

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE  
POSITION PAPER**

DATE: January 10, 2022

SUBJECT: CISA-FEMA Integrated Program Office

**DISCUSSION:**

With the reorganization of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and awarding the agency operational status, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) created an agency focused on protecting critical infrastructure and assisting the nation in enhancing cybersecurity. The unintended consequence of this new organization, however, is the separation of mission of critical infrastructure protection and the response and recovery mission of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Despite the organization separation within the department, these mission sets are inextricably linked in policy.

For response and recovery functions after a natural or man-made physical disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is a logical state partner with regional personnel, grant structure, and experience in consequence management. After a cyber-incident, with or without a physical impact, state and local governments and the private sector look to CISA for support. Naturally, CISA needs FEMA and vice versa in both policy development and practical application of response capabilities. This reliance among DHS components, however, can cause barriers to reasonable and appropriate response time and action.

For example, throughout the stakeholder community, questions abound relating to the federal government's processes for responding to major cybersecurity attacks. Preparedness, response, and recovery functions for such events work together with one another, therefore so too should federal policy and operations. Furthermore, the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework included \$1 billion over the next four years for a cybersecurity preparedness grant. As this new grant is brought online, collaboration will be required between CISA as the subject matter experts and FEMA as the department's grant-making entity.

An Integrated Program Office (IPO) seems the only logical way to ensure such policy is integrated, coordinated, and clarified for those charged with saving life and property in the response to a major event. This would further serve as an opportunity to coordinate policy and avoid negative consequences prior to major events through better integration at the federal level.

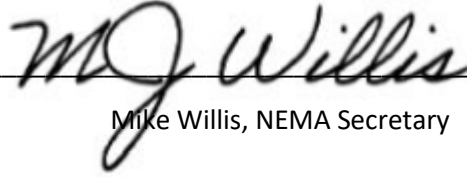
**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. DHS should establish IPO, modeled after those at the Department of Defense, between FEMA and CISA. The mission of this office would be to coordinate all policy and response doctrine as it would apply to cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and any other subject of shared interest.

Moved: Brian Hastings, Alabama  
Second: Chris Stallings, Georgia

DISPOSITION: Passed  
ABSTAIN: Florida

Authenticated: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Willis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "W".

Mike Willis, NEMA Secretary