February 14, 2024

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM:	Dr. Dimitri Kusnezov Under Secretary for Science & Technology	Mr. Eric Hysen Chief Information Officer Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer

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Date: 2024.03.20 15:57:03 -04'00'

SUBJECT: **Artificial Intelligence Task Force (AITF) 90 Day Update**

Purpose: In the *DHS Artificial Intelligence Task Force* memorandum dated April 20, 2023, you established the AITF to advance the artificial intelligence across the Department. This memorandum serves as an update on progress toward advancing Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the DHS missions.

Context and DHS Equities: The Department made a public commitment to lean forward in deploying AI tools to enhance Departmental operations and lead the government in the responsible and ethical use of AI. Senior Leadership should understand the AITF's progress as it pertains to furthering the Department's commitment.

Progress Report

The AITF has continued to carry out the Implementation Phase with the goal of delivering value to the Agencies & Offices, executing against mission goals, and providing implementation support.

Notable accomplishments of the AITF include:

- **AI Policy Working Group**: On November 27, 2023, DHS held the kick-off for the AI Policy Working Group (AIPWG), which fulfills the requirement to establish the AIPWG from Policy Statement 139-06, *Acquisition and Use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Technologies by DHS Components*. The AIPWG's responsibilities are to effect policy change and apply oversight to DHS AI activities, as well as engage, support, and coordinate with the AI Task Force. The establishment of the AIPWG

formalized and expanded an existing AI working group convened in response to requirements in the FY23 NDAA. Policy Statement 139-06 was an initial step in fulfilling those NDAA requirements, and the AIPWG's work will carry it forward. Initial priorities for the AIPWG include developing a DHS Directive and Instruction on AI, with a focus on strategic or enterprise level AI governance.

- **AI/ML Community of Interest:** The DHS AI/ML Community of Interest (COI), led by the DHS S&T AI/ML Technology Center, meets the first Tuesday of each month to share knowledge and experience across the Department on the topic of AI and ML. The COI meetings typically consist of invited speakers internal and external to DHS to provide a presentation and discussion of topics of interest. During the November meeting held on November 7, the DHS AITF presented an overview of the task force efforts to date including the three pilot projects and efforts related to the four priority initiatives. The COI also hosted a presentation on ChatGPT on January 9, and a presentation on The Paradox of Transparency Mechanisms in AI-Assisted Decision-Making on February 6. The DHS Chief Technology Officer CTO also provided an introduction to the DHS Generative AI policy and answered questions on its implementation.

- **Sector Risk Assessments**: The AITF participated in an AI Risks and Mitigation Strategies Workshop November 6, 2023, hosted by CISA. In this workshop, members of the AITF worked alongside representatives of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors to discuss AI risks such as offensive use of AI, attacks targeting AI, and overreliance on AI; in addition to taking the first steps in identifying the biggest risks posed to each sector.

- **Stakeholders & Industry Engagement:** The Under Secretary for Science and Technology (USST) and Chief Information Officer (CIO) have continued to engage in open dialogue with stakeholders and industry to convey DHS' priorities and the role of artificial intelligence. This includes the USST and CIO leading panels at the Innovation, Research, and Development (IRD) Showcase on October 30, 2023; as well as the USST leading the S&T delegation in a bilateral meeting with the United Kingdom Home office November 14, 2023; and delivering keynote remarks at the 6th Annual Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) Summit November 2, 2023.

- **Technology and AI Roundtable:** In November, the AITF conducted a roundtable with the Secretary and Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO) / CIO Hysen in San Jose, CA to discuss resource needs for AI and industry best practices in responsible use and attracting talent to government. Attendees included past government employees and technologists with expertise in AI and IT technologies.

- **USST Preparedness Series:** USST has published a series of reports on National Preparedness that address AI and other emerging technologies and outline how S&T is gearing up for the rapid changes ahead. This series contains five reports, including three in particular that highlight AI: Risks and Mitigation Strategies for Adversarial Artificial Intelligence Threats: A DHS S&T Study, Foundation Models at the Department of Homeland Security, and Preparedness in Times of Rapid Change.

- **New DHS AI Strategy/Roadmap:** Under the direction of the CAIO, DHS has developed a DHS AI Roadmap to establish a strategic framework for AI and coordinate announcements and milestones across the Department for 2024. The Roadmap will align with Executive Order 14110 "Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence," and pending guidance in OMB's "Advancing Governance, Innovation, and Risk Management for Agency Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)" memo to be released soon.

- **AI at DHS website:** The AITF launched webpages about Artificial Intelligence at DHS on October 30, 2023, to coincide with the President's release of Executive Order 14110. The AI webpages, at dhs.gov/ai, communicate DHS's critical role in ensuring AI safety and security and DHS's leadership in responsible use. The web pages have been updated as significant events occur.

- **Facial Recognition/Face Capture Directive:** On September 11, 2023, the Under Secretary for Management issued a Directive and Instruction on the "Use of Face Recognition and Face Capture Technologies." To implement this directive, DHS has established a cross functional team consisting of the Offices for Privacy, Civil Rights Civil Liberties, Science & Technology, Information Security, Policy, and led by the Chief Technology Officer Directorate to conduct a 120-day review of existing FR/FC uses. Currently the Tiger Team is nearing completion of the review of 44 use cases, services, systems, and programs spanning across seven various Components. The next stages consist of compiling all findings and assisting the Components in building remediation plans, and finally reporting the outcomes to the CIO within the 120 days.

- **Commercial Generative AI Use Approval Process and Training:** To implement the "Use of Commercial Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools," Policy Statement 139-07, OCIO, in consultation with PRIV, CRCL, and other offices with equities in the use of this technology, created a process for pre-deployment strategic and operational review of the tools and end user training on the acceptable use of Generative AI. To date, 3,063 total unique individuals have participated in this training. Current conditionally approved tools include ChatGPT 3.5 & 4.0, Claude 2, and DALL-E2.

- **AI Pilot Program:** Last August the AITF initiated an AI Pilot Program to test the use of AI (with an emphasis on Generative AI/Large Language Models) to support the DHS mission. The AITF selected three pilots and has been working with the teams to test and evaluate the capabilities and effectiveness of several Large Language Models. The AITF will make an official announcement on the pilot selections in March and is coordinating with the Office of Public Affairs on an announcement.

- **AITF Responsible Use Group (RUG):** A goal of the RUG is engagement with AITF-sponsored projects to assess risks and prescribe tailored mitigations. During this 90-day period, the three AITF-sponsored projects under development at ICE, USCIS, and FEMA briefed the AITF Vice Chair for Responsible Use and RUG membership to begin the advisory and oversight engagement process. RUG designated subject matter experts have

formed three small task teams to provide advice and guidance directly to the three project teams, while reporting to the Vice Chair and pulling support from a larger advisory group. The approach balances the need to be inclusive of multiple disciplines under the umbrella of responsible use (e.g., civil rights, civil liberties, privacy, security, legal) with minimizing burden on project teams for efficient and meaningful engagement.

- **DHS AI Corps:** Inspired by Executive Order 14110, the AITF is working to quickly hire and onboard 50 AI technology experts including product and policy leaders and IT specialists. Modeled after the U.S. Digital Service and DHS's own Digital Service team, the AI Corps will hire these professionals using OPM's new direct hire authority for AI. Once hired, these AI experts will be assigned across DHS and Components as needed. DHS launched the AI Corps on February 6 at DHS's AI Day event in Mountain View, CA. The event was attended by over 90 people including technologists, guests from industry and academia, and DHS Components. DHS Customer Experience, USCIS, HSI, and FEMA presented information about their use of AI in support of their missions.

Next Milestone

Information gathered during the Discovery and Analysis phase will be used to inform the DHS mission-focused AI strategy/roadmap. The AITF also expects to formally announce the AI pilot selections, including a press release, in March 2024.

OGC/Chief Counsel Coordination: Counsel for OGC-TPLD (Steve McCleary, Nicole Marson) and OGC-GLD (OCIO) (Jennifer Carlisle, Gabe Lohr) have reviewed this memo and have no comments. OGC continues to provide legal review and support as needed.

Component Coordination: This memorandum was coordinated with the following components:

PLCY: DAS Thomas McDermott, cleared 3/6/24
OGC: COS David Pamer, cleared 3/5/24
PRIV: CPO Mason Clutter, cleared 3/6/24
CRCL: Officer Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, cleared 3/6/24
CISA: Executive Director Brandon Wales, cleared 03/6/2024
ICE: DCOS Lesly Company, cleared 3/5/24
USCIS: CAIO Erika Botts, cleared 3/6/24
FEMA: Sr. Technical Advisor for Data & Analytics Julie Waters, cleared 3/5/24