



# FACT SHEET

## 2023 HOMELAND DEFENSE POLICY GUIDANCE



U.S. Department of Defense

### KEY TAKEAWAY

The 2022 National Defense Strategy (NDS) states that the top priority of the Department of Defense (DoD) is to defend the homeland, paced to the growing multi-domain threat posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC). The 2023 Homeland Defense Policy Guidance (HDPG) aims to drive action across DoD to deter threats of aggression or strategic attack on the homeland across multiple domains and the spectrum of conflict. The HDPG identifies initiatives that contribute to the Department's ability to project power, defend the homeland, and in the event of a conflict, maintain continuity of wartime operations.

### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The 2022 NDS is clear that the scope and scale of threats to the homeland have fundamentally changed. Competitors, specifically the PRC and Russia, are seeking to gain an advantage and achieve their objectives by targeting the homeland with a host of capabilities to disrupt our day-to-day operations. Competitors are engaged in "gray zone" activities (coercive, indirect, non-attributable, or deniable activities that fall below the perceived threshold that would trigger a U.S. military response) to exploit perceived vulnerabilities in the homeland.

### SIX PRIORITY INITIATIVES

This guidance provides six priority initiatives that link to the 2022 NDS. The Department will:

- ▶ Deter aggression against the homeland by pursuing initiatives that seek to raise direct and indirect costs for potential attackers and reduce the benefits of possible attacks.
- ▶ Improve resilience to an attack, across the spectrum of conflict, to prevent potential competitors from advancing their objectives or severely limiting U.S. response options.
- ▶ Focus on defending defense critical infrastructure against attacks in all domains and build resiliency and redundancy to fight through disruptions and maintain the ability to mobilize and respond to crisis or conflict.
- ▶ Ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government.
- ▶ Build resilience against the impacts of climate change that impact DoD's ability to exercise homeland defense missions.
- ▶ Ensure resilience in chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear response capabilities associated with homeland defense missions.

### WHO NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION, AND HOW?

It is vital that *everyone* in the Department of Defense understands that they have a role to play as a contributor to the homeland defense mission. For many, this is as basic as complying with security protocols - including physical, personnel, industrial, cyber, and information security. For others, it will entail integrating homeland defense and resilience activities at the strategic, operational, network, or system level. At the Departmental level, DoD will integrate homeland defense into work streams, governance documents, resourcing, culture, and behaviors, highlighting the importance of resilience as an enabler to Total Force readiness to operate in and through any type of disruption.

## RESILIENCE

Foundational to the HDPG is the concept of resilience - the cornerstone of homeland defense. Resilience is the ability to withstand, fight through, and recover quickly from disruption. Resilient people, processes, capabilities, installations, infrastructure, and networks underpin our ability to deter threats and aggression.