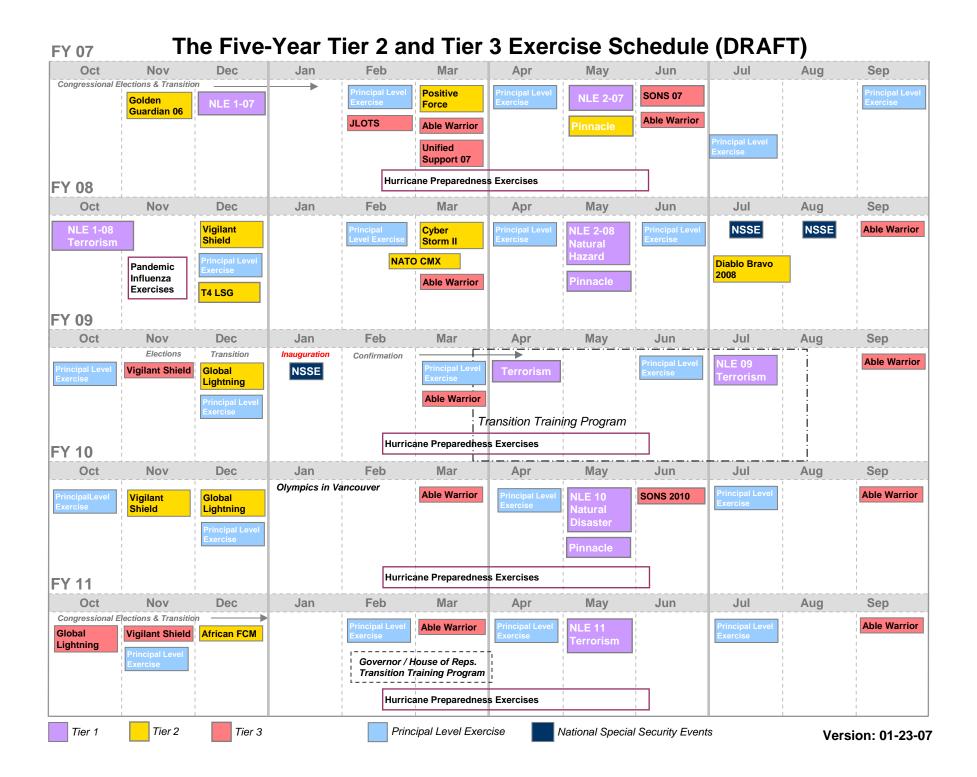


### Five Year Exercise Schedule

- Based on strategic direction and policy priorities
- Sets forth goals, themes, and schedule slots for NLEs, PLEs
  - May involve progressive level of detail (implementation plan issue)
  - Requires process for discouraging changes less than two fiscal years out (implementation plan issue)
- Submitted by June 30 each year (in time for budget call)
- Allows for departments and agencies to align other exercises, training activities, and preparatory reviews of policies, plans, and procedures
- Leverages existing interagency exercise conferences of DHS and DOD for development







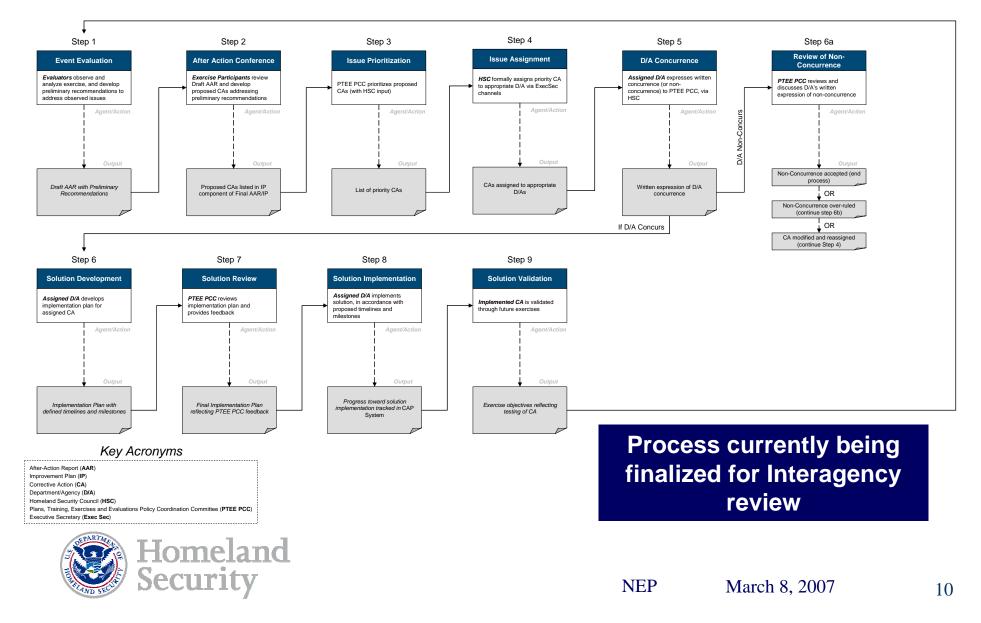
#### Corrective Action Program (CAP)

- CAP provides the basis for systematically developing, prioritizing, and tracking corrective actions following exercises, real-world events, and policy discussions
- The Web-based CAP System supports the CAP by enabling assignment and automated tracking of corrective actions
- The CAP methodology provides a disciplined process for Interagency-level corrective action implementation
- Validated corrective actions become lessons learned for a broader audience
  - Shared on Lessons Learned Information Sharing (www.LLIS.gov)
- The CAP process applies to exercise issues which:
  - Arise from National-Level Exercises; or
  - Require Interagency coordination



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#### Interagency CAP Process Flow



#### The Corrective Action Program (CAP) System

The *CAP System* is a web-based application that enables Federal, State, and local emergency response and homeland security officials to develop, prioritize, track, and analyze *improvement plan* items developed from exercises and real-world events.

- Developed by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
- Used by Federal Interagency partners and State, local, and tribal area emergency response and homeland security communities
- The CAP System was made available to the stakeholder community in November 2006





#### "Soft Alignment" of Other Exercises

- "The NEP shall not replace existing Department and Agency exercise programs. Rather, the NEP shall address directed policy priorities and [...] may incorporate Department- and Agency-specific exercises as needed."
- Other "unincorporated" exercises are not addressed in detail; they can be
  - Aligned to NEP priorities, as potential building blocks for outyear exercises OR
  - Used to address issues specific to individual Departments and Agencies
- Requirements for NEP should lead to supporting processes at individual Departments and Agencies, where they do not exist:
  - Prioritization of goals, objectives, and exercise proposals for submission
  - Internal corrective action program process





# Homeland Security





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