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# Resilience: The Fifth Element in Crisis and Emergency Management

McCreight, Robert

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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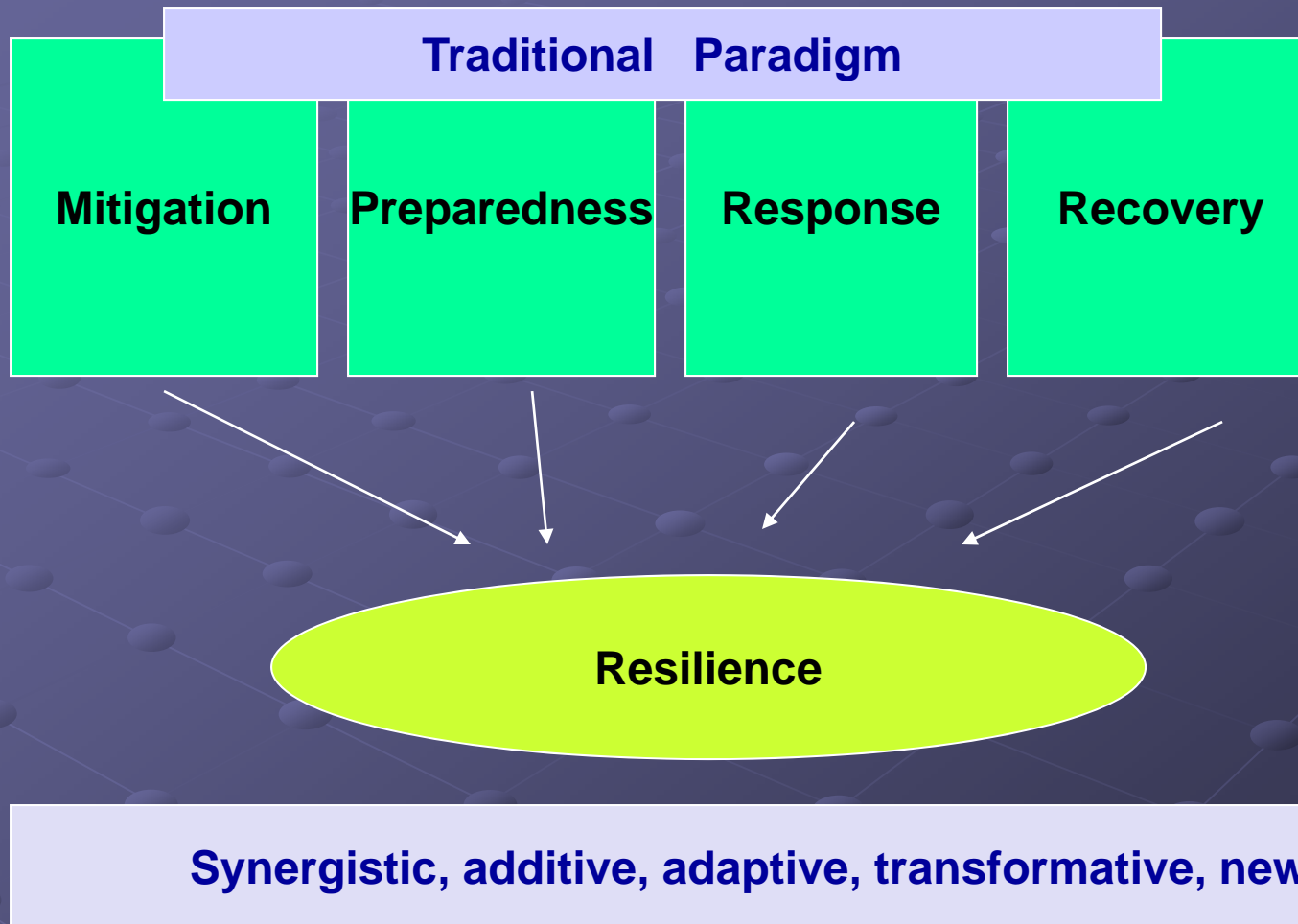
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# Resilience: The Fifth Element in Crisis and Emergency Management

Robert McCreight, Ph.D.  
George Washington University  
2010 HDSE Summit

# A New Perspective



# Defining Resilience

- “...resilience as defined here in the United States actually goes beyond mitigation and recovery to include explicit strategies jointly developed by business-government-civic and educational partnerships which create a different metric, newer standards and more rigorous objectives for advancing the field and its ongoing professionalization. Resilience emerges as something additive to the classic four elements and thereby heralds a new set of assumptions, requirements, resources and goals important to crisis and emergency management. Implications for teaching, researching and professional development are significant. [McCreight]

# Resilience—Conceptual Terrain

Requirement

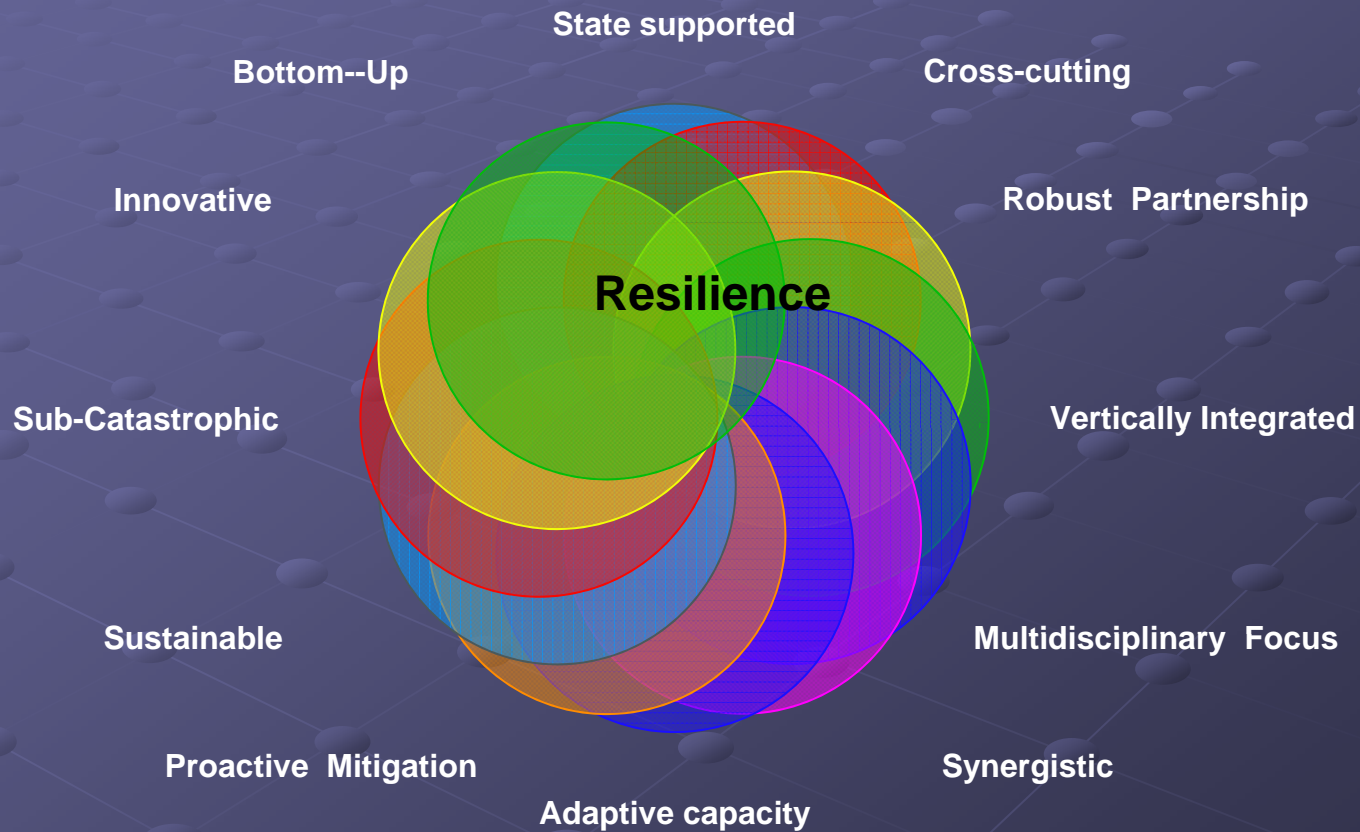
Standard

Yardstick

Goal

**‘What must society do to confidently attain the greatest degree of post-disaster restoration possible and what adaptive, creative and innovative systems must be installed deliberately and strategically in advance of a crisis, and in the midst of a crisis to ensure and sustain that outcome?’**

# Resilience—12 elements



# Future Resilience Indicators

- are built to avoid and absorb the onslaught of disasters exhibiting a capacity to weather them with significantly less damage than otherwise would occur
- readily mobilize resources to protect people, resources, property, industry, and infrastructure from total destruction in advance of systems failures and in anticipation of new disasters
- allow certain system elements to fail responsibly in ways which do not further harm people, resources, property, industry, and infrastructure
- complement natural barriers, pathways, and defenses rather than replace them while engineering creative solutions and adaptive technologies to minimize damages
- incorporate sustainable engineering strategies and systems to rebuild responsibly and thwart the worst effects of new disaster



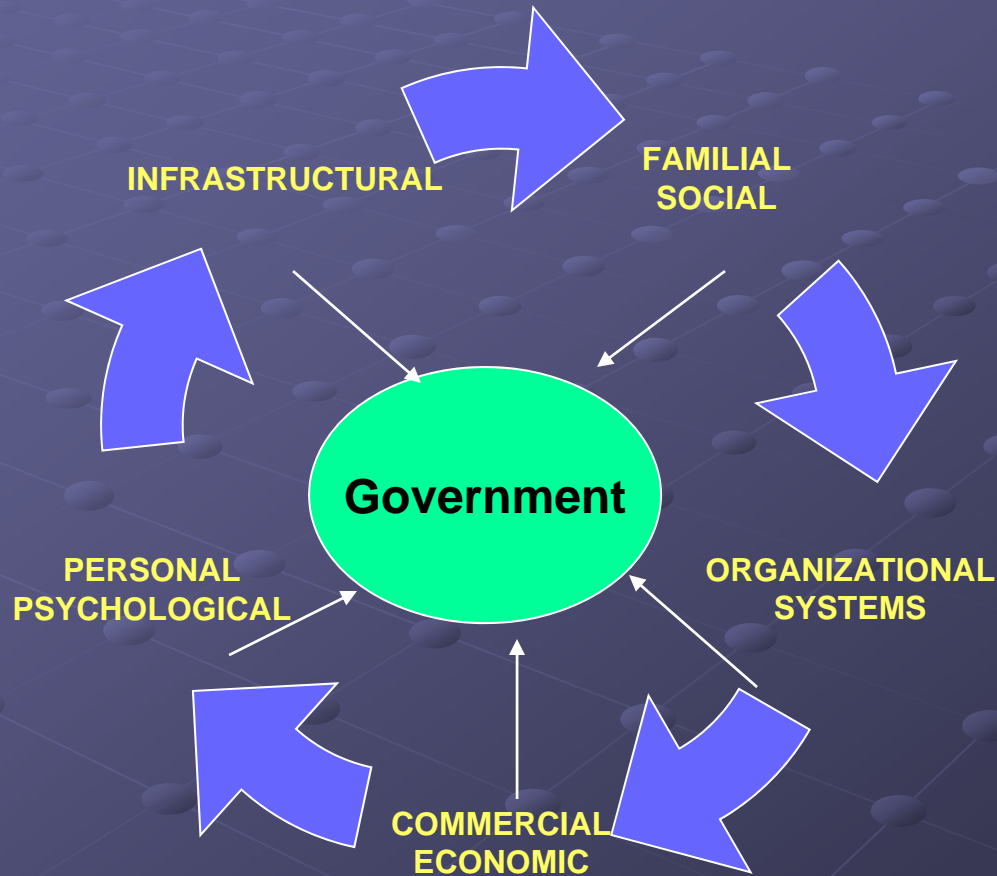
# Resilience Signals

- More than bouncing back
- More than robust recovery or 'back to normal'
- More than emerging bruised but intact

**Resilience absorbs the worst onslaught of damages  
withstands the most extremely devastating forces  
quickly rebounds from complete and utter destruction  
defies easy and overcomes simplistic mitigation  
thwarts and deters annihilation  
reflects strategic pre-disaster adaptations to endure  
demonstrates restoration rooted in partnership**



# Resilience Dimensions



# Resilience—The Challenge

- What strategies and programs can help build resilience in our community?
- How can resilience partnerships be promoted?
- How will multiple stakeholders become engaged to promote resilience as the future of hometown emergency management?
- How can we promote a community's capacity to anticipate, withstand, and rebound from a disaster with minimal damage and disruption by virtue of the strength of its people, institutions, businesses, infrastructures and social networks?
- Prepare to prosper VS 'prepare for disaster'

# Resilience

- Questions??    Comments??
- Thanks
- [mccr8@gwu.edu](mailto:mccr8@gwu.edu)