Seven Deadly Sins of Contingency Planning

Bob Post, Principal
Booz Allen Hamilton
For the next hour, I’ll discuss…

- Contingency planning and its role in a comprehensive Infrastructure Assurance Program
- The “Seven Deadly Sins of Contingency Planning”
- Summary
- Questions
Contingency Planning must be part of an Infrastructure Assurance Program…

- Increased reliance on Information Technology supporting critical business processes demands contingency planning
- Evolving threat environment inevitably will crack perimeter and boundary protection
- Need for a respond, recover and resumption capability
- Mandated by regulatory requirements
Seven Deadly Sins of Contingency Planning…

- Not an all inclusive list
- Provides hurdles or roadblocks to avoid
- Not rocket science, but surprisingly overlooked by many organizations
Seven Deadly Sins of Contingency Planning…

- Sin # 1 – Not having a plan(s)
  - Huge risk to the core business functions of the organization
  - Potential loss immeasurable
  - Legal liabilities
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- Sin # 2 – Not maintaining plans
  - Having a plan(s) is only the beginning
  - Require routine maintenance/updating
  - Must be dynamic and evolve as threats change
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- Sin #3 – Not exercising or testing plans
  - Contingencies are not part of normal operating procedures
  - Increased urgency and responsibilities require staff familiarity and training
  - Exercises must cover several types of contingencies
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- Sin # 4 – Not raising awareness of plans
  - Contingencies affect everyone in the organization
  - Changes or updates to plans require acquainting staff with new procedures
  - Limits confusion and enables time sensitive decision making
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- Sin # 5 – Not identifying essential functions
  - Not everything is mission essential
  - Need to identify and prioritize critical assets
  - Functions include infrastructure, people and processes
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- Sin # 6 – Not identifying key roles and responsibilities
  - Chain of Command/Span of Control are essential
  - Must reflect current staff and their contact information
  - May extend outside the organization
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- Sin # 7 – Not coordinating plans with partners
  - Many interdependencies exist in a crisis/disaster
  - Establishes boundaries, roles and responsibilities
  - Provides external functional expertise and specialists
Summary

- Contingency planning must be part of the Infrastructure Assurance Program

- Eliminates false sense of security with technology driven perimeter and boundary protection solutions

- Developing a plan is just the start

- Don’t commit any of the Deadly Sins
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Zara Pyatt  
(703) 377-4243  
pyatt_zara@bah.com

Bob Post  
(703) 377-4211  
post_bob@bah.com