



OUT OF MANY, ONE: MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND FOCUS

Adopted by the IAB October 2008

Purpose

This document articulates the mission, vision, values, and strategic emphasis of the InterAgency Board (IAB). It serves as the basis for the IAB's ongoing strategic planning effort. This document is not static, but will evolve as the IAB's work progresses.

Background

The IAB is a voluntary collaborative panel of emergency preparedness and response practitioners from a wide array of professional disciplines that represent all levels of government and the voluntary sector. The IAB provides a structured forum for the exchange of ideas among operational, technical, and support organizations to improve national preparedness and promote interoperability and compatibility among local, state, and federal response communities. Based on direct field experience, IAB members advocate for and assist the development and implementation of performance criteria, standards, test protocols, and technical, operating, and training requirements for all-hazards incident response equipment with a special emphasis on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive issues. The IAB also informs broader emergency preparedness and response policy, doctrine, and practice.

Mission

The mission of the InterAgency Board is to strengthen the nation's ability to prepare for and respond safely and effectively to emergencies, disasters, and CBRNE incidents.

The IAB will accomplish this by:

- Emphasizing interoperability, compatibility, and standardization
- Fostering a multidisciplinary perspective
- Facilitating effective intergovernmental partnerships
- Being a credible voice of the responder community
- Being proactive
- Sharing field operational experiences and practices

Vision

The IAB seeks to be *the* source for emergency responder insight about any policy, doctrine, practice, standard, research and development program, or training and exercise program that affects interoperability, compatibility, and standardization. The IAB will continue to be a trusted, authoritative, representative, and valid repository of field perspective, operational knowledge, and technical expertise. 2

Values

The IAB purposely comprises a very diverse body of emergency preparedness and response experts, but is unified by a set of core values that frame its goals, shape its decisions, and guide its actions. These values are:

Ground truth. The IAB is a conduit for direct feedback from responders currently practicing in the field on the front lines of emergency response at all levels of government. The IAB offers an honest, unfiltered, unvarnished view of what responders really do, what they really need, and how federal programs and policies affect them now and will affect them in the future.

Independence. The IAB is an honest broker that aggregates the diverse views of responders. The Board as a whole is unencumbered by particular professional or agency agendas. The IAB's goals and objectives are set by consensus of its representative membership of the federal, state, and local emergency response communities. It is therefore broad in scope, and able to voice the perspectives, views, and concerns of responders nationwide without undue influence from the particular interests of any one discipline, organization, or professional association.

Credibility. The IAB convenes established experts knowledgeable about emergency preparedness and response issues, particularly related to equipment, including requirements, standards, performance, operability, interoperability, and compatibility. This expertise assists, guides, and informs agencies, associations, and manufacturers seeking to design, develop, test, evaluate, and deploy existing and new equipment and capabilities. It helps organizations that sponsor research and development programs formulate grant guidance and evaluate program effectiveness. It helps response agencies make decisions about equipment by providing insight about performance, and operational, training, and maintenance requirements.

Diversity. The IAB is broadly representative of professional response disciplines, sectors, and levels of government, explicitly shunning parochialism in favor of a true multidisciplinary perspective. The IAB is also wide-ranging in the size, type, and geographic location of organizations represented. This enables the diverse array of public safety professionals to come together as a unified and integrated emergency preparedness and response system.

Collaboration. The IAB is a forum that brings diverse agencies and perspectives together. This enhances cooperation, reduces redundancy, resolves conflicts, and thus improves the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of programs. The IAB is a nexus of disciplines and agencies that allows people to talk to each other and work together to solve problems. This culture of professional openness allows the group to develop viable solutions to equipment standardization and training challenges because all relevant players interact freely, honestly, and without fear of retribution.

Proactive orientation. The IAB identifies local, national, and global trends that affect the response community, in order to understand the implications of policy and operational choices. This allows the IAB to help the field adapt early to emerging trends, address looming threats, and take advantage of promising opportunities. 3

Strategic emphasis

In support of our mission and values, the IAB will pursue the following areas of emphasis:

1. Equipment

- a. Continue to update and sustain the Standardized Equipment List (SEL).
- b. Support the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB).
- c. Identify gaps in capability.
- d. Participate in requirements development processes.
- e. Prioritize equipment needs.

2. Science and Technology

- a. Identify innovative government- and industry-based technologies applicable for use by emergency responders.
- b. Promote the transition of technologies for use by emergency responders.
- c. Collaborate on requirements development processes.
- d. Promote research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) agendas to meet emergency responder needs.

3. Standards Coordination

- a. Identify and document applicable standards, from internal (IAB) and external sources.
- b. Recommend potential solutions in terms of standards, equipment development, training, practices, or policies.
- c. Prioritize standards requirements, and related interoperability and compatibility issues.
- d. Identify existing standards, performance requirements, and test methods that could streamline the development of new standards or be modified to meet the needs of responders.
- e. Identify potential conflicting requirements and facilitate reconciliation of these issues.
- f. Participate in standards development and revision processes.
- g. Inform emergency responders about appropriate application of standards.
- h. Draft and disseminate studies, white papers, and other reports on standards, interoperability issues, and compatibility issues.
- i. Recommend and promote the adoption and use of standards.
- j. Identify and inform responders about relevant standards activities, comment periods, and programs that are addressing interoperability and compatibility issues.

4. Strategic Planning

- a. Inform policymakers about operational requirements and environments.
- b. Provide insight about the field context, operations, and tactics of emergency response.
- c. Participate in forums working to develop or improve policy, doctrine, and practice.
- d. Help responders understand emerging policy, doctrine, and practice.
- e. Identify, share, and validate smart practices and lessons learned.
- f. Assist with vetting, testing, evaluating, and launching emergency response initiatives.

5. Training and Exercises

- a. Identify performance improvement needs related to Emergency Support Functions.
- b. Provide subject matter expertise to support the development of training and exercise programs.
- c. Provide end-user guidance and operational lessons learned to support training and exercise program development and improvements.
- d. Facilitate the implementation of training and exercise programs and standards that support individual competencies and organizational capabilities.
- e. Advocate for standardized national guidance for responder and equipment training and exercises.

6. Information Management and Communications

- a. Identify needs and gaps in the Responder Information Environment.
- b. Identify gaps in available information technology needed to support responders.
- c. Participate in efforts to identify gaps, improve systems and strategies for information management, including the gathering/collection, administration, sharing analysis/visualization, and protection of information.
- d. Identify gaps and challenges related to information collection, classification, storage, security and dissemination that effect incident prevention and emergency preparedness response.
- e. Educate emergency responders about the National Strategy for Information Sharing and how to collect, receive, and share essential elements of information.
- f. Identify gaps, and provide decision support material for interoperable communications technologies, policies and strategies

7. Health, Medical and Responder Safety

- a. Identify gaps and needs for providing safe and effective care.
- b. Evaluate the efficacy and appropriateness of existing and future health and safety related products, processes, practices, and information.
- c. Serve on working groups that address health and safety.
- d. Develop recommendations about how to identify control, reduce, or eliminate responder safety hazards, prevent injuries, and reduce mortality.
- e. Develop a medical concept of operations for planning, managing, and recovering from incidents that cause physical and/or physiological harm.
- f. Analyze threat scenarios and make recommendations about how to protect the health and safety of responders and victims.