

(Continued)

The NIPC, in conjunction with representatives from the private industry, the academic community, and the public sector, further developed the "InfraGard" initiative to expand direct contacts with the private sector infrastructure owners and operators and to share information about cyber intrusions, exploited vulnerabilities, and infrastructure threats. The initiative, encouraging the exchange of information by government and private sector members, continued to expand through the formation of additional InfraGard chapters, within the jurisdiction of each FBI field office. As of this date, all 56 field offices of the FBI have opened an InfraGard chapter, with a total of 518 company members across the nation.

The National InfraGard Program provides four basic services to its members: an intrusion alert network using encrypted e-mail; a secure website for communication about suspicious activity or intrusions; local chapter activities and a help desk for questions. The critical component of InfraGard is the ability of industry to provide information on intrusions to the local FBI field office using secure communications in both a "sanitized" and detailed format. The local FBI field offices can, if appropriate, use the detailed version to initiate an investigation; while the NIPC at FBI Headquarters can analyze that information to determine if the intrusion is a broader attack on numerous sites. The NIPC can simultaneously use the sanitized version to inform other members of the intrusion without compromising the confidentiality of the reporting company. In addition, the secure website contains a variety of analytic and warning [intelligence] products that can be made available to the InfraGard community.

A testament to this program is the fact that at last count, in 2012, there were almost 55,000 members in the InfraGard community.¹⁵