Texas Department of Banking
Press Release

InfraGard Meets at the Texas Department of Banking

Date: June 22, 2000

The Texas Department of Banking recently hosted an organizational meeting for the Central & South Texas chapter of *InfraGard*. *InfraGard* is a partnership of private businesses and government agencies dedicated to protecting the electronic infrastructure of the Internet. The *InfraGard* program is an essential part of the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC)'s nationwide outreach efforts. The program establishes a mechanism for two-way information sharing about computer intrusion incidents and system vulnerabilities along with providing a channel for the NIPC to disseminate analytical threat products to *InfraGard* members.

Texas Banking Commissioner Randall James states that "the Banking Department's primary goal is to proactively identify and develop responses to Internet related risks and their corresponding affect upon the Texas banking industry. An increasing number of banks are engaging in the Internet delivery of financial products. The Department believes that banks need to fully develop adequate policies and procedures before entering in E-banking and establish sound monitoring and security procedures after E-banking services are offered. Internally, the Department is improving the information analysis skills of its examination force, including the development of senior examiners who are skilled in information system auditing."

The *InfraGard* Program provides information sharing at the national, state, and local levels. The organization's main objectives are: (i) to provide prompt advisories, alerts, and warnings about Internet security breeches; (ii) to provide education and training on infrastructure vulnerabilities and protection measures; (iii) to ensure the protection of shared information among it's members; (iv) to increase interaction and information sharing among it's members; and (v) to enhance the quantity and quality of infrastructure intrusion/threat reports provided to the FBI and the NIPC. In addition, an *InfraGard* Help Desk is available to members seeking assistance.

The Department of Banking is a founding member of the North Texas *InfraGard* Chapter and is the first member of the Central & South Texas *InfraGard* Chapter. Participants include private businesses, academic institutions, federal and state government agencies, and law enforcement organizations such as the FBI and DPS. The Department believes that the partnership of private and government members avails an excellent mechanism to respond to potential cyber threats.