

Getting Involved With Protecting the Financial Sector

Tom Williams – Centurion Disaster Recovery

Immediately after the events of September 11, 2001, there was a general sense that we had been attacked and that our response and retaliation was limited. Never before had we found ourselves so vulnerable, and realistically, so unprepared. It was very apparent that one of the major targets at the time was our nation's financial sector. In the wake of possible new attacks, that our government has warned may occur this summer, our nation's financial infrastructure remains a key target. I'd like to make you aware of some measures underway today that that will better prepare us for these types of acts in the future. It has been my experience that many of our Jack Henry customers are not aware of all of the activity that is currently underway related to protecting the financial infrastructure, and how you may get involved.

The bad news is that the terrorists are still out there, plotting on how to cause significant damage. The good news is that America is not just waiting around to find itself in react mode. In 1998 The Presidential Decision Directive 63 was established to form a partnership between the public and private sectors. The mission was to protect our nation's critical infrastructures from intentional acts that would significantly diminish the abilities of the private sector to ensure the orderly functioning of the economy and the delivery of essential telecommunications, energy, ***financial*** and transportation services. The Department of Treasury was designated as the Lead Agency representing the Banking and Finance Sector.

After the events of September 11, the importance of the partnership was heightened. The Executive Order 13231 (October 2001) authorized the establishment of FBIIC, Financial and Banking Information Infrastructure Committee, which formed on January 10, 2002, and was headed by the Dept. of Treasury. The key objectives of FBIIC are:

- Improve coordination and communication among Financial Regulators
- Enhance the Resiliency of the Financial Sector through
 - Vulnerability assessments and remediation
 - Information sharing and dissemination
 - Addressing interdependencies
- Promoting the Public/Private Partnership
 - Activities of the Sector Coordinator
 - Sharing "best practices"
 - Outreach to the private sector and state and local government

The vulnerability assessments identified the following as critical financial assets; Wholesale and retail payments systems, the securities and insurance industry, international financial institutions and government sponsored enterprises. Once these assets were identified as critical, efforts are now underway to determine the proper strategies to protect them. For more information on FBIIC visit www.fbiic.gov.

The Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council (FSSCC) was also formed in June 2002 with the mission of fostering and facilitating the coordination of financial services sector-wide voluntary activities and initiatives designed to improve Critical Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security. The priorities of FSSCC are to develop the financial sector's strategy for homeland security and infrastructure protection, develop and maintain a warning, alert and information dissemination vehicle along with developing a Crisis Management and Response Management system. Some of the members of the FSSCC include the ABA (American Bankers Association), CUNA (Credit Union National Association), NASDAQ, NASD, VISA USA and ICBA (Independent Community Bankers of America).

Another organization that was formed to help protect the financial infrastructure is The FS/ISAC (Financial Services Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center) www.fsisac.com. The FS/ISAC is a 501(c)6 nonprofit corporation owned and operated by the private sector to help protect the critical infrastructure of the United States. Its mission is to disseminate trusted and

timely information intended to increase sector wide knowledge about physical and cyber security operational risks faced by the Financial Services Sector. Its members consists of banks, S&L, Credit Unions, Security Firms, Credit Card, Mortgage Banking and Insurance companies and Financial Services Service Bureaus and sector utilities.

In addition to the above national organizations there are local, regional organizations that have been formed such as ChicagoFirst. Its mission is to increase the resilience of Chicago financial services industry in the event of a regional disaster in collaboration with the City, State and Federal agencies. They currently have a seat at Chicago's Joint Operations Center in the event of a crisis that affects Chicago's financial community. They are authorized to create permits/passes for essential personnel to safely access business facilities in the event of a general evacuation of the city. This is defined as credentialing. This organization has been recommended by the FDIC as the model for regional type organizations due to its success in fostering teamwork and commitments from the private sector, local, regional and federal authorities, utilities, transportation and utilities organizations. For more information on ChicagoFirst visit www.chicagofirst.org.

Another regional organization focused on emergency response in the Kansas / Missouri area is MARC (Mid-America Regional Council). They consist of first responders from local officials, fire and police, public health and EMS directors, emergency managers, hospital and non-profit executives.

The Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) provides federal, state and local government National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) users with a ubiquitous switched voice and voice-band data communications service. During disaster periods members of the GETS program have priority access on the GETS network to ensure proper routing of their calls when traditional phone services have been interrupted. For more information on GETS visit <http://gets.ncs.gov>.

The above organizations have been established to protect our financial sector. My knowledge of these organizations came about from me presenting at the Protecting the Financial Sector seminars that the FDIC is hosting throughout the country. Each regional FDIC office is sponsoring the one day session. I strongly recommend that you participate in the one that will be held in your region. You can visit www.fdic.gov to see the schedule related to your area. I also recommend that you consider taking an active role in some of the above organizations. The war on terrorism will take teamwork and coordinated effort to defeat. This is one of the many ways that you can get involved and make a difference for your financial institution.