



Homeland Security Advisory System Review Key Study Questions

Note: The questions below are intended as a flexible guide to assist in framing HSAS Task Force discussions and should be tailored to the experience and expertise of individual respondents.

1. Is the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) effective in fulfilling its purposes as stated in 6 U.S.C. § 124 and HSPD-3, namely: (I) does it provide to Federal, State, local and tribal authorities and to the people of the United States, as appropriate, advisories or warnings regarding the threat or risk that acts of terrorism will be committed on the homeland; (II) does it provide, in each such advisory or warning, specific information and advice regarding appropriate measures and countermeasures that may be taken in response to the threat or risk, at the maximum level of detail practicable to enable individuals, government entities, emergency response providers, and the private sector to act appropriately; and (III) does it create common vocabulary, context, and structure for discussion about threats and appropriate courses of action?
 - a. What are the system's strengths with respect to these purposes?
 - b. What are the system's weaknesses with respect to these purposes?
2. What changes, if any, would improve the current system?
 - a. Is the purpose in HSPD-3, as stated, the right purpose regarding:
 - i. disseminating information;
 - ii. implementing "protective measures;"
 - iii. creating common vocabulary, context, and structure for discussion about threats and appropriate courses of action; and
 - iv. informing and facilitating decisions appropriate to different levels of government and private citizens?
 - v. Should there be alternative purposes?
 - b. What changes, if any, are needed in the design/architecture of the HSAS? Please consider the:
 - i. type of information communicated;
 - ii. audience(s) for information communicated;
 - iii. mechanisms/means of communications;
 - iv. operation of the system; and
 - v. intended actions to be triggered (to implement protective measures).
3. For any improvements or changes proposed, what are the implications to:
 - a. security;
 - b. costs;
 - c. law/authorities;
 - d. sociology;
 - e. operations/governance; and
 - f. other factors?