World Cup Support

Overview

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is expected to bring millions of visitors and generate tens of billions of dollars in economic activity across US host cities. In preparation for the "largest sporting event in history," the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have released grant funding to ensure it is also the safest event possible. The DHS grants will be available to the nine states and the National Capital Region hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 and other National Special Security Events (NSSEs), with a focus on activities related to countering unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS). The FEMA grants will be available to the 11 US World Cup hosts to support preparedness activities like training and exercises, cybersecurity defense, as well as increased police and emergency response staff.

CNA has over 16 years of experience in planning for and supporting NSSEs and Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) events, including Presidential inaugurations, national conventions, state funerals, and gatherings with global significance, such as G8, Global Health Security Initiative, and UN meetings. CNA's expertise applies to all phases of these special events, from planning and exercising to technical assistance, from real-time support to after-action reviews.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

CNA's integrated cross-domain Port Security & Emergency Response Using Autonomous Systems solution provides a fully managed service for countering UAS. CNA hosts C-UAS workshops to support operational planning, disaster preparedness, and incident response with state and local jurisdictions, industry engagement, and workflow integration capabilities in aviation, marine, and urban environments. CNA can also identify threats related to foreign-made UAS systems, focusing on unauthorized data collection, supply chain complexity, vulnerability to cyberattacks, and domination of small UAS market. This can inform recommendations on defining security requirements, selecting trusted systems, and defending against adversarial UAS.

Cyber Protection

CNA's diverse team of engineers and scientists are united by a passion for solving critical problems to advance cybersecurity for the public good and help protect governments from ever-evolving threats. CNA's capabilities include cloud, compliance, DevSecOps, and offensive/defensive security, wherein CNA has experience working with industry standard cybersecurity operating systems and environments and implementing and analyzing data from vulnerability scanning tools.

Cyber-Incident Response and Analysis

CNA takes a two-pronged approach to help jurisdictions build preparedness and learn from recent cyberattacks. In preparation for World Cup activities, CNA can design and execute high-quality workshops and exercises, using both gaming and design thinking methodologies. We can use these workshops to develop cyber plans for local government agencies or continuity of operations plans, or to test and validate plans that already exist. If you have been hit by cyberattacks, CNA can conduct an in-depth analysis of the vulnerabilities that led to the attack, the operational response to the attack, and the management of essential functions during response and recovery. CNA employs our custom designed ADEPT™ approach to critical incident analyses and after-action reviews—Adaptable, Data-Driven, Expert, Process-Oriented, and Transformational.

Emergency Response

CNA has extensive experience in planning, exercising, supporting, and evaluating emergency response efforts. CNA assists local, state, and federal entities with updating policy, operational and tactical documents, conducting exercise and other types of capability assessments, mapping response ecosystems, and developing decision-making support. In these activities and others, CNA uses operational research and data to reshape emergency management preparedness, continuity of operations, response, and recovery.

Dashboards

CNA dashboards integrate geographic and other data sources for enhanced situational awareness that supports decision-making during active incidents. First, CNA develops a dashboard framework that addresses potential disruptions tailored to your community, such as cyberattacks and civil unrest. We then build the dashboard to provide partners with real-time analysis and actionable recommendations, enabling them to monitor and respond to emerging threats effectively during a planned event, like an NSSE or election.

All dashboards are fully customizable and built to address your specific requirements. CNA employs strategies such as advanced data visualization, real-time data integration, and continuous stakeholder collaboration to ensure all dashboards are comprehensive, user-friendly, and actionable. For example, our team can create dynamic visualizations based on the data, such as interactive timelines and animated graphics. By leveraging these tools, CNA enables organizations to rapidly assess evolving situations and make informed response and recovery decisions.

False and Misleading Information

False and misleading information (FMI) has become an operational challenge for consequence managers across jurisdictional levels and disciplines. CNA's Narrative-Impact-Action (NIA) Framework™ is a strategic tool designed to help emergency management agencies at all levels of government understand and respond to the spread of FMI. The framework steers evidence-based decision-making by providing general guidelines for assessing the potential operational impact of FMI and determining the appropriate preparation and response. The framework provides guidance on how to assess the threat level, analyze the narratives, evaluate the impacts, and determine the appropriate actions.

Law Enforcement Operations

CNA is adept in working with law enforcement leaders and personnel in planning for and managing NSSEs, as well as mass gatherings, where crowd management, screening and physical security, transportation and traffic safety and management, intelligence analysis, logistics and administrative support of local and visiting officers, and much more are essential to public safety. CNA services for law enforcement include strategic planning and preparation, financial and grant management, interagency collaboration and communication, real-time operational execution and support, public and strategic messaging, training and exercise design, and after-action analysis. CNA's *Managing Large-Scale Security Events: A Planning Primer* also provides a comprehensive guide to law enforcement for planning, operational support, and post-event activities for NSSEs.

Why CNA

CNA has designed, executed, and evaluated over 350 homeland security exercises since 1999, which have included participants ranging from local first responders to the President of the United States, and scenarios ranging from cybersecurity to hurricanes and NSSEs. Our staff draw from vast experience supporting exercises, planning, and policy for clients within DHS, FEMA, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), and the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (HHS ASPR). CNA also works with state and local entities such as the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DC HSEMA).

About CNA

CNA is a not-for-profit analytical organization dedicated to the safety and security of the nation. With nearly 700 scientists, analysts, and professional staff across the world, CNA's mission is to provide data-driven, innovative solutions to our nation's toughest problems. It operates the Center for Naval Analyses—the Department of the Navy's federally funded research and development center (FFRDC)—as well as the Institute for Public Research. The Center for Naval Analyses provides objective analytics to inform the decision-making by military leaders and ultimately improve the lethality and effectiveness of the joint force. The Institute for Public Research leverages data analytics and innovative methods to support federal, state, and local government officials as they work to advance national and homeland security.

To learn more about the Center for Emergency Management Operations at CNA, contact Dawn Thomas at thomasdh@cna.org.

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