



**Homeland
Security**

April 17, 2020

Dear Federal Facility Security Stakeholders:

Twenty-five years ago this Sunday, April 19, on an otherwise uneventful day, the unthinkable happened. Domestic terrorists detonated a powerful bomb delivered through a rental truck parked in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK. That day marked the single worst act of domestic terrorism in our Nation's history, claiming the lives of 168 people, including 19 children. It also underlined the imperative for the creation of the Interagency Security Committee (ISC).

What followed in the hours and days after the bombing was a scene of fortitude, determination and bravery as first responders from state, local and federal agencies, as well as the strong, dedicated residents of Oklahoma City, responded to help save lives.

A quarter century later, we are reminded of Oklahoma City's resilience following that tragic day—a resilience we as a Nation continue to show as we face new challenges, including the uncertainty amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The aftermath of the bombing of the Murrah Building led to sweeping changes in how the U.S. Government approaches preventive security and protection of federal infrastructure. As of 9:03 a.m. on April 19, 1995, business as usual could no longer serve as the status quo.

Just six months after the bombing, the President issued an executive order establishing the Interagency Security Committee, which is now part of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Comprised of 64 federal departments and agencies, the Committee has collaborated to establish top-tier, scalable and tailorable prevention-focused security standards for federal facilities. Subject matter experts from these federal departments and agencies come together in the spirit of partnership and collective defense that continues in the ISC to this day as we face a range of traditional and emergent threats.

For the Federal Protective Service (FPS), these changes signified a fundamental shift in its mission: the focus evolved from one of building security and facility management to one of law enforcement and threat mitigation. The modernized, whole-of-government approach to the protection of federal infrastructure enabled a shift from facility management to threat detection and law enforcement-and-technology-driven physical security. In alignment with the ISC standards and guidance, FPS has employed complementary systems that identify vulnerabilities in federal facilities, track the implementation of state-of-the-art countermeasures, share information with partner agencies and ensure that qualified and trained individuals are on guard. These tools have helped the FPS identify and mitigate potential security weaknesses and anticipate rather than just react to threats.


Over the years, the resilience of the FPS and the ISC has never wavered—a reflection of the dedication and professionalism in each of our federal facility security stakeholders. An unforgettable

day, the bombing—as well as Oklahoma City’s steadfast recovery efforts—provided important lessons that have increased our resiliency. Our determination to ensure the government can continue to provide essential services to our fellow citizens throughout any crisis, even the current pandemic, is stronger than ever.

As we join in solidarity with those impacted by the tragedy in Oklahoma City on this 25th Anniversary, let’s look toward a secure future marked with steadfast vigilance and professionalism—the foundation for safeguarding each other, the American people and our Homeland.



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