

Prepared Statement by
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Before the Texas House Select Committee on Emergency Preparedness

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in today's hearing on emergency preparedness. My name is Robert Janusaitis, the President of the Houston InfraGard Chapter. InfraGard is a not-for-profit 501c(3) partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the private sector with the mission of protecting critical infrastructure and key resources. InfraGard has over 25,000 members nationally, and all members are vetted through the FBI. InfraGard has Memorandums of Understanding (MOU'S) with the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other organizations.

Before, during, and especially after any crisis or disaster, numerous critical infrastructure, support and key business personnel require entry, access to facilities and other assets, in order to assess, stabilize, recover, and restore or rebuild assets. The ability to rapidly gain access to the assets are required, to restore operations in a timely, safe, and secure manner in an effort to aid in the recovery of the community. Once the imminent risk to life and property is secured, the capability for a community and region to recover is an economic imperative. The faster services are restored, the faster businesses may be recovered, citizens may return; and the more likely the community will survive. The key

metric is enabling the entry of the right people quickly, confidently, and securely.

The *Emergency Responder ID Trust Network*[®] (ER-ITN) was developed through coordinated efforts of the Pegasus Program, the National Sheriff's Association, and the FBI's InfraGard Program. It has been tested and evaluated by communities in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama over the past year. We have tested the program locally within Harris and Galveston County, including: local, county and federal law enforcement, and private sector firms in a variety of private sector industries.

The ER-ITN enables critical infrastructure and support organizations to establish a network of trust with checkpoint operators (e.g. local law enforcement) before or during a crisis based on identity information validated by the authoritative source. Instead of managing a cumbersome essential personnel list, organizations use the ER-ITN to find and satisfy the access requirements of a particular jurisdiction, manage the minimum identity information required to fulfill the particular tier or role for each individual, and notify checkpoints who is to be allowed to pass based on need, or the current authorized tier or role(s). all securely via the Internet. A process has also been established and tested in the event communications is limited.

The Houston InfraGard Chapter has participated in several key exercises to test the operations of the ER-ITN system. In April of this year, a multi-state exercise in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama was conducted. I have actively participated as an evaluator in the comprehensive exercises with law enforcement and critical infrastructure

partners to insure the program is effective and efficient where it is implemented. I have witnessed the ease by which law enforcement is able to rapidly determine who should, and should not have access to a secured area. The program requires collaboration between law enforcement, and the private sector, and insures that only eligible personnel are permitted access to secured areas. The ER-ITN program combined with traffic management, will expedite the movement of trusted personnel through law enforcement checkpoints to the area where service is time critical.

As we meet today, the program is being used by the Louisiana Sheriff's Department in association with the Unified Command for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The State of Louisiana identified an immediate and critical need to implement a stronger identity management and access control solution to better secure and protect their communities. They selected the ER-ITN system.

The key to implementation is the local jurisdiction(s) embracing the technology and enabling the private sector to participate. The private sector cannot do this without the support of each jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction determines the minimal level of credentials for access. The collaboration between the public and private sector for re-entry will enable faster restoration of critical infrastructure and the enable a sustainable local economy.

I encourage the State of Texas to consider implementing the ER-ITN state-wide, to provide a robust, rapid re-entry capability for critical infrastructure and key resource personnel. A state-wide

implementation will provide the benefit of all law enforcement understanding and utilizing a uniform approach to identity management. It will also permit any personnel moving from county to county to be subject to the same re-entry system and reduce confusion, and the loss of precious time. The State of Texas is a leader in Emergency Management and Response. The training resources at Disaster City at Texas A&M, and Texas Task Force One and Two are testimonies to the commitment the State of Texas has in supporting emergency responders not only here in Texas but around the globe. The ER-ITN system will provide an additional tool for State and Local governments to insure they are facilitating resources as rapidly as possible.

I have several additional documents I am providing with this statement to the committee which includes various letters and agreements in place in other states and local jurisdictions. There is also a more detailed explanation of the system included for your review.

Mr. Chairman, Committee members, I would like to thank you for your time and invite you examine the addendums, I am providing. I welcome your questions and feedback, and look forward to further discussions on this topic.