



Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

NRC Force-on-Force Program: Continuous Improvements

BACKGROUND

- An essential part of the NRC oversight of nuclear power reactors and Category I fuel cycle facilities is the force-on-force security inspection.
- The NRC has used force-on-force inspections regularly since 1991.
- Force-on-force inspections assess the ability of the licensee of each nuclear power facility or Category I fuel cycle facility to defend against the design basis threat.
- They also provide valuable insights that allow the NRC to evaluate the effectiveness of licensee security programs.
- This inspection program meets or exceeds the international recommendation for security performance testing described in INFCIRC/225/Rev.5 (International Atomic Energy Agency Security Document NSS13).

INSPECTION OBJECTIVES

- Does the licensee know what to protect?
- Does the licensee have a documented physical protection program to protect against the design basis threat?
- Can the licensee demonstrate implementation of their physical protection program?
- Can the licensee identify areas of improvement and make changes as applicable?

EXECUTIVE LESSONS LEARNED

- The primary focus of the executive lessons learned meetings are to provide open dialogue on assessing industry and NRC performance in conducting force-on-force exercises at licensee facilities, and to share the lessons learned that could improve the process.
- The attendees for these meetings are senior leaders from both the NRC and the industry, site security managers, inspection team leaders, and other individuals directly responsible for the application of lessons learned.

CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS

- The Commission approved the staff's recommendation to conduct an assessment of the security baseline inspection program that includes force-on-force inspections.
- The Commission approved the staff's recommendation to terminate the force-on-force Tactics, Techniques and Procedures Working Group and conduct any necessary follow-on activities.
- The Commission directed the staff to conduct a review limited to those areas that are the most likely to yield improvements and efficiencies, considering both internal and external feedback.

AUTHORITY

- Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended
- Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 2005, as amended, Section 170D, "Security Evaluations," to ensure that security evaluations meet Congressional mandates. Under the Energy Policy Act the NRC is required to ensure that security evaluations meet the following Congressional mandates:
 - Conducted once every three years
 - Simulate design basis threats to the maximum extent practicable
 - Mitigate those conflicts of interest which could influence exercise results
 - Correct defects in security performance
 - Submit annual report to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives

INSPECTION PROCESS

NRC force-on-force inspect approximately 20 sites each year.

Each inspection consists of:

- In-office preparation, logistics, and management briefings
- On-site planning week inspection activities
- In-office scenario/event matrix review and resolution of disputed items
- On-site exercise week inspection activities
- In-office documentation/report issuance
- In-office executive lessons learned meeting

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INTERACTIONS

- Continue to hold internal/external meetings, maintain transparency, and continue open dialogue of documents being updated and endorsed by the NRC.



Components of Security

