



OEM: Weekly SITREP

March 08, 2022

USA & WORLD

- The [energy crisis](#) in Europe threatens to engulf the world.
- Chinese Foreign Minister: Taiwan, Ukraine issues '[not comparable](#).'
- The [shift](#) from COVID to Teacher Pay, Mental Health & Culture Wars.
- Ukraine admitted to [NATO cyber center](#).
- [Study](#): Even 'mild' COVID Is linked to significant brain changes.
- COVID variant shows signs of possible [deer-to-human](#) transmission.
- Cyber [grant program](#) will be ready by summer, CISA official says.
- 5 ways the Ukraine war [may lead to conflict](#) in the Middle East.
- NATO cybersecurity center finishes tests of [quantum-proof network](#).
- Analysis: Biden seeks '[reset](#)' on pandemic and his presidency.
- When will the COVID-19 pandemic [end](#)?
- What can AI [do](#) in the war against misinformation?
- Reporting cyberattacks, ransomware [wins](#) Senate approval.
- US [expelling](#) 12 Russian mission intelligence operatives.
- As Russia's isolation grows, China [hints](#) at limits of friendship.
- Climate change happening [faster](#) than scientists originally thought.
- People's [convoy](#) is gathering support as it heads toward Washington.
- The [state](#) of jobs and the US labor market.
- Many students express [ambivalence](#) about their plans for the future.
- Scientists seek to solve [mystery](#) of why some people don't get Covid.

Ukraine and Higher Ed

Nearly 200 Higher Ed, humanitarian, religious, and other groups signed a [letter](#) asking for Special Student Relief for Ukrainian students, which would provide them with additional flexibility, permit off-campus employment, and prevent them from losing their F-1 visa status. Nearly 2,000 Ukrainian students currently study at American colleges.

RE: URGENT REQUEST FOR NEW 18-MONTH DESIGNATIONS OF TPS OR DED AND SSR FOR UKRAINE

Dear President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken,

The below 177 organizations request an immediate 18-month designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) and Special Student Relief (SSR) for Ukraine. Escalating violence and the devolving humanitarian crisis post-Russian military invasion makes it impossible for Ukrainians currently in the U.S. to safely return to Ukraine at this time. Migration Policy Institute estimates that roughly 30,000 Ukrainians in the United States would be potential beneficiaries of TPS or DED, as they do not have U.S. citizenship or permanent status.¹

I. TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS), DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE (DED), AND SPECIAL STUDENT RELIEF (SSR)

TPS is a statutory status that allows people from a designated country to remain in the United States while conditions in their home country make safe return impossible.² The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can designate a country for TPS if conditions in that country meet the requirements regarding ongoing armed conflict, natural disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions preventing a safe return.³ These requirements are outlined in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).⁴ Those who are granted TPS are eligible to receive work permits and remain in the United States during the designation period. Significantly, TPS can safeguard those who have been denied or may be ineligible for asylum but are still in need of lifesaving protection.

The "extraordinary and temporary conditions" which would qualify Ukrainians in the United States for TPS include current armed conflict. The "severe economic hardship" that would qualify Ukrainian F-1 students is the emergent armed conflict. The country conditions analysis below will demonstrate that conditions in Ukraine merit TPS and SSR designations due to armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions as a return to the country would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of Ukrainians. The below described conditions also make a clear policy argument for DED.

CALIFORNIA

- Legislature to [ensure](#) that agencies focus more on their duties.
- Tech Industry changes & the emergence of a [world IT Army](#).
- [Potholes](#): There are 18.4 complaints for every 1,000 km of road.
- Death among [vaccinated](#) rose sharply with omicron.
- Why do bills [request](#) the UC Regents to adopt Education Policies?
- White supremacist propaganda: State had [152 incidents](#) in 2021.
- Truck convoy departs Cali for DC to [protest](#) COVID mandates.
- Cal Supreme Court [orders](#) UC Berkeley to freeze enrollment.
- Newsom [proposes](#) to force some homeless into treatment.
- California, shockingly, has the [lowest literacy rate](#) of any state.
- CSU [orders](#) investigation into sexual harassment at Fresno State.
- [Inside California Education](#): Important stories about education.
- [Survey](#): California is home to 6 of Top 10 'happiest cities' in U.S.
- Google looks to build [\\$19B neighborhood](#) in San Jose.
- [Update](#): Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board (OSHSB)
- Sea-level rise [could bring toxic floods](#) to California coast.
- Naming heatwaves to [underscore](#) deadly risk of extreme heat.
- Gas [expected](#) to hit \$5 a gallon.
- What winter's dry spell [means](#) for fire season.
- Drought in the West, [worst](#) since A.D. 800.

Project Nexus: includes the installation of solar panel canopies over various sections of Turlock Irrigation District's (TID) irrigation canals. Project Nexus will serve as a Proof of Concept to pilot and further study solar over canal design, deployment, and co-benefits on behalf of the State of California using TID infrastructure and electrical grid access.



- + [What is Project Nexus?](#)
- + [How did Project Nexus get its name?](#)
- + [Who are the Project Nexus partners?](#)
- + [What are some benefits of solar panels over canals?](#)
- + [What were some findings of the 2021 University of California study?](#)
- + [Why was Turlock Irrigation District selected?](#)
- + [Where \(and when\) will solar panel canopies be installed within TID?](#)
- + [How much water could TID conserve with Project Nexus?](#)
- + [What types of solar panels will be installed on TID canals?](#)
- + [How is Project Nexus timely?](#)

REGION

- Threats to academic freedom - UC Riverside passes [resolution](#).
- Average [gas price](#) in SoCal hits record high.
- Stockton's City Manager [salary](#) greater than the Governor's.
- [Bomb Tech](#) told to 'relax' before the LA fireworks explosion.
- USC lifts indoor [mask mandate](#) for students and staff.
- Health officials looking for children seen handling [rabies-positive bat](#).
- Riverside County [proposes](#) slate of new short-term rental rules.
- ['Jim Fire'](#) burns 500+ acres amid unseasonably warm weather.
- Migrants climb [Otay Mountains](#) to get into U.S.
- SoCal Gas to conduct helicopter [methane mapping](#) over Fullerton.
- [Groundwater](#): Making the invisible - visible in SoCal.
- Seed funding needed for [major water recycling project](#) in SoCal.
- 6 structures [destroyed](#) in Coachella, Thermal Fires.
- [New route](#) between Banning & Cabazon still moving ahead.
- RivCo supervisors set [hearing](#) to regulate use of military gear.
- L.A. Pandemic [After Action Report](#) reveals challenges in response ops.
- LA Police Commission [seeks](#) report on bomb squad training deficiencies.

St. Patrick's Day [Party](#) On Main Street
2022: The Lobby, Riverside



🍀 St. Patrick's Day On Main St 🍀

Join us on March 17th for our annual St. Patrick's Party here in the heart of Downtown Riverside hosted by Jessica Q along with support from KCAL 96.7, KOLA 99.9 AND 99.1 KGGI.

The County of Riverside Emergency Operations Center is currently activated to [Management Watch](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

- **07 March:**
 - **UCR Arts receives American Alliance of Museums accreditation**
- **04 March:**
 - **UCR Staff Engagement Survey Webinar: March 8 at 11 a.m.**
- **03 March:**
 - **Feedback Requested on the VPIA Candidates**
- **02 March:**
 - **Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education**
- **01 March:**
 - **Staff Assembly Newsletter & upcoming events: March 2022**

Please Reference Notes Section For More Information

NOTABLE

- [Ukraine nuclear power plant attack: scientists assess the risks](#)
- [North Korea Launches Ballistic Missile for Reconnaissance Satellite Test](#)
- [Russia's invasion of Ukraine is being called the world's first crypto war](#)
- [The emerging nuclear threat](#)
- [Russia's nuclear threats: What you need to know](#)
- [The conflict in Ukraine is expected to have a domino effect on various supply chains](#)
- [Strategies For An Uncertain Supply Chain](#)
- [3 biggest cyber risks from the Ukraine-Russia conflict](#)
- [Risk management leaders are already experiencing impacts from the war in Ukraine](#)
- [9 Step Action-Plan to Reduce Cybersecurity Risks Arising From the Russian War Against Ukraine](#)
- [The subject of attribution on cyber attacks is a delicate one](#)
- [What is Cyberwar And How It Relates to Russia-Ukraine Tension](#)
- [Proof of Concept: Is the New Age of Cyber War Here?](#)
- [In a crisis, corporate resilience and business continuity plans become paramount](#)
- [Taiwan Watches Ukraine With an Eye Toward Security at Home](#)
- [How a 1936 treaty could force Turkey to take sides in the Ukraine war](#)
- [Ukraine to lift visa requirement for foreigners who want to join war effort](#)
- [Army vet charged in Florida double murder may remain at large in Ukraine](#)
- [Can intelligence tell how far Putin will go?](#)
- [The cybersecurity risk to our water supply is real. We need to prepare.](#)

Ownership of BCM Programs

- Continuity culture is where the practices, habits, and investments of an organization are oriented toward ensuring that their essential functions are resilient and not just recoverable in the face of a disruptive event.
- Continuity culture is where continuity concepts & considerations permeate everything that the organization does.
- When an organization has a continuity culture, its employees constantly ask themselves the question: How do we ensure that this process, application, or function will remain available (even in a degraded state) in case of a disaster?
- In such organizations, continuity is not a task to be checked off and forgotten about, but an ongoing process.

Some of the more common internal BCP and BCM implementation problems are outlined below:

1. Lack of knowledge and support of BCM by executives and senior management.
2. Inability to adequately identify threats, assess risks, and prioritize (BCM is more than just IT concerns – it is a comprehensive review of the organization's external and internal business environment).
3. Difficulty finding a qualified BC expert or consulting firm.
4. Lack of good management processes and procedures (i.e., organizational competency, established emergency protocols, safety programs, etc.).
5. Inadequate resource allocations for BCM (budget, staff, time).
6. Missing BCP benchmarks and BCM goals (considered low priority).
7. Incomplete or inadequate emergency response and BC plans.
8. Staffs not informed and trained to respond to emergencies.
9. Unrealistic and inadequate rehearsal and exercise of plans.
10. Lack of regularly updating the BC plan and maintaining a BCM program

Getting the business units to take ownership of their BCM activities is a critical step for any organization that wishes to achieve true resiliency.

Ownership of BCM Programs

The Concept of Ownership

Until recently, the word ownership meant having possession and control of some kind of resource. In the past few decades, the word has acquired an additional meaning—namely, a person's feeling of having a stake in some enterprise and taking responsibility for the outcome.

A preschool teacher might talk about teaching their students to take ownership of their hands and feet. Parents of a teenager might strive to get their child to take ownership of his or her homework. And a doctor might seek to get a patient to take ownership of his or her health.

In business culture, ownership is about taking responsibility for performing one's job well and for the well-being and success of the organization overall.

Ownership of BCM Programs

Ownership and Business Continuity

The people in the business units typically demonstrate great ownership when it comes to what they think of as the core activities of their department. However, when it comes to their department's BCM programs and activities, their attitude tends to be that business continuity is not their responsibility; it's that of the BCM office.

Many negative things follow from this attitude. The main one is the belief that any time the department spends working on business impact analyses (BIAs), performing threat and risk assessments (TRAs), writing BCM plans, or participating in BCM exercises is time wasted.

Departmental staff tend to think that in working on BC tasks, they are making a sacrifice to help another department do its job.

Ownership of BCM Programs

The Consequences of Refusing Ownership

The attitude described above commonly leads to resentment, feelings of annoyance, and half-hearted efforts on the part of the business unit toward the BCM office and activities.

However, the consequences of such an attitude go well beyond emotions. When the business units approach their BCM work in a grudging spirit, the result is low-quality work product through every phase of the BC cycle.

This weakens the BCM program at every level, undercutting the organization's preparedness and raising the likely impact from any event (whether it's related to a pandemic, supply chain issue, cyberattack, weather event, incident of workplace violence, power outage, or whatever it might be).

Ownership of BCM Programs

Identifying A Better Approach

There is a different approach that would work better for everyone involved and that is for the business units to take ownership of their BCM program elements and activities.

Once the business units recognize the importance of BCM for the whole organization and accept responsibility for doing a good job at it, the doors to greater departmental and organizational resilience are opened.

Ownership of BCM Programs

Getting the Business Units to Take Ownership of BCM

There are three levels where the new attitude needs to take root. First, the BCM office itself needs to understand this and truly comprehend and believe it. This takes confidence and self-belief. Many BCM professionals secretly see themselves as nags whose job requires them to bother the cool kids with their BIA questionnaires and recovery exercises.

They might instead try thinking of themselves as being in a role analogous to that of teachers, parents, or doctors; their job is to help the departments accept ownership of and grow into their rightful responsibilities for their BC planning and exercises.

Second, management needs to be educated about this issue—and pressed to give the business units time to carry out their BCM responsibilities in a conscientious manner.

Third, the business units themselves need to be brought on board.

Ownership of BCM Programs

Getting the Business Units to Take Ownership of BCM

Sometimes just saying it in plain English can work wonders. For example, you might say to a department: "You own the plans. You own the preparations. Getting prepared is not taking you away from doing your job. Being prepared is part of your job. My job is to help you get everything together, but ultimately this is on you."

You might then explain that having a sound departmental BCM program might make the difference, the next time the organization experiences some kind of event, in whether the department can keep on working or is unable to work, impacting all the people down the line who are depending on it.

Most BCM offices could do more than they are currently doing in terms of educating the people in the departments about what BC is, why it's important, and what the workers' role in it is. Even a five-minute presentation or easy basic training on BC, given at departmental meetings, could help in shifting the culture in the right direction.

Ownership of BCM Programs

Ownership in Action

If and when the business departments at your organization start assuming an ownership attitude toward BCM, the signs will be unmistakable. The departments will start taking the initiative in reviewing plans and conducting exercises. They will come to you to seek your help in improving their preparations. They will begin showing an independent commitment toward doing BCM right. These are the signs of an ownership attitude in action.

Ownership of BCM Programs

Opening the Door Toward True Resilience

Ownership in business today means taking personal responsibility for doing an excellent job and striving to promote the success of the organization overall. Most business departments demonstrate great ownership when it comes to what they believe are the core activities of their unit. Unfortunately, they tend to regard business continuity as the BCM office's responsibility, not theirs—an attitude that has negative consequences for all of their BCM-related activities.

Getting the business units to take ownership of their BCM activities opens the door toward true resilience at an organization. When the BCM office succeeds in getting the business units to adopt an ownership attitude toward BCM, the change is good for the BCM team, great for the departments, and of significant long-term value to the organization and its shareholders.