INFRAGARD - NORTH CAROLINA



ncinfragard.org

A Message from the Vice President – Charlotte

As our mercury thermometers begin to rise in the summer months, so does the heat of the threat to our critical infrastructure. In June, National Security Agency chief General Keith Alexander said that "On a scale of one to 10, with 10 being strongly defended, our critical infrastructure's preparedness to withstand a destructive cyber attack is about a three..." Since approximately 90 percent of the nation's critical infrastructure is owned by the private sector, this leaves a big burden on us to protect our infrastructure.

Involvement in InfraGard is one way that we can help to prepare our nation against threats to our critical infrastructure. As members of InfraGard, we have access to a wealth of information and resources to help us protect the organizations in which we work. We have access to the portal where information is shared to identify threats that may be common to our infrastructure. We have access to networking events where we can meet with others in our industry to share experiences and information that may help to protect each other. Pull information, it helps us to defend our critical infrastructure.

Our own eyes and ears are also a critical component to protection. We get information from the portal, but the more information that we can share from within our own organizations, the more robust and powerful an information protection resource that we build. The attacks that we see are already in the wild. The "bad guys" are bragging about these attacks. The "bad guys" have fantastic undergrounds where they share information on attacks, on what has worked, and what has not worked to penetrate U.S. businesses and critical infrastructure. We need to combat that with an even stronger "good guy" underground. InfraGard is a great communication and networking system to house this "good guy" underground.

InfraGard is an association of businesses, academic institutions, state and local law enforcement agencies,

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and other participants dedicated to sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against the United States. We are called to build an organization in which we all feel comfortable sharing information that will prevent these hostile acts against the United States. InfraGard is missing one critical component, and that is "U". Your InfraGard Board wants to know what we can do to build an organization that will support the maturation of our nation's critical infrastructure preparedness from a 3 to a 10. Talk to your Board members and tell us what you want. Tell us how to build a robust communication and networking system that will support the safety of our nation.

-Sarah Stevens

Look for us on LinkedIn!

The Charlotte Chapter has created a private group on LinkedIn. All North Carolina IG Members are invited to connect and take part in our discussions. To join, see SA Granozio or one of the board members and provide them with your LinkedIn Profile. A private invite will be sent to you.

Are you Ready?

September is National Preparedness Month. Led by FEMA's *Ready* campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council, this year's emphasis includes integrating technology into individuals, families and businesses preparedness plans. A 2012 Nielson report revealed that nearly 55 percent of mobile phone owners in the United States own smartphones. As a simple resolution, *Ready* is asking all smartphone owners to turn the technology in their purses and pockets into a life–saving tool during and after an emergency or disaster.

Below are additional ways the *Ready* campaign recommends implementing technology into your emergency plans:

- Learn how to send updates via text and internet from your mobile phone to your contacts and social channels in case voice communications are not available;
- Store your important documents such as personal and financial records in the cloud, in a secure and remote area, or on a flash or jump drive that you can keep readily available so they can be accessed from anywhere; and
- Create an Emergency Information
 Document by using Ready's Family
 Emergency Plan template in Google Docs
 (use Google Chrome to view) or by
 downloading the Ready Family Emergency
 Plan to record your emergency plans.
- Download the <u>Resolve 2B Ready 2013</u>
 <u>Toolkit</u> for tips and actions you can take.



Spreading the Word

Welcome to the third issue of the North Carolina-InfraGard Newsletter. We hope it will help keep members updated, informed and answer commonly asked questions.

Interested in posting an article? Contact SA Jim Granozio at james.granozio@ic.fbi.gov.



2013 Member Survey

Eastern Carolina -

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DD889HQ

Charlotte -

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8356BJM

Logged in Recently?

Have you logged into the new InfraGard Network? All North Carolina InfraGard Members have been emailed and requested to contact the InfraGard Helpdesk in order to update and convert their profile to the new website, www.infragard.org.

While you can always visit our North Carolina local site (www.ncinfragard.org) for general information like meeting dates, etc..., the new site will be our main platform for sensitive or urgent information dissemination.

If you have not received your new credentials, contact the helpdesk at 877-861-6298 or infragardteam@leo.gov. Don't get left in the dark!

Ready Rating: A FREE Service from the American Red Cross



Ready Rating is a program that helps businesses, schools and organizations become prepared for disasters and other emergencies. All in one place, Ready Rating members have access to one-of-a-kind tools, resources and information for evaluating and improving their ability to withstand disaster, maintain operations, and protect lives and property. Whether you are taking your first steps or have a fully-functioning emergency management program, the Ready Rating program can help you achieve a higher level of preparedness. Visit readyrating.org for more information

Upcoming Events

Charlotte Chapter Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 17th from 1-4 pm Location: Microsoft, 8050 Microsoft Way, Charlotte, NC.

Register you and your guests at www.ncinfragard.org

Eastern Carolina Chapter Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 21st from 1-4 pm Location: Cisco, #5, 1025 Kit Creek Rd, Morrisville, NC.

Register you and your guests at www.ncinfragard.org

Cyber Camp - 2014

The Charlotte Chapter is developing a Cyber Camp to be held during the summer of 2014 for 9th & 10th graders involved in the STEM program. If and/or you're organization is interested in participating, contributing, and/or providing sponsorship please contact President, Gary Gardner.

Board Members:

CHARLOTTE

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Chris Bock, Host Liaison

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