

Everything you ever wanted to know about Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack to the Critical National Infrastructures

As evidenced from the events of September 11, 2001, malicious attacks can cause a tremendous degree of destruction not only to telecommunications infrastructure, but also to ancillary services mainly power, water, and finance. An EMP attack is one example of a malicious attack that may be hazardous to the telecommunications and other critical infrastructures (e.g., energy and financial services) that rely on electronic devices for functionality, the loss of which could compromise the network. An EMP attack is one example of a malicious attack that may be hazardous to the telecommunications and other critical infrastructures (e.g., energy and financial services) that rely on electronic devices for functionality, the loss of which could compromise the network. The EMP Commission Report recommended:

- “The Commission also reviewed relevant foreign research and programs, and assessed foreign perspectives on EMP attacks. In considering EMP, the Commission also gave attention to the coincident nuclear effects that would result from a high-altitude detonation that produces EMP, e.g., possible disruption of the operations of, or damage to, satellites in a range of orbits around the Earth.***
- Support to national leadership should involve measures to ensure that the US President can communicate effectively with the citizenry.***

Congress should pass measures to protect the nation's electric grid against electromagnetic pulses emitted after a nuclear blast, witnesses told a hearing { Hearing Site "Securing the Modern Electric Grid from Physical and Cyber Attacks" Subcommittee chairwoman Yvette Clarke, D-NY, criticized industry for not addressing the risks of EMP attacks or cyber attacks against the electric grid reports from the North American Electric Reliability Corp., which develops security standards for power plants, suggested industry is choosing not to identify critical assets to avoid securing them.

Reference: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/nq_20090721_4170.php?oref=rss

- <http://homeland.house.gov/Hearings/index.asp?ID=206>***