



Homeland
Security

April 20, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Dimitri Kusnezov
Under Secretary for Science and Technology

Eric Hysen
Chief Information Officer

FROM: Alejandro N. Mayorka
Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AN Mayorka", written over the printed name of the Secretary.

SUBJECT: **Establishment of a DHS Artificial Intelligence Task Force**

DHS must address the many ways in which artificial intelligence (AI), including revolutionary advances in generative AI, will drastically alter the threat landscape and augment the arsenal of tools we possess to succeed in the face of the threats. We must also ensure that our use of AI is rigorously tested to avoid bias and disparate impact, and is clearly explainable to the people we serve.

To advance specific mission applications of AI across the Department, I am directing the creation of an internal Artificial Intelligence Task Force (AITF or “Task Force”). The Task Force will begin with the following discrete tasks, among others:

- Integrate AI into our efforts to enhance the integrity of our supply chains and the broader trade environment. We will seek to deploy AI to more ably screen cargo, identify the importation of goods produced with forced labor, and manage risk.
- Leverage AI to counter the flow of fentanyl into the United States. We will explore using this technology to better detect fentanyl shipments, identify and interdict the flow of precursor chemicals around the world, and target for disruption key nodes in the criminal networks.
- Apply AI to digital forensic tools to help identify, locate, and rescue victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of this heinous crime.
- And, working with partners in government, industry, and academia, assess the impact of AI on our ability to secure critical infrastructure.

Subject: Establishment of a DHS Artificial Intelligence Task Force

Page 2

I ask that you both lead this Task Force as its Co-Chairs on behalf of the Department. The Task Force's Members shall be the heads of all Offices and Agencies. As Co-Chairs, you shall establish the Task Force's internal working procedures and may draw on staff detailed from Offices and Agencies across the Department to support its work. The Task Force's authority does not alter the current functions, rights, privileges, powers, authorities, and duties vested by law in Department officials, or any directive or delegation, related to artificial intelligence.

The Task Force shall be established for one year, after which it may be extended to continue its work.

The Task Force shall report to me regularly on its work and AI efforts across the Department more broadly, including:

- Within 45 days, a concept of operations for the Task Force, including milestones for advancing the four priority initiatives outlined above; and
- Every 60 days thereafter, a progress report on the four priority initiatives outlined above and any other pertinent AI initiatives identified by the Task Force.

The Task Force shall also be responsible for reviewing and, where appropriate, implementing the Homeland Security Advisory Council's (HSAC) upcoming findings and recommendations on the intersection of AI and homeland security. Within 30 days of the release of the HSAC's report, the Task Force shall develop a plan to implement the HSAC's recommendations across the Department. The Task Force shall include updates on implementation in the recurring progress reports noted above.

cc: DHS Agencies and Offices