

Legislative Text (Relevant Language)

SEC. 543.

(a) For an additional amount for emergent threats from violent extremism and from complex, coordinated terrorist attacks, \$50,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017.

(b) Funds made available in subsection (a) for emergent threats may be transferred by the Secretary of Homeland Security between appropriations for the same purpose, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act.

(c) No transfer described in subsection (b) shall occur until 15 days after the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified of such transfer.

1) Joint Explanatory Statement to Legislative Text (Relevant Section)

Responding to Emergent Threats from Violent Extremism

A general provision in title V of this Act provides \$50,000,000 for emergent threats from violent extremism and from complex, coordinated terrorist attacks, and allows the Secretary to transfer such funds between appropriations after notifying the Committees 15 days in advance. Within these funds, not more than \$10,000,000 is for a countering violent extremism (CVE) initiative to help states and local communities prepare for, prevent, and respond to emergent threats from violent extremism; not less than \$39,000,000 is for an initiative to help states and local governments prepare for, prevent, and respond to complex, coordinated terrorist attacks with the potential for mass casualties and infrastructure damage; and not less than \$1,000,000 shall be for expanding or enhancing the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series, which brings together federal, state, and local governments, and the private sector to help regions improve their counterterrorism preparedness posture, including the ability to address the threat of complex terrorist attacks.

All funds under the CVE initiative shall be provided on a competitive basis directly to states, local governments, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, or institutions of higher education. Eligible activities for the CVE initiative shall include, but not be limited to, planning, developing, implementing, or expanding educational outreach, community engagement, social service programs, training, and exercises, as well as other activities as the Secretary determines appropriate. Existing programs should be utilized wherever practical. Eligible activities for the initiative related to complex coordinated terrorist attacks shall include, but not be limited to, planning, training and exercises to support plans, and other activities the Secretary determines appropriate, consistent with this statement.

Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department shall brief the Committees on plans for execution of the initiatives, to include timelines, goals, metrics, and how the Whole of Community will be included.

From: Curry, Timothy <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"S&T Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"CRCL Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"I&A Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
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"ICE Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"USCIS Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"TSAExecSec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

To: (b)(6)

"FEMAExecSec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"FLETC Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"EXEC, USCG SM <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"IGA ExecSec2 <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"OGC Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

"OPS Exec Sec <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)

CC: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: [Component Action] Inventory of Department CVE Activities and Efforts: Due July 27 at 3:30pm

Date: 2014/07/18 15:31:59

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

DHS/S&T, DHS/CRCL, DHS/I&A, DHS/PLCY, DHS/IGA, DHS/OPA, DHS/OPS,
DHS/MGMT, ICE, CBP, USCIS, TSA, USCG, NPPD, USSS, FEMA and FLETC:

The DHS Office of Policy (PLCY), Counterterrorism Policy (CT Policy), kindly requests your assistance with this tasking.

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.....
Timothy B. Curry

Deputy Director

Counterterrorism Policy
Office of Policy
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

(b)(6)

Email (b)(6)
HSDN
JWICS

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Sender: Curry, Timothy (b)(6)
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Recipient:

(b)(6)

Sent Date: 2014/07/18 15:31:56

Delivered Date: 2014/07/18 15:31:59



Fact Sheet:
**The Department of Homeland Security's Approach to
Countering Violent Extremism**

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ISSUE PAPERS FOR U.S. –UK JOINT CONTACT GROUP
WASHINGTON, DC

To: Distribution List
From: PLCY/OIE-Europe
Event: Upcoming S2 hosted Joint Contact Group
Exec Sec Briefing Book Coordinators: PLCY Exec Sec and PLCY-OIE Tasking
Issue Papers Due to PLCY/OIE: Friday, July 17, 2015 (1700)

Overview

All papers, fully coordinated at the action level, and approved by Component Head, Deputy, or COS should be sent **via email to OIA-EUR@HQ.DHS.GOV and PLCY-OIETasking@hq.dhs.gov by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 17, 2015.**

Revisions to this tasker may occur as event details are finalized. If you have any questions about the list below, please contact **OIA-EUR@hq.dhs.gov**, and cc: PLCY Exec Sec.

General Drafting Guidance:

Papers should be concise. Please ensure that your papers identify a POC to respond to follow-up questions.

Issue Papers:

Issue	Drafter	Coordination	Required Product/Notes	Ref #
Trends and Experience with Syrian Refugees and Asylum Seekers	USCIS		Issue Paper (<i>Please include experience with Syrian TPS, asylum requests, and plans for refugee referrals.</i>)	IP-1
Counterterrorism engagement with Tunisia	CT Staff		Issue Paper and Talking Points	IP-2
Engagement with EUROPOL	CT Staff, CBP, ICE, USSS (separately)		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please include personnel positions posted at EUROPOL, engagement priorities, and</i>	IP-3

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			<i>any operational activities/success stories.</i>	
Counter terrorist financing	ICE		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please provide overview of approach and engagement with the UK. Please provide relevant success stories.</i>)	IP-4
Counter-proliferation	ICE		Issue Paper and Talking Points (Please provide overview of approach and engagement with the UK.)	IP-5
U.S. Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2178	CT Staff		Issue Paper and Talking Points	IP-6
Trends from the Regional CVE Summits	CVE Coordinator, CT Staff,		Issue Paper and Talking Points	IP-7
Cooperation on CVE issues with the UK	CVE Coordinator	CRCL, CT Staff, I&A, S&T	Issue Paper (<i>Please include an update of the CVE Action Items from the last JCG</i>)	IP-8
Encryption	PLCY/Cyber	PLCY/LE	Issue Paper and Talking Points	IP-9
Global Entry	CBP		Issue Paper and Talking Points regarding the Global Entry partnership with the UK.	IP-10
Preclearance Expansion Overseas	CBP	TSA	Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please provide update on efforts to expand preclearance with European partners. Please provide additional detail on the two UK locations</i>)	IP-11
Overview of FCM/FCC Information Sharing Matrix	PLCY		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please include current state of play, initial observations and lessons learned, and goals for upcoming FCC and FCM meetings</i>)	IP-12
United Kingdom: Priorities and significant bilateral engagement, programs	CBP, TSA, ICE, NPPD, S&T, USCIS, USSS,		Issue Paper <i>CBP, ICE, and USSS: Please also include examples of law enforcement/operational successes with the UK, if applicable</i>	IP-13

	DNDO,USCG (separately)		<i>TSA: Please include number of LPD airports in country, number of flights to the U.S. and ranking of country in terms of number of passengers flying to the U.S.</i>	
DHS-UK Aviation Security collaboration to counter foreign fighter threat	TSA, S&T		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please provide information and updates on ongoing work with the UK to collaborate on efforts to counter the current threat</i>)	IP-14
Update on CBP-UKBF Action Items from last JCG	CBP		Issue Paper and Talking Points	IP-15
Update on U.S.-UK Bilateral Information Sharing Agreements	PLCY/TPSP		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please include FCC US-UK Bilateral Agreements and PCSC Agreement</i>)	IP-16
Information Sharing with Interpol	PLCY/TPSP		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please include DHS priorities with Interpol, and updates on U.S. and UK information sharing with Interpol</i>)	IP-17
Update on the Blue Campaign	Blue Campaign		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please include DHS human trafficking priorities and approaches, and international engagement</i>)	IP-18
Visa Waiver Program Update	PLCY/TPSP		Issue Paper and Talking Points (<i>Please include information DHS can share with the UK on VWP reform/enhancements</i>)	IP-19

From: (b)(6)
Sent Via: Miron, Mike <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)
"Cook, Adam <(b)(6)>
(b)(6)
To: "Kosko, Christia
(b)(6)
"Adams, Charles
(b)(6)

Subject: CONF/CALL: CVE WORKING GROUP MEETING

Date: 2013/07/24 08:47:11

Start Date: 2013/07/24 10:00:00

End Date: 2013/07/24 11:00:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Appointment

Location: DIAL-IN: 1-800-320-4330 // PIN: 138 926

Adam and Christian,

I am not going to be on the call. I have a security interview to do (unless its running late).

Best,

Mike

Dial: (b)(6)

Conference Pin: (b)(6)

All-

Since we are still waiting for some people to return from travel, tomorrow we will have the CVEWG meeting scheduled as a call rather than as an in-person meeting. Topics of discussion will include a read-out from the 5CM meetings, an update on the two cities effort, as well as an update on the Bipartisan Policy Center event on 7/31. For the call tomorrow please use the information below to dial in:

DIAL-IN: (b)(6)

Thanks very much,

Lauren

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Wenger (CTWG); (b)(6)

Sender: (b)(6)
ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (b)(6)
Recipient: (b)(6)

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"Cook, Adam (b)(6)

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"Kosko, Christi

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"Adams, Char

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Sent Date: 2013/07/24 08:47:11

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COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM SUBCOMITTE CONTACT SHEET

NAME **CONTACT #** **EMAIL**

Farah Pandith (Chair)

Adnan Kifayat (Chair)

Laila Alawa

John Allen

Russ Deyo

Paul Goldenberg

Jane Harman

Seamus Hughes

Joel Meyer

Jeffrey Miller

Michael Nutter

Matthew Olsen

Ali Soufan

Juan Zarate

(b)(6)

From: Donna Yuen (b)(6)
To: "Miron, Mike" (b)(6)
CC: "Haiman, Ben" (b)(6)
Subject: Cook County CVE
Date: 2014/09/24 11:15:07
Type: Note

Hi Mike,

Please see the attached on Cook County's CVE efforts and CTVAC initiative.

Thanks,
Donna

Sender: Donna Yuen (DHSEM) (b)(6)
Recipient: "Miron, Mike </O=DHS>" (b)(6)
"Haiman, Ben </D=DHS>" (b)(6)
Sent Date: 2014/09/24 11:14:50
Delivered Date: 2014/09/24 11:15:07

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DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL)
Current and Proposed Community Engagement on the Syrian Conflict
April 1, 2014

PURPOSE: The Syrian Outreach plan was created and implemented at the request of the DHS Counter-Terrorism Advisory Board (CTAB). While CRCL and DHS have current and ongoing engagement with diverse community groups, including the Syrian community, the purpose of the plan is to identify concrete short term and long term initiatives aimed at expanding Syria-specific engagement with communities demonstrating, or likely to have, strong equities in a variety of topics surrounding the conflict in Syria, or the region writ large.

CURRENT/ONGOING DHS-WIDE ENGAGEMENT WITH SYRIAN COMMUNITY: CRCL regularly engages with diverse community groups in fourteen cities across the United States, including the Syrian community. Over the past three months, at the request of leadership, CRCL has conducted additional enhanced engagement with key leaders and officials of Syrian-American organizations around the country. They have proven reliable stakeholders with a strong sense of commitment and understanding of the government goal of countering violent extremism domestically. Several have offered to partner with us and facilitate our community engagement work more formally should we wish to proceed.

DHS offices and components have also engaged with Syrian American Organizations in a number of ways. For example, USCIS held a number of public outreach sessions on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for which Syrian nationals remain eligible. The USCIS website also features specific information on TPS for eligible Syrian nationals. USCIS as well as CBP, ICE, and TSA continue their ongoing regional leadership participation in the CRCL quarterly engagement roundtable meetings in fourteen cities. ICE has conducted Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) related outreach events. While SEVIS isn't specific to one specific community, such outreach directly impacts student populations with strong Syria-specific equities. In addition, ICE has extended employment authorization for Syrian F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship. ICE ERO has also addressed one query specific to immigration enforcement of Syrian nationals.

CRCL ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT OF RELEVANCE: In light of the increased number of foreign fighters traveling to the Syrian war zone to engage in the conflict, and successful terrorist attacks in the US and overseas, CRCL has developed an enhanced engagement model, in an effort to counter violent extremism. CRCL conducted an assessment of engagement partners, to ensure the correct audience and stakeholders are included in CRCL engagement events, especially as the discussion relates to CVE. CRCL then developed and implemented enhanced engagement events throughout the US targeting non-traditional partners, community organizers, and religious leaders. Current and ongoing enhanced engagement events include:

- ***International Engagement:*** DHS focuses on developing an enhanced understanding of CVE through direct exchanges and coordination with international partners. DHS works with international partners both bilaterally and multilaterally in efforts that focus on community-based problem solving approaches and community oriented policing. CRCL has participated in dozens of international conferences and workshops, State Department sponsored speaker's

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tours, and International Leadership Visitors Programs (IVLP) throughout the UK, Europe, Scandinavia, and Southeast Asia. CRCL has hosted international delegations from around the world to discuss CVE related issues, and has participated in multilateral CVE efforts, such as the Five Country Ministerial. CRCL is a key component in the development of CVE best practices through community engagement – a program under the auspices of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), and the Hedayah Center, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates- the first international center dedicated to countering violent extremism.

- ***CVE Tabletop Exercises:*** CRCL was charged with developing new innovative programs and initiatives designed to share CVE-related information with communities that may be targeted by violent extremists, to increase their resilience to counter the violent extremist narrative. One of these initiatives includes the CVE Tabletop Exercises (CVEX). CVEX consists of trust-building workshop with community members and local law enforcement, and uses an unfolding possible terrorism scenario with two threads: one thread disclosing what the police have learned and the other thread what the community experiences. Law enforcement explains their authorities and their limits to help community members improve their understanding of what police can and cannot do. Community members provide cultural and religious context on perspectives and likely reactions.
 - **Current CVEX Schedule:** Chicago, IL in December 2013 (completed); Durham, NC in March 2014 (Completed); Seattle, WA in April 2014 (Scheduled); and Columbus, OH in May 2014 (Scheduled). Other cities where CVEX will be scheduled: Houston, TX; Boston, MA; Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN; and Los Angeles, CA.

GOALS OF THE SYRIA OUTREACH PLAN: The plan outlines a number of concrete short term and long term initiatives aimed at expanding Syria-specific engagement across DHS. The goals of the plan are to:

1. Execute the activities described in this plan within the targeted timeframe.
2. Increase community involvement in countering violent extremism, specifically related to the Syrian and/ or regional conflict.
3. Create a protocol or mechanism to ensure harmonized efforts and messaging across related efforts aimed at the Syrian and/ or regional conflict.

TEMPORARY WORKING GROUP ON SYRIA RELATED ISSUES: CRCL will identify appropriate POCs and convene a working group to coordinate expanded engagement with communities that may be vulnerable to the draw of the Syrian conflict. The working group will allow DHS Offices and components to effectively collaborate on Syria related issues and help to ensure the goals and initiatives outlined in this plan are successfully implemented. The working group will be led by CRCL and report to the DHS Counterterrorism Advisory Board.

PROPOSED EXPANDED ENGAGEMENT: DHS Community Engagement with the Syrian-American and related community focuses on promoting and enabling the community's efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE), particularly among youth, by way of a participatory trust-

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building process already tested with other communities where CVE is a policy priority. This process also makes resolution of grievances and policy consultations with the community stakeholders as a priority. This process further empowers community opposition to violent extremism and does not alienate communities. As the situation in Syria warrants, expanded and enhanced engagement will position the Department to work with community partners to address key sensitive issues, including motivations for foreign fighter travel, implications for screening, countering terrorist messaging, and reactions to U.S. involvement in the region.

DHS will undertake the following short and long term initiatives outlined below to expand engagement with the Syrian-American community.

Short Term Initiatives: To be implemented between December 1, 2013 and February 28, 2014.

1. (CRCL) Activate community-specific Incident Community Coordination Team (ICCT) web-based conference calls. This conference call mechanism connects federal officials with key leaders in the event of a situation in which contact would be productive. DHS participant components and offices include TSA, ICE, CBP, USCIS, FEMA, the Office of Public Affairs, and the Office of Intelligence & Analysis. We are also joined when relevant by the White House Office of Public Engagement, the DOJ Civil Rights Division, the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the Department of Defense, USAID, and the Department of State, among others. Community participants include representatives of national organizations, community leaders from key cities, and religious and cultural scholars. Our ICCT has been used eleven times since we established it in 2006.

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- On March 24, 2014, CRCL coordinated a DHS-wide leadership briefing to be held at the NAC at which the SSG will present to senior leadership detailed information on the threat of foreign fighters.
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3. (CRCL) Conduct threat briefings for key community stakeholders who have influence with regional and local constituencies and can serve as reliable echo-chambers for messaging purposes. These briefings can be conducted using the community engagement round table mechanisms coordinated by CRCL in fourteen cities across the country. It could be conducted in the form of community-specific town halls in partnership with one or more key community based groups or in a smaller round table format focusing on specific community leaders in a specific geographic area.
 4. (CRCL) Implement community-specific trust-building engagement exercises in priority cities with large or concentrated relevant populations including Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, New York City, Houston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Boston. These steps would include specific youth-focused consultations and briefings.
 - CRCL will be initiating these broader efforts with community-specific meetings in Chicago, IL in April 2014 (Scheduled) and a community town hall discussion in Los Angeles, CA in May 2014 (Scheduled).
 5. (USCIS) Hold public engagements on TPS with a variety of community groups, including Syrian nationals, in response to community interest.
 6. (USCIS) Explore interest in Arabic language public engagement for FY2014.
 7. (CBP) Include Syrian-American organizations in the general quarterly NGO meetings hosted by the Office of the Commissioner in Washington, DC
 8. (CBP) Coordinate information-sharing efforts with the CBP attaché' in Ankara, Turkey, as well as the TSA Frankfurt Regional Operations Center and create/forward community-provided information to the attachés.
 9. (I&A and CRCL) Work on creating federal, state, and local LEA training related to the threats of foreign fighters. Enhance exiting FLETC training with information regarding foreign fighter issues.

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10. (I&A and CRCL) Create a Community Awareness Briefing (CAB) to be implemented starting in November 2013 using the CRCL community engagement process and stakeholders.
11. (PLCY) Ensure topline goals including harmonizing of messaging, consistent terminology, coordination with other USG and partner nations' Syria-specific efforts, and identification of effectiveness measures.
12. (FEMA's DHS Center for Faithbased and Neighborhood Partnerships and CRCL) Facilitate faith-based engagement.
13. (TSA, ICE, and CRCL) SMEs to help provide any future presentations or briefings with equities related to Syria outreach as may be coordinated through CRCL's expanded community engagement efforts.

Long Term Initiatives: To be implemented between December 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014.

1. Collaborate with community and faith-based organizations, as well as local, state, and federal interagency partners to develop youth engagement initiatives throughout the country more broadly.
2. Promote informational programs and forums by local and federal law enforcement agencies to address community vulnerabilities, including internet-borne threats.
3. Conduct or participate in youth roundtables and forums to gather information about root causes of youth alienation and violent radicalization.
4. Promote unclassified threat briefings for community leaders in coordination with federal interagency partners on a longer-term strategic basis.
5. Explore and communicate funding opportunities for community-based organizations with relevant expertise.
6. Empower and encourage parents, religious leaders, and youth activists to co-develop alternative narratives to violent extremist ideology by including community and youth organizations in CRCL community engagement activities that help provide access to other communities addressing similar challenges and focusing efforts in constructive solutions to grievances.
7. Collaborate with partner countries (United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Spain, and France) that have significant Syrian and/ or regional populations to develop best practices in community engagement endeavors that effectively counter violent extremism.

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STATE OF THE ADMINISTRATION SPEAKER SERIES

March 12, 2015

Overview:

- You are participating in the Office of the Chief of Protocol's "State of the Administration" speaker series to discuss the role of DHS in both domestic and international politics. The meeting will take place at the Blair House from 1:30pm to 2:15pm.
 - Your remarks are expected to last 15 to 20 minutes.
- The "State of the Administration" speaker series was developed to provide the Chiefs of Mission posted in Washington with an opportunity to interact directly with senior members of the Government. The ongoing series enables Chiefs of Mission who would not ordinarily have an audience with high-level officials to receive a first-hand briefing on our Nation's most important issues.
- The audience will consist primarily of Ambassadors and Chargé d'Affaires (if the Ambassador is out of the country). Some embassies may opt to send a military attaché. Expected attendance is 75-80 participants.
- You will be hosted by Chief of Protocol Ambassador Peter Selfridge and Assistant Chief of Protocol Nick Schmit. You will be staffed by Chief of Staff Christian Marrone and Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Koumans. A full list of participants is below.

Discussion Points:

- Focus on DHS international engagement to prevent terrorist attacks through combatting violent extremism, facilitating secure trade and travel, and managing the U.S. immigration system.
- Stress that homeland security is inherently transnational and international.
- *Counterterrorism and countering violent extremism efforts.* Highlight the Department's engagement in the February 2015 White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism as well as the evolution of the Visa Waiver Program as a security partnership to help prevent terrorist travel.
- *Immigration Enforcement.*, Focus on the Department's efforts to address the summer 2014 "surge" of unaccompanied children from Central America and the importance of a regional approach to the issue.
 - Highlight the role foreign partnerships, in particular with the Government of Mexico, in implementing Executive Immigration Reform.
- Provide an update on DHS's international footprint in support of these engagements, in particular the role and expansion of Preclearance locations overseas.

Background:

- This is your first engagement with the "State of the Administration" speaker series. Previous speakers include (former) Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano;

Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman; (former) USAID Administrator Raj Shah; Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker; VPOTUS Chief of Staff Steve Ricchetti; Attorney General Eric Holder; Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes; (former) Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood; (former) Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius; and (former) Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

- The Office of the Chief of Protocol is committed to cultivating an environment for successful diplomacy. They believe that through the exchange of ideas, cultures, and traditions with the Diplomatic Community - via outreach, engagement and discussion - we can build upon the Administration's efforts to foster international goodwill.
- Some of the Diplomatic Corps representatives may ask you to whom they should direct their inquiries if they have any issues or concerns relating to the Department. Traditionally, the Office of International Engagement has led the Department's international outreach and coordinated Departmental and Component activities internationally. You may direct them to International Engagement DAS Mark Koumans or Assistant Secretary & Chief Diplomatic Officer Alan Bersin. .

Participants:

Secretary Johnson
Christian Marrone, S1's Office
Mark Koumans, PLCY
Ambassador Peter Selfridge, Department of State
Nick Schmit, Department of State

Attachments:

- A. Talking Points
- B. Agenda
- C. Biographies

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Koumans, PLCY/Office of International Engagement, (b)(6)

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Homeland
Security

September 9, 2016

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

FROM: George Selim 
Director, Office for Community Partnerships

SUBJECT: **Approval of the Updated Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States**

Purpose: After numerous reviews and revisions, the updated *Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States* (SIP) is ready for interagency final approval; the National Security Council is seeking your sign-off so that they may finalize the document.

Background or Context: During the August 26, 2016 Deputies Committee Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), the SIP was reviewed by Deputies, and it was determined that significant changes needed to be made in regards to the section on "Interventions". (b)(3)

(b)(3)

NSC drafted the Strategic Implementation Plan in collaboration with the CVE Task Force and DHS had multiple opportunities to comment throughout the process. The Strategic Implementation Plan mirrors the four lines of effort for the CVE Task Force, including research and analysis, engagement and technical assistance, interventions, and communications and digital strategy. The most significant change since the original Strategic Implementation Plan issued in 2011 is the inclusion of interventions.

Clearance: The following offices/components have reviewed and cleared on the SIP.

Required Coordinators

OGC: Michael Goad clears without comment or edits on 9/9/16
PLCY: Briana Petyo clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16
I&A: Mary Peterson clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16
PRIV: Jonathan Cantor clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16
CRCL: Tamara Kessler clears with edits on 9/8/16

Supplemental Coordinators

S&T: Kathryn Coulter clears with edits on 9/8/16
USCIS: Lori Scialabba clears with edits on 9/8/16
FEMA: Michael Coen clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16
FLETC: Margaret Wright clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16
OPE: Alaina Duggan clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16
CBP: Stephen Schorr clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16
ICE: Daniel Ragsdale clears without comment or edits on 9/8/16

Timeliness: The NSC is requiring a response by September 12, 2016.

Recommendation: “As the Director of the Office for Community Partnerships and the CVE Task Force, I recommend that you approve, with consideration of our comments, the SIP as a final document.”

Approve/date _____ Disapprove/date _____

Modify/date _____ Needs discussion/date _____

Document Clearance Comment Form	
Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States	For Internal DHS Use: Lead Action Officer Name and Component:
Comments provided by: Office for Community Partnership	Date: 9/8/16

INSTRUCTIONS: The reference column is where you will type the document paragraph, sentence, etc. you are commenting on. The Comment columns are where you will type your comment. Please note that RED FLAG comments are critical suggestions that must be incorporated for DHS to concur with the document.

#	Reference	RED FLAG / CRITICAL COMMENTS	Component Source
1.	Lines 306-307	(b)(5)	CRCL
2.	Line 312-314		CRCL
3.	Line 228		S&T
4.	Line 197-201		S&T
#	Reference		Component Source
5.	Line 440		CRCL

Document Clearance Comment Form	
Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States	For Internal DHS Use: Lead Action Officer Name and Component:
Comments provided by: Office for Community Partnership	Date: 9/8/16

INSTRUCTIONS: The reference column is where you will type the document paragraph, sentence, etc. you are commenting on. The Comment columns are where you will type your comment. Please note that RED FLAG comments are critical suggestions that must be incorporated for DHS to concur with the document.

#	Reference	Comment	Component Source
6.	Line 243-261	(b)(5)	S&T
7.	Line 52		USCIS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR

MS. KRISTEN D. BAKOTIC
Executive Secretary
Office of the Vice President

MR. JOSEPH E. MACMANUS
Executive Secretary
Department of State

MR. MICHAEL L. BRUHN
Executive Secretary
Department of Defense

MS. TASHINA GAUHAR
Associate Deputy Attorney
General
Department of Justice

MS. ELIZABETH KIM
Director, Executive
Secretariat
Department of Labor

MRS. MADHURA VALVERDE
Executive Secretary
Department of Health and
Human Services

MS. TERESA A. GARLAND
Director, Office of Executive
Secretariat
Department of Education

MS. KIM O'CONNOR
Executive Secretary
Department of Homeland
Security

MR. JONATHAN LACHMAN
Associate Director for National
Security Programs
Office of Management and Budget

MS. KRISTIE A. CANEGALLO
Assistant to the President and
Deputy Chief of Staff for
Implementation

MR. JACOB CHRIQUI
Special Assistant to the
Representative of the U.S. to
the United Nations

MS. CRISTIN DORGELO
Chief of Staff
Office of Science and
Technology Policy

MS. HEATHER N. DANIELS
Executive Secretary
National Counterterrorism
Center


MR. JAMES E. RYBICKI
Chief of Staff
Federal Bureau of Investigation

MR. NEILESH SHELAT
Executive Secretary
U.S. Agency for International
Development

MR. RICHARD W. BOLSON
Special Assistant for
Interagency Affairs (J-5)
Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: Paper Deputies Committee Meeting on Countering
Violent Extremism

Deputies are requested to provide comments or concurrence on the paper attached at Tab A on Countering Violent Extremism. **Please pass the attached to Deputies.** Responses should be provided to the NSC Executive Secretariat by close of business on Monday, September 12, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Bridget Matty at (b)(6)


Suzanne A. George *for*
Executive Secretary

Attachments

Tab A Discussion Paper on Countering Violent Extremism (NSC)
Tab B Revised updated *Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners in the United States* (NSC)

TAB A

DISCUSSION PAPER FOR
PAPER DEPUTIES COMMITTEE MEETING ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM
(CVE)

On August 26, 2016, Deputies reviewed a draft updated Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States. Deputies requested changes to the "Interventions" section and provided specific guidance on Tasks 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3. Deputies were also invited to provide any edits or comments in writing. Deputies agreed that the edited document would be recirculated with Deputies for what is expected to be its final review.

Deputies will review the attached document to ensure it is responsive to their feedback. Deputies will provide any final views on the document and indicate whether or not they recommend adopting this version to replace the 2011 Strategic Implementation Plan.

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TAB B

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UK Efforts & Coordination with the United States to Countering Violent Extremism

Overview:

The approach that the U.S. Government has developed was influenced by the United Kingdom's PREVENT strategy. While the U.S. approach and the British strategy are similar, the 2011 revisions to the PREVENT strategy after the Lord Carlile review, and the 2013 revisions following the Woolwich attacks and taskforce recommendations, has seen the British focus more on extremist thought and ideology. Unlike the U.S. approach that focuses on violent extremist actions due to Constitutional protections, British strategy also focuses on extremist thought and speech.

The goal of both approaches is to better understand the threat of violent extremism, provide support and resources to communities to build resilience to violent extremism, and to counter violent extremist mobilization and recruitment. On these issues we have a close and sustained partnership, both bilaterally and multilaterally, through a variety of efforts such as the Global Counter Terrorism Forum.

Background:

CONTEST is the British counterterrorism strategy first published in 2003. The strategy has been revised in 2006, 2009, and 2011. The goal of the strategy is to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom and its interests overseas from terrorism. Since the inception of the CONTEST strategy, the British Home Office has split the counterterrorism framework into four areas, known as the "four Ps": Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare.

The first PREVENT strategy, which is the British countering violent extremism approach, was released in 2007, and was revised in 2011 following the change in government and the independent review conducted by Lord Carlile. Following the Woolwich murder of Lee Rigby in 2013, the Prime Minister set up a taskforce to further review and refine the PREVENT strategy.

Prime Minister's Task Force on Tackling Radicalization and Extremism Recommendations

- In the aftermath of the gruesome murder of a British soldier in the Woolwich area of London in May 2013, Prime Minister Cameron convened a task force to identify any areas of weakness in the current British approach. The task force issued its report on December 4, 2013. There were several key proposals in the report, including:
 - Recommending that Islamist extremism be classified as a distinct ideology to distinguish it from traditional religious practice;
 - Considering new civil powers, similar to new anti-social behavior powers, to target the behaviors extremists use to radicalize others;
 - Considering new types of orders to ban groups which seek to undermine democracy or use hate speech, when necessary to protect the public or prevent crime and disorder;
 - Working with Internet companies to restrict access to terrorist material online which is hosted overseas but illegal under British law, and helping them with their continuing efforts to identify what material to include in filtering processes; and
 - Further engaging in education and intervention in the British prison system to minimize the radicalization of prisoners and ensuring prisoners who have demonstrated extremist views in prison receive intervention and support upon release.

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Recent Key Efforts Advancing Countering Violent Extremism with the United Kingdom

- On December 3, 2013, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Embassy of the Netherlands hosted a briefing for several European officials, including representatives from the British Embassy, by the Syrian Support Group to the discuss the issue of foreign fighters traveling to Syria.
- On December 9-13, 2013, DHS/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties office (CRCL) in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in London, England, participated in a one week countering violent extremism speakers' tour to London and Birmingham, England. CRCL shared DHS engagement strategies and lessons learned in community engagement and countering violent extremism. CRCL held several meetings with law enforcement and community leaders to understand and study similarities in the youth radicalization to violence phenomenon and the foreign fighters situation in the United Kingdom. The CRCL official worked with Connect Justice, a local non-governmental organization, to conduct community policing training programs to law enforcement officials in London and Birmingham, as part of a larger effort to train law enforcement officials in the United Kingdom.
- DHS, in coordination with the Department of State and the U.S. Institute of Peace, co-hosted and participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum March 2013 Workshops on Countering Violent Extremism and Community Engagement and Community Oriented Policing; both workshops brought together subject matter experts from around the globe to discuss and exchange best practices on Countering Violent Extremism. The United Kingdom participated in the workshops and featured on panels.
- In mid-September 2013, DHS/Intelligence and Analysis analysts engaged in a series of liaison meetings with British counterparts to share information about potential terrorist threats to our respective countries—to include the discussion of radicalization to violence pathways and possible mitigating factors and laid the groundwork for future collaboration.
- On January 27-28, 2014, DHS, the Department of State and National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) participated in a United Kingdom-sponsored workshop on the Development of National Strategies for Countering Violent Extremism, organized by Hedayah The International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi. DHS and NCTC provided a briefing on U.S. Government efforts and the workshop was attended by over 30 countries and including many from the Global Counterterrorism Forum.
- In February 2014, the State Department and the White House facilitated roundtable discussions with British officials from the PREVENT and Foreign Offices. DHS, the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Counterterrorism Center participated. Conversations included prevention, violent extremist online content, intervention models, and Countering Violent Extremism issues related to citizens traveling to Syria to fight.
- For the past three years, the DHS/Science and Technology Directorate and the British Home Office have collaborated on a joint research effort focused on providing key insights into extremist violence. To date, this effort, known as the Arc of Terrorism Program of Research, has produced more than 10 reports and research briefs on the behaviors and motivations of lone-actor terrorists and the factors associated with disengagement from terrorism—topics highlighted in the White House Strategic Implementation Plan.
- Over the past year, DHS and the National Counterterrorism Center have adapted a British program to U.S. audiences. These “Community Resilience Exercises” are table-top exercises

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designed to improve communication between law enforcement and communities and to share ideas on how best to build community resilience against violent extremism. They use an unfolding scenario of possible violent extremist activity with two threads: one disclosing what the police have learned, and the other what the community experiences. The scenario is hypothetical, but based on the behaviors exhibited by past homegrown violent extremists prior to their arrest. Exercises have been conducted in Washington, DC, Seattle, WA, Raleigh, NC, and Chicago, IL, in partnership with federal, state, and local officials. Additional table-top exercise are planned to be held in Houston, TX, and Los Angeles, CA.

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**MEETING WITH STEPHEN DINAN, *THE WASHINGTON TIMES*
Topline Messaging/If Asked**

Counterterrorism

- Counterterrorism must remain the cornerstone of the Department of Homeland Security's mission. Thirteen and a half years after 9/11, it's still a dangerous world.
- We must recognize that we have evolved to a new phase in the global terrorist threat. Today, the terrorist threat is more decentralized, more diffuse, and more complex.
- We are concerned about the so-called foreign fighter who leaves his home country, travels to another country to take up the fight there, links up with terrorist extremists, and may return home – whether it's this country or one of our allies – with a terrorist extremist purpose.
- We are concerned about terrorist organizations' new, slick and skilled use of the Internet to publicly recruit individuals to conduct attacks within their own homelands. Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula no longer builds bombs in secret; it has now publicized its instruction manual, and has called for people to use it.
- We are concerned about the domestic-based threat lurking in our midst – the so-called "lone wolf" – who may become inspired by this extremist propaganda on the Internet, and who could strike with little or no notice.

Countering Violent Extremism

- DHS protects our nation from all threats, whether foreign or homegrown, and regardless of the ideology that motivates its violence. DHS has been implementing the National Strategy on Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism and its Strategic Implementation Plan since 2011, and has conducted other relevant activities since 2005.
- Recognizing the new paradigm of recruitment and the threat it poses, DHS established a full time Coordinator for Countering Violent Extremism in July of 2014 to ensure that all ongoing and new activities throughout the Department were efficiently coordinated.
- DHS takes seriously our responsibility to respect and protect the civil rights and civil liberties of the public, including members of any particular groups or ideologies.
- DHS is committed to ensuring that our wide range of partners have the tools to recognize and detect behaviors and indicators of violent extremism.
- Countering violent extremism training and community engagement is critical to prepare our local, state, and federal partners to better prevent and respond to acts of violent extremism, and DHS continues to work with law enforcement partners to integrate countering violent extremism awareness into daily law enforcement activities nationwide, by building upon existing community oriented policing practices.
- Recent events call for increased vigilance in homeland security. DHS routinely shares information with our state, local, federal and international law enforcement,

intelligence and homeland security partners, and continually evaluates the level of protection we provide at federal facilities.

- We also encourage the public that “If You See Something, Say Something™” and to report any suspicious activity in their communities to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Engagement with Local Communities to Combat Violent Extremism

- DHS works with local law enforcement to build on community-based activities to strengthen awareness in communities targeted by violent extremist recruitment and undermine narratives used by foreign fighter facilitators.
- Local communities are the front lines of defense and response, and they are essential in addressing foreign fighter recruitment, especially as Syria-based groups look to target Westerners. Local law enforcement authorities and community members are often best able to identify individuals or groups exhibiting suspicious or dangerous behaviors – and to intervene – before they commit an act of violence or attempt to travel overseas to foreign conflict zones.
- Over the past several months, DHS has worked closely with key leaders and officials of organizations around the country to discuss continued efforts to expand partnerships with faith-based and community organizations and state and local officials on civil rights and civil liberties to safeguard local communities. I have participated in these efforts with community leaders in Sterling, Va., Gaithersburg, Md., Houston, Henryville, Pa., Boston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Columbus, Chicago, and New York City.
- Several of these community leaders have since partnered with DHS and facilitated community engagement work, focused on preventing violent extremism, intervening before someone commits an act of violence, and taking the appropriate measures to ensure community safety.

Foreign Fighters

- In recent years, we’ve witnessed an unprecedented flow of foreign terrorist fighters to conflict zones, including Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Libya, Syria and Iraq.
- More than 25,000 foreign fighters (up from 22,500)—at least 4,500 (up from 4,000) are from the West—have traveled to Syria from more than 100 countries.
- There are more than 250 U.S. Persons (up from 180) who have traveled or attempted to travel to Syria and Iraq potentially to fight or otherwise support the conflict. (Note: This includes those who are there now, those who have been stopped from travelling, and those who have returned.)
- More than 20 US persons (up from a handful) have died after traveling to Syria to partake in the conflict.

ISIL

- We assess the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) can muster between 20,000 and 30,000 fighters across Iraq and Syria. (Note: This is based on review of all-source intelligence reports between January and May.)
- ISIL numbers include hundreds of westerners.
- ISIL numbers include a few dozen Americans.

Priority Enforcement Program

- The new Priority Enforcement Program is a balanced, common-sense approach toward reforming our immigration system, placing the focus where it should be: on criminals and individuals who threaten the public safety.
- PEP is designed to be flexible; it is not a “one size fits all” approach. The PEP policy framework provides the foundation from which to develop processes that work for each individual jurisdiction.
- We are dedicated to working with those jurisdictions that partner with us today, while bringing back on board those that no longer participate. We can best do this by tailoring PEP to fit the needs of each jurisdiction, ensuring that law enforcement is able to maintain community trust while also removing those here illegally who threaten the safety of our communities.
- The focus of PEP is to prioritize resources to apprehend and remove those who pose a public safety risk or national security threat. Finding those individuals requires that we go where removable, dangerous criminals are most often found – behind bars. To do this, we must build strong relationships with our state and local law enforcement partners.
- We want to work in partnership with local law enforcement to engage the community as you – who know your communities best – think is appropriate. We are actively working with communities to host community roundtables or town halls. Our role is to support each community individually to create safer neighborhoods.

If Asked

Q: Can you comment on the San Francisco shooting suspect?

A: ICE has lodged an immigration detainer against the man arrested by the San Francisco Police Department for the fatal shooting in the Embarcadero. DHS databases indicate the individual charged in this case has been previously deported five times, most recently in 2009. His criminal history includes seven prior felony convictions, four involving narcotics charges.

ICE’s latest encounter with the murder suspect occurred in March when he was remanded to our custody after serving a multi-year federal prison sentence for felony re-entry after deportation. According to DHS databases, ICE turned the individual over to the San Francisco Police Department March 26 on an outstanding drug warrant. DHS records indicate ICE lodged an immigration detainer on the subject at that time, requesting

notification prior to his release so ICE officers could make arrangements to take custody. The detainer was not honored.

ICE places detainers on aliens arrested on criminal charges to ensure dangerous criminals are not released from prisons or jails into our communities. The agency remains committed to working collaboratively with its law enforcement partners to ensure the public's safety.

Q: What are the consequences for a local entity that refuses to honor either a request for notification or a request for detention?

A: Participation in PEP is voluntary for state and local jurisdictions. However, because PEP was specifically developed to address previous concerns raised by state and local law enforcement agencies and their communities, it is the hope of DHS and ICE that PEP will earn their support. DHS seeks to ensure that PEP will protect our nation while sustaining trust between law enforcement and local communities; it will work to implement PEP in a way that supports community policing and public safety while ensuring that ICE takes custody of dangerous criminals before they are released into the community.

Q: Why is state/local cooperation so important?

A: The safety of the public and of law enforcement officers is of paramount concern to DHS. DHS is aware of a number of cases in which individuals with criminal histories were released by state/local law enforcement agencies (notwithstanding ICE detainers) and re-offended, harming the communities we all serve. DHS is also concerned about the safety of its officers when, instead of transferring custody of criminal aliens in the relatively safe controlled environment of a state/local detention facility, DHS personnel are placed in the uncertain position of tracking down such individuals at-large.

In addition, while DHS continues to aggressively litigate the issue, some federal courts have ruled that DHS's custody authority is limited if it does not immediately assume custody of criminal aliens upon their release from criminal custody.

We believe this new program, which limits the eligible categories of aliens, requires probable cause before issuance of a detainer, and contains a strict 48-hour requirement for detainers, addresses concerns raised with respect to Secure Communities and reinforces our shared interest in promoting public safety.

Executive Actions on Immigration

- The President's executive actions announced in November 2014 on immigration identified 10 areas where DHS, within the confines of the law, could take action to increase border security, focus enforcement resources, promote the naturalization process, expand eligibility for provisional waivers of unlawful presence; modernize

and improve immigrant and nonimmigrant programs to grow the economy and create jobs and ensure accountability in our immigration system.

- The executive actions that I recommended to the President were the direct result of candid and extended consultations between me and the leadership of ICE, CBP and USCIS, as well as outside stakeholders.

DACA/DAPA Decision

- I strongly disagree with Judge Hanen's decision to temporarily enjoin implementation of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), but we recognize that we must comply with it.
- On February 23, 2015, DOJ filed an appeal of the injunction and a motion to stay (or suspend) the injunction pending a decision on that appeal. Both President Obama and I have said that the Administration fully expects to ultimately prevail in the courts.
- The Department of Homeland Security did not begin accepting requests for the expansion of DACA on February 18, 2015 as originally planned. Until further notice, we have also suspended the plan to implement for DAPA.
- The Court's order does not affect the existing DACA process. Individuals may continue to come forward and request initial consideration of DACA or request a renewal of DACA pursuant to the guidelines established in 2012.
- Nor does the Court's order affect this Department's ability to set and implement enforcement priorities and the exercise of prosecutorial discretion. The priorities established in the November 20, 2014 DHS memorandum entitled "Policies for the Apprehension, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants" remain in full force and effect. Pursuant to those enforcement priorities, which went into effect on January 5, 2015, we continue to prioritize public safety, national security, and border security.

Flores Litigation

- We are disappointed with the court's decision and are reviewing it in consultation with the Department of Justice. We plan to respond to the Court's order to show cause by August 3.

Three-Year Employment Authorization Documents (EADs)

- Approximately 2,600 DACA recipients were issued and/or mailed three-year employment authorization documents (EADs), rather than two-year EADs, after a court injunction was in place.
- USCIS subsequently issued two-year EADs and invalidated the three-year EADs. USCIS continues to take steps to collect the remaining invalid EADs, and a growing number have been returned.
- USCIS will terminate DACA and all employment authorizations effective July 31, 2015, if the affected recipient does not return their invalid three-year EAD.

Individuals who received these three-year EADs are not being penalized for requesting DACA, they are merely being reissued the correct two-year cards.

- This action does not apply to the approximately 108,000 three-year EADs that were approved and mailed by USCIS on or before the February 16, 2015 injunction date and that have never been returned or reissued by USCIS.
- Customers who have questions or concerns should call the USCIS National Customer Service Center.

If Asked

Q: What specific steps has USCIS taken to notify these customers that their three-year EAD is invalid and must be returned?

A: USCIS has taken a number of steps to notify these customers that their three-year EAD is invalid and must be returned, including:

- Mailing them letters with instructions for returning the three-year EAD.
- Adding a message to the 1-800 line to direct these customers to live assistance and providing scripts to call-center representatives.
- Contacting affected customers by phone, text and email.
- Working closely with key stakeholders to help disseminate information about how to return the invalid EADs.
- Visiting the listed address of certain individuals who have not yet returned an invalid three-year EAD for the purpose of retrieving these EADs.
 - USCIS officials will not ask for money or bank information or visit individuals at their place of employment.

USCIS reminds customers to be mindful of immigration scams.

Border Security

- Securing our border remains our top priority. The Department of Homeland Security continuously looks for ways to strengthen our efforts and advance our law enforcement mission. DHS has developed a risk-based comprehensive strategy and campaign plan to improve the approach in how the nation secures the Southern border and maritime approaches.
- The need to discard a “stove-piped” approach to securing the border and developing an integrated approach is essential to maximizing the potential within the Department’s capabilities.
- This strategy will enhance the focus of the Department’s resources when intelligence and surveillance capabilities identify potential and current threats.
- Through joint task forces, we will integrate capabilities across the Department to enhance enforcement of our immigration laws; interdict individuals seeking to illegally enter our country by land, air, or sea; degrade transnational criminal organizations; and decrease the terrorism threat to the Nation without impeding the flow of lawful trade, travel, and commerce.

Border Security Investment

- Over the last 15 years, our government has invested more in border security than at any point in the history of this Nation.
- Today's Border Patrol is itself one of the largest agencies of our government, with a budget of \$3.5 billion, a total of 22,000 personnel, 20,499 border patrol agents, and the largest-ever level of technology and equipment.

Apprehensions along the Southwest Border

- Over the last 15 years, the number of apprehensions on our southwest border has declined significantly, from a high of 1.6 million in the year 2000 to a range of 300,000 to 400,000 in recent years.
- We had a setback last summer, when the number of migrants – most notably unaccompanied children and adults with children – illegally crossing our southern border into South Texas spiked to unprecedented levels. We responded aggressively and the numbers fell off sharply almost immediately.
- Overall apprehensions on our southern border this fiscal year are now 34 percent less than they were at the same time last year.
- If that rate continues for the remaining months of this fiscal year, apprehensions of those attempting to cross our southern border illegally will be at the lowest point since the 1970s.

Cybersecurity

- Last year, Congress acted in a bipartisan manner to pass critical cybersecurity legislation that enhanced the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to work with the private sector and other federal civilian departments in each of their own cybersecurity activities, and enhanced the Department's cyber workforce.
- Additional legislation is needed. While many sophisticated companies currently share cybersecurity threat information under existing laws, there is a heightening need to increase the volume and speed of such information sharing between the government and the private sector – and among appropriate private sector organizations– without sacrificing the trust of the American people or individual privacy or civil liberties.
- Carefully updating laws to facilitate cybersecurity information sharing is essential to improving the Nation's cybersecurity. We also must provide law enforcement additional tools to fight crime in the digital age, create a National Data Breach Reporting requirement, and further clarify DHS's authority to deploy protective technologies to federal, executive branch, civilian systems.

OPM Incident

- DHS supports our Nation's cyber capabilities and the ability of our partners to put in place appropriate mitigation strategies. As part of this ongoing effort, DHS and interagency partners helped OPM develop and implement a comprehensive network

monitoring plan, through which OPM detected new malicious activity affecting its information technology (IT) systems and data in April 2015.

- Using these newly identified cyber indicators, DHS's United States-Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) used the EINSTEIN system to discover a potential compromise of federal Personally Identifiable Information.
- Working with the affected agency and other interagency partners, US-CERT cyber incident response teams were deployed to identify the scope of the potential intrusion and mitigate any risks identified. Based upon these response activities, DHS concluded at the beginning of May 2015 that OPM data had been compromised.
- The FBI is also conducting an investigation to identify how and why this occurred. As we constantly do, DHS is continuing to monitor federal networks for any suspicious activity and is working aggressively with the affected agencies to conduct investigative analysis to assess the extent of this alleged intrusion.

If Asked

Q: What further steps has DHS taken to safeguard Federal networks? Has the agency alerted the private sector to any potentially related threats?

A: United States-Computer Emergency Readiness Team reviewed the malware and shared the analysis with the affected agencies and interagency partners, and deployed the signatures to EINSTEIN to protect Federal networks. DHS has shared information regarding the potential incident with all Federal Chief Information Officers to ensure that all agencies have the knowledge they need to defend against this cybersecurity incident. US-CERT also worked with the FBI to disseminate an information bulletin about the malware to the private sector and other cybersecurity stakeholders.

Q: What is the EINSTEIN program and how does it work? What role did it play in this specific incident?

A: EINSTEIN is an intrusion detection and prevention system that screens federal Internet traffic to identify potential cyber threats. In this incident, EINSTEIN was used to identify the presence of a cybersecurity incident affecting OPM's IT systems and data at the Department of the Interior's data center, which is a shared service center and a means for federal agencies to collaborate and achieve efficiencies.

Q: What is the status of EINSTEIN implementation?

A: DHS delivers EINSTEIN 3 Accelerated (E3A) intrusion prevention capabilities as a managed security service provided by Internet Service Providers. E3A provides a platform on which DHS can build future protection capabilities that adapt to emerging security risks, allowing future innovation from both government and industry.

EINSTEIN 3 was scheduled for completion in 2018, but with the evolution to E3A, we are currently projected to begin protecting all federal civilian agencies with E3A in 2016. As of June 1, 2015, DHS is providing E3A services to thirteen Federal civilian

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department and agencies, protecting nearly half of Federal civilian personnel, and has established Memoranda of Agreement with 52 Federal agencies to implement E3A.

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DHS-001-425-007697

Relevant Appropriations Act Language and Joint Explanatory Statement Excerpt

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113)

SEC. 543. (a) For an additional amount for emergent threats from violent extremism and from complex, coordinated terrorist attacks, \$50,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017.

(b) Funds made available in subsection (a) for emergent threats may be transferred by the Secretary of Homeland Security between appropriations for the same purpose, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act.

(c) No transfer described in subsection (b) shall occur until 15 days after the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified of such transfer.

Joint Explanatory Statement

Responding to Emergent Threats from Violent Extremism

A general provision in title V of this Act provides \$50,000,000 for emergent threats from violent extremism and from complex, coordinated terrorist attacks, and allows the Secretary to transfer such funds between appropriations after notifying the Committees 15 days in advance.

Within these funds, not more than \$10,000,000 is for a countering violent extremism (CVE) initiative to help states and local communities prepare for, prevent, and respond to emergent threats from violent extremism; not less than \$39,000,000 is for an initiative to help states and local governments prepare for, prevent, and respond to complex, coordinated terrorist attacks with the potential for mass casualties and infrastructure damage; and not less than \$1,000,000 shall be for expanding or enhancing the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series, which brings together federal, state, and local governments, and the private sector to help regions improve their counterterrorism preparedness posture, including the ability to address the threat of complex terrorist attacks.

All funds under the CVE initiative shall be provided on a competitive basis directly to states, local governments, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, or institutions of higher education. Eligible activities for the CVE initiative shall include, but not be limited to, planning, developing, implementing, or expanding educational outreach, community engagement, social service programs, training, and exercises, as well as other activities as the Secretary determines appropriate. Existing programs should be utilized wherever practical.

Eligible activities for the initiative related to complex coordinated terrorist attacks shall include, but not be limited to, planning, training and exercises to support plans, and other activities the Secretary determines appropriate, consistent with this statement. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department shall brief the Committees on plans for execution of the initiatives, to include timelines, goals, metrics, and how the Whole of Community will be included.

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SEPTEMBER 11 MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS
September 11, 2016

Election Systems and Cybersecurity

We live in a world in which we must protect against increasingly sophisticated and creative cyber-attacks, from a range of bad actors – criminal, nation-state, hackactivists, etc. In an environment in which there has been a lot of chatter about attempts to influence the election, we must be concerned about copycats or those who are inspired by this chatter.

The prospect of a cyber-attack on systems critical to our national interest – i.e., financial, government --is real. This includes our nation's election system. We must do our best to stay one step ahead of these bad actors.

The system of elections in this country is decentralized; there are some 9,000 state and local jurisdictions that administer it, in many different ways with many different practices.

We recognize that state and local officials administer and oversee the election process, and we know also that the cybersecurity of election systems is one of the top priorities for these officials.

DHS, in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or NIST), and DOJ are offering support and assistance.

Q: What is DHS' role and involvement then in ensuring the security of the U.S. voting process?

- It is critically important to continue to work to ensure the security and resilience of our electoral infrastructure, particularly as the risk environment evolves.
- On August 15, I hosted a call with State Election Officials regarding cybersecurity and offered Department support alongside the Election Assistance Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or NIST), and the Department of Justice.
- We are working to raise awareness of best cybersecurity practices. The states have long been doing important work to ensure the integrity and security of the nation's elections, and we are inviting representatives of the National Association of Secretaries of State to join this group.

Q: What specifically can the federal government provide in support the states?

- DHS stands ready to provide assistance, through our National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), including vulnerability scans, sharing timely and actionable information, and access to other tools and resources for improving cybersecurity.
- We have been in discussions with states and some have taken us up on our offer of assistance.
- We're exploring all other ways to deliver more support to the sector in a collaborative and non-prescriptive manner, including examining whether designating certain electoral systems as critical infrastructure would be an effective way to offer this support.

Q: What does DHS recommend in preparation for the election?

- States are encouraged to now focus on implementing existing recommendations from NIST and the EAC on securing election infrastructure, such as ensuring that electronic voting machines are not connected to the internet.

We've also offered the states points of contact who can provide assistance, and are encouraging state officials to sign up for the NCCIC's cybersecurity alerts.

Postal Inspections

DHS, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), and the Department of State (DOS) have been working together for a number of years to enhance the security of the international postal supply chain against risks including, among other things, terrorist threats, the movement of illicit narcotics, and customs violations.

By Transportation Security Administration regulation, international mail destined for the United States is considered air cargo and, as a result, is subject to all existing security controls. These security controls, which include screening for explosives and other illicit items in accordance with TSA regulations and security program requirements, are applied outside the United States prior to transporting international mail on aircraft regulated by TSA. These requirements are not dependent on advance electronic manifest data, as provided by express consignment operators and other participants in the Air Cargo Advance Screening pilot program.

Q: How is international mail screened for threats?

- Upon arrival in the United States, international mail is turned over to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for further inspection. CBP screens all international mail for radiological threats and x-rays all international mail packages, physically examining those deemed to be high-risk. Although this process is largely manual and labor intensive, CBP is able to identify items that pose a risk to homeland security and public safety while facilitating legitimate mail.
- To be clear, the USPS does not import goods, and pursuant to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Treaty, it processes and delivers what is sent. Since USPS is not an importer of record, they may not have all the advanced info to provide CBP prior to arrival.
- While current procedures strive to protect the American public while facilitating lawful international postal flows, DHS is working with other Federal agencies and international partners on initiatives to further enhance the security of international mail sent to the United States.
- For instance, we have worked with the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to implement mandatory minimum security standards at all international postal facilities around the world that process international mail. These standards require physical screening for all mail packages over a certain weight and outline strict security standards for all facilities.

Q: Is DHS utilizing any type of pre-departure screening to identify potential threats in advance?

- A key initiative for DHS and the broader international postal community is the implementation of advance electronic data for all mail packages. This would allow for additional high-risk, pre-departure screening as instructed by TSA and CBP at the National Targeting Center and allow CBP to target high-risk shipments for additional physical inspection prior to the arrival of packages in the United States.
- CBP and USPS are working together on two pilot programs in this regard. One is testing incoming data from foreign postal operators for quality and transmission purposes, and the other is testing how this data enhances CBP's advance targeting capabilities in a live operational environment.
- Further, DHS, USPS, and DOS have worked with them to establish standards and protocols for the transmission of electronic data among postal operators, customs and security authorities, and airlines for mail packages. Importantly, in 2012 the Universal Postal Convention amended Article 9 (Postal Security) to allow member states and designated operators the ability to require advance data, a fundamental step to allowing advance data exchange for mail packages.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's Countering Violent Extremism efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is in my judgement as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

In our efforts to build these bridges, what I consistently hear that ISIL has hijacked their religion and they do not represent Islam. They are a terrorist organization claiming the banner of Islam and to refer to the Islamic State or al-Qaeda as "Islamic extremism," suggests the notion that they occupy an aspect of their religion.

Moving forward, building bridges with Muslim communities and integrating them into the fabric of our society is crucial to our homeland security efforts.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: How do you justify meeting with the Islamic Society of North America when they were listed as an "unindicted co-conspirator" in a terrorism-related case?

- I am fully aware of past evidence and allegations concerning ISNA and carefully considered them before accepting ISNA's invitation. However, in the current environment, I viewed the opportunity to address literally thousands of American Muslims as crucial to our homeland security efforts. While at the convention I encountered many decent, honest and patriotic men, women and children, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, veterans, currently serving active duty military, and Gold Star parents.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by; may never have trained with the organization; may never have been to Iraq or Syria; may not have ever received a

direct order from a terrorist leader but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the Countering Violent Extremism Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.
- The Countering Violent Extremism Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.
- The Department has also recently announced the FY 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.
- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: Was this Department priority a reaction to Paris and San Bernardino?

- No. Both of these initiatives were started well before these attacks and followed comprehensive reviews of our established domestic and international Countering Violent Extremism efforts. The reviews have roots in the February 2015 White House Countering Violent Extremism Summit and were intended to improve the implementation of the 2011 Strategy, Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States.
- The horrific attacks in Paris and San Bernardino last year were a stark reminder of the importance of this work.
- The Department has worked to counter violent extremism since its inception. As the threat environment has changed, DHS has increased its efforts to prioritize and coordinate Countering Violent Extremism initiatives, including community engagement and research on the causes of and best methods to counter violent extremism.
- In recent years, DHS has employed new tools to raise awareness of the threat and encourage communities to do more with the Department, local government and law enforcement. For example, DHS has led Community Awareness Briefings and Community Resilience Exercises in multiple cities across the country

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security Review of Use of Private Detention Facilities

The Department of Justice (DOJ) recently directed the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to move towards ultimately ending the use of privately-operated prisons.

I recently announced the formation of a Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) subcommittee to evaluate whether the immigration detention operations conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement should move away from the use of private detention facilities.

Q: Does the recent directive to the Bureau of Prisons apply to the Department of Homeland Security? What is the Department's reaction to this?

- The HSAC subcommittee will review current policy and practices concerning privatized immigration detention and evaluate whether they should be eliminated, and it will consider all factors concerning ICE's detention policy and practice, including fiscal considerations. The subcommittee will return a written report by November 30, 2016.
- In considering the DOJ directive regarding private prisons in relation to ICE's use of privatized immigration detention, it is important to understand how the BOP system compares to the ICE detention system.

Q: How does the BOP system compare to the ICE detention system?

- Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Model
 - BOP incarcerates people who have already been sentenced to a term of imprisonment. This means that BOP can predict the length of stay for population and construct facilities to address this.
- US Marshals Service (USMS)
 - The US Marshals Service (USMS) is also under DOJ. It is not subject to the same directive from DOJ regarding ending the use of private prisons.
 - The USMS mission includes detaining people who are pre-trial. This means that the population under USMS control is subject to varying lengths of stay that are generally not knowable ahead of time.
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - ICE detains people who are awaiting adjudications. This means that the population of people in ICE detention is subject to varying lengths of stay that are not knowable ahead of time.
 - The average length of stay for individuals in ICE facilities is 34.4 days.
 - ICE detainees are housed in a variety of facilities across the United States, including but not limited to ICE-owned-and-operated facilities; local, county or state facilities contracted through Intergovernmental Service Agreements, and contractor-owned-and-operated facilities. ICE uses these various models to meet the agency's detention needs while protecting taxpayer resources.

- ICE provides several levels of oversight in order to ensure that detainees in ICE custody reside in safe, secure and humane environments and under appropriate conditions of confinement. Oversight is provided by on-site Detention Service Managers employed by ICE, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations' Detention Standards Compliance Unit, ICE Office of Detention Oversight, and the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, all of whom have open access to ICE detention facilities.
- The Office of Detention Oversight is responsible for conducting independent reviews of ICE detention facilities to assess their compliance with the agency's national detention standards. ODO's compliance inspection reports have been publicly available on ICE.gov since the start of fiscal year 2012. ODO's findings, coupled with regular onsite inspections, enable ICE to isolate and quickly address any operating deficiencies identified at its detention facilities.

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- Were apprehended after January 1, 2014;
- Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court; and
- Have exhausted appropriate legal remedies, and have no outstanding appeal or claim for asylum or other humanitarian relief under our laws.
- With respect to unaccompanied children, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are unaccompanied children who:
 - Entered the United States illegally as unaccompanied children after January 1, 2014;
 - Are now over 18 year of age;
 - Have been ordered removed by an immigration court, and;
 - Have no pending appeal or claim of asylum or other relief.

Q: How will the Department continue to strategize on this issue?

- We recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. More border security and removals, by themselves, will not overcome the underlying conditions that currently exist in Central America.
- In the meantime, DHS and DOS are accelerating the development of new mechanisms to process and screen Central American refugees in the region.
- We are expanding access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the region and developing more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.
- With DOJ, we are also doubling down on our efforts to apprehend and prosecute smugglers through initiatives like Operation Coyote.
- We support DOJ's efforts to ensure that as many unaccompanied children as possible have appropriate representation.
 - To support improving the process for all those in immigration proceedings, the Administration has requested over \$17 million as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request to support long-standing critical initiatives that provide legal assistance services and information to vulnerable immigrants.
 - This includes over \$1 million for Justice AmeriCorps—a program that specifically provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors.

Q: The President of the National Border Patrol Council said that agents are being told to “stand down” and let immigrants go. Is that true?

- The assertion that there exists some Department policy requiring U.S. Border Patrol agents to release undocumented immigrants apprehended at the border and not provide an effective response to an attempted illegal entry simply has no basis in fact. This assertion is also wholly inconsistent with the actual direction and training agents have received.
- The U.S. Border Patrol continues to enforce immigration laws consistent with the Department's enforcement priorities, which are focused on border security,

national security, and public safety. As I have said many times, our border is not open to illegal migration, and those cross the border illegally will be sent back.

- The Border Patrol's resources are most effectively focused on the border — prioritizing the apprehension and removal of individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. Our removal numbers reflect that. Border Patrol Agents are issuing Notices to Appear, consistent with law, regulation, and the Department's enforcement priorities.

TSA Wait Times

We will not compromise safety for convenience.

TSA continues to take every step possible to protect the American people while managing the amount of time spent awaiting security screening at U.S. airports.

This summer, with a record volume of passengers, the dedicated workforce at TSA under the leadership of Administrator Peter Neffenger implemented a series of changes to more effectively manage screening lines during one of the busiest times of year.

First, TSA is increased the number of its Transportation Security Officers, so passengers were able move through the checkpoint process more securely and more quickly without compromising security.

Second, TSA has added more canine teams to help screen passengers at the Nation's busiest seven airports.

Third, TSA is collaborating with airports and airlines to support non-security screening operations that are personnel-intensive—for example, returning personal property bins, and reminding travelers of checkpoint policies, like three ounce containers for liquids. TSA is also working with airports and airlines to help TSA manage checkpoint lines, passenger flows, and communication with the traveling public.

Fourth, TSA is expanding enrollment efforts for TSA Pre✓[®], which provides a more streamlined screening experience. Since this expansion, TSA Pre✓[®] enrollment is over 3 million.

TSA remains focused on enhancing security and screening in the long-term, not just for the summer, but for the busy summer travel season and into the future.

The traveling public can help, too, by enrolling in DHS's Trusted Traveler programs, like TSA Pre✓[®] and Global Entry; leaving prohibited items at home; and checking luggage, or packing an uncluttered carry-on.

Q: Why were we seeing longer lines this past May?

- Spring 2016 saw a rapid growth in travel volume, with the number of travelers up significantly over the last year. TSA screened 125,000 more people per day over last year, and is on pace to screen over 740 million passengers and crew. This is 45 million more people than last year. Further, more people are choosing to travel with carry-on bags, which still must be screened to ensure safe flights.

Q: Did wait times improve after TSA implemented these changes?

- Between May 25, 2016 and August 29, 2016, TSA screened 208,931,423 passengers with an average wait time of 7 minutes in a Non-TSA TSA Pre✓® lane (compared to 10 minutes in the four weeks prior) and 2 minutes in a TSA Pre✓® lane.
 - The average wait time decreased by 3 minutes from a period 4 weeks prior to Memorial Day.
 - At the Top 7 airports, TSA screened 52,534,544 passengers with an average wait time of 8 minutes in a Non-TSA Pre✓® lane (compared to 14 minutes in the four weeks prior) and 2 minutes in a TSA Pre✓® lane.
- During this timeframe, 98.4% of all passengers waited less than 30 minutes. 92.1% of all passengers waited less than 15 minutes (compared to 82% in the four weeks prior). In TSA Pre✓® lanes, 96.6% of passengers waited less than 5 minutes.
- At the Top 7 airports, ~100% of all passengers waited less than 30 minutes. 90.6% of all passengers waited less than 15 minutes (compared to 70% in the four weeks prior).
- This year's July 4th holiday week was the second busiest week in TSA history, during which TSA screened 91.7% of all passengers in less than 15 minutes.
- This summer, TSA has had seven days that exceeded the busiest Thanksgiving weekend date (November 29, 2015) in TSA history.

Q: Was this improvement seen across the board or only in certain regions?

- Specific airports have also seen dramatic improvements in performance. For example:
 - ATL went from 78.5% of passengers waiting less than 15 minutes over Memorial Day weekend to 92.6% of passengers waiting less than 15 minutes over the last weekend in August.
 - ORD went from 85.8% of passengers waiting less than 15 minutes over Memorial Day weekend to 100% of passengers waiting less than 15 minutes over the last weekend in August.
- At DCA, between 5/25/16 and 8/29/16, TSA screened 3,110,178 passengers with an average wait time of 8 minutes in a Non-TSA Pre✓® lane (compared to 9 minutes in the four weeks prior) and 4 minutes in a TSA Pre✓® lane.

Q: Do you feel that security is compromised if your focus is on processing more travelers more quickly?

- Traveler security is TSA's first priority and we will remain intensely focused on this important mission. With that said, we are committed to working to alleviate

the stress of long lines on travelers, while ensuring our security mission is not compromised.

Q: What is your advice to the traveling public for smooth traveling?

- Every traveler, frequent flier or not, also plays a critical role in security. Just one prohibited item in a carry-on bag can significantly delay movement in a checkpoint line. Passengers can make a positive impact on the security process by packing responsibly, being prepared for checkpoint screening, and arriving at the airport with plenty of time before departure.
- TSA strongly encourages travelers to arrive at the airport early enough (up to two hours prior to domestic departure) to allow for effective screening.

Most of all, we encourage travelers to enroll in TSA Pre✓® or other Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs such as Global Entry, Nexus, or Sentry. These programs help improve security, but they also reduce wait times. The more people who enroll, the more efficient and pleasant screening is for everybody.

Staff Responsible: Todd Breasseale, Assistant Secretary, OPA, (b)(6)

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Suggested Talking Points for Secretary Jeh Johnson
National Sheriffs' Association
January 16, 2015
Washington, DC

Introduction

- Thank you to the Sheriffs' Association for inviting me here today.
- Thank you to all the state and local law enforcement officials here today. You are on the front lines and are our partners, and key stakeholders, in securing the homeland. What's plain and absolutely clear, homeland security starts with hometown security.
- When I became Secretary of Homeland Security, one of the priorities I set was to deepen our partnership with law enforcement at all levels, especially with our state and local partners.
- We have recently appointed Heather Fong as the Department's Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement. Assistant Secretary Fong will serve as the single point of contact for state and local law enforcement issues within the Department.

Counterterrorism

- We are an agency born out of 9/11. Counterterrorism is and will remain the cornerstone of the DHS mission. But the threat today is decentralized and increasingly complex – groups like Al Qaeda, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and now ISIL, the Nusra Front and Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent.
- This backdrop is complicated further by the presence of lone-wolves, who may strike against the Homeland or our allies, as we have seen in France, Canada and here at home.
- We face a threat environment where violent extremism is not necessarily defined or contained by international borders. Today, we have to address threats that are homegrown as well as those that originate abroad.
- This threat of homegrown violent extremism fundamentally changes who is best positioned to identify, investigate, and respond to terrorist activity.
- We know from experience that state and local law enforcement are often in the best position to notice the first signs of a planned attack or threat to our communities. Because of this, our homeland security efforts must be interwoven into the work that state and local officials do every day.

- As a result, information sharing is key. Our approach has been to share information regarding terrorism and other threats to the homeland so that it can be incorporated into state and local community-based efforts to prevent violence.
- Because information sharing is a two-way street, we've made sure law enforcement has an effective way to push information to the Department. i.e.: Fusion Centers.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

- DHS is continually working to help state and local law enforcement agencies to identify homegrown violent extremists.
- Since last June, I have personally engaged with communities and frontline law enforcement officials across the country to raise vigilance and promote local efforts to counter violent extremism.
- These events are designed to focus on prevention, rather than reaction, and to hinder the recruitment efforts of violent extremist groups such as al-Qa'ida, al-Nusrah Front, and ISIL.
- With local communities and the Department of Justice, we have published guidance on best practices for community partnerships to prevent and mitigate homegrown threats.
- As operators of our nation's jails, you have an important role in how we deal with terrorist recruitment in the incarcerated environment.
- Also, to counter the homegrown violent extremist, we must also emphasize the need for help from the public. Through the nationwide expansion of the "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign, we are encouraging Americans to alert local law enforcement if they see something that is potentially dangerous.

Immigration Reform

- Congress has yet to act to fix our broken immigration system; only they can provide the long-lasting change that needs to be made to our immigration law.
- The President sees his executive actions as only the first in a series of steps toward comprehensive immigration reform by Congress.
- These actions are focused on prioritizing threats to national security, public safety, and border security. We are making sure that we are moving felons and high security risk to the front of the line for deportation and not families.
- As many of you know, under the President's executive actions we are ending the Secure Communities program and replacing it with the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP). Under

PEP we will continue to rely on fingerprint-based biometric data submitted during bookings by state and local law enforcement agencies and will identify to law enforcement agencies the specific criteria for which we will seek an individual in their custody.

- We must continue to demonstrate that our border is not open to illegal migration and that those who come here illegally will be sent back, unless they qualify for some form of humanitarian relief under our laws.

Border Security – Southern Border and Approaches Campaign

- We've achieved significant success along our borders – and here, again, you all have played an important role.
- The number of apprehensions on our southwest border is now less than a third of what it was in the year 2000, and it's at its lowest level since the 1970s.
- The additional manpower, technology and resources we have added to the Southwest border over the past 15 years represent the most serious and sustained action to secure our borders in our nation's history.
 - 18,000 border patrol agents, 700 miles of fencing and barriers, nearly 12,000 underground sensors, 107 aircraft, 8 unmanned aircraft systems, 84 water vessels and 491 different surveillance systems.
- Put simply, it is much harder to cross our border and evade capture than it used to be – and people know it. And we're going to make it even harder – with our Southern Border and Approaches Campaign.
- Our Southern Border and Approaches Campaign is a ground breaking Department-wide strategy. We are establishing three new Department task forces, each headed by a senior official of this Department who, within their territorial jurisdiction, will direct the resources of CBP, ICE, CIS and the USCG as needed without the unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape.

Continuing Resolution

- Many of you here today may have heard that DHS is currently under what is called a Continuing Resolution. This means that Congress has only funded DHS through February.
- This could be disruptive, create uncertainty, and impede efficient resource planning and execution.
- This is especially important for someplace as big as DHS with so many important missions.
- We are the third largest department, with 240,000 employees and a \$60 billion dollar budget.

- Responsible for: counterterrorism, cybersecurity, border security, port security, maritime security, aviation security, administration and enforcement of immigration law, protection of critical infrastructure, protection against chem/bio threats, protection against nuclear threats to the homeland, protection of national leaders, and response to natural disasters.
- Just a few examples of the impact the CR could have on DHS:
 - Investments in new border surveillance technology for the Rio Grande Valley may not be available.
 - The majority of DHS Non-Disaster Grants, such as the State and Urban Area Security Initiative grants, would be considered new starts and therefore unable to be funded.
- I have been adamant and will continue to be, political gamesmanship should not come at the expense of public safety or national security. The stakes are too high.
- I know you are facing a tough fiscal environment back home. But I want to assure you that, we're going to continue to look for ways to support the work you do. You are an important and integral part of the security safety net that we have built across our country

Conclusion

- I salute you all for your hard work and I am even more grateful for your partnership with DHS in our efforts to keep the homeland secure. But we also know our work is not yet done.
- I look forward to continuing our strong partnership in the coming year as we work together to build a safer, more secure, and more resilient nation.
- Thank You.

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Suggested Talking Points for Secretary Jeh Johnson
MCSA/MCCA Conference
January 26, 2015
Washington, DC

Introduction

- Thank you to the Major County Sheriffs and Major Cities Chiefs' Association for inviting me here today.
- **I salute all the state and local law enforcement** officials in attendance here today. You are **on the frontlines and are our partners, and key stakeholders, in securing the homeland.**
- I know many of you have traveled a long way, but I while you're here, I would not recommend trying the Washington delicacy called "partisanship" before you leave. I can tell you from our experience with the executive actions... it taste awful, stick to the pasta.
- At DHS, we believe that we greatly benefit from a **shared dialogue of ideas between local law enforcement and criminal justice organizations.**
- What's plain and absolutely clear, **homeland security starts with hometown security.**
- When I became Secretary of Homeland Security, one of the **first priorities I set was to deepen our partnership with law enforcement at all levels, especially with our state and local partners.**
- In the past year, among the many vacancies that have been filled, I have recently **appointed Heather Fong as the Department's Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement.** Assistant Secretary Fong **will serve as the single point of contact for state and local law enforcement issues** within the Department.

Counterterrorism

- **We are an agency born out of 9/11.** Counterterrorism is and will remain the cornerstone of the DHS mission. But the **threat today is decentralized and increasingly complex** – groups like Al Qa'ida, Al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, the Nusrah Front and now ISIL, illustrate the depth of this new complexity.
- This new backdrop is **complicated further by the presence of lone-wolves**, who may strike **against the Homeland or our allies, as we have seen in France, Canada, Australia, and here at home.**

- We face a **threat environment where violent extremism is not necessarily defined or contained by international borders**. Today, we have to address threats that are homegrown as well as those that originate abroad.
- This **threat of homegrown violent extremism fundamentally changes** who is **best positioned to identify, investigate, and respond to terrorist activity**.
- We know from experience that state and **local law enforcement are often in the best position to notice the first signs of a planned attack or threat to our communities**. Because of this, our homeland security efforts must be interwoven into the work that many of you do every day.
- Undoubtedly, **information sharing has been critical, and will be integral to our future success**. Our approach has been to **share information regarding terrorism and other threats to the homeland so that it can be incorporated into state and local community-based efforts** to prevent violence.
- Because **information sharing is a two-way street**, we've made sure **law enforcement has an effective way to push information to the Department**. i.e.: through Fusion Centers & "See Something Say Something" campaign.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

- DHS is **continually working to help state and local law enforcement agencies to identify homegrown violent extremists**.
- **Since last June, I have personally engaged with communities and frontline law enforcement officials across the country to raise vigilance and promote local efforts to counter violent extremism**.
- These **events are designed to focus on prevention, rather than reaction**, and to hinder the recruitment efforts of violent extremist groups such as al-Qa'ida, al-Nusrah Front, and ISIL.
- In cooperation with local communities and the Department of Justice, we have published guidance on best practices for community partnerships to prevent and mitigate homegrown threats.
- Also, to counter the homegrown violent extremist, we must also continue to emphasize the need for help from the public.
 - Through the nationwide expansion of the "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign, we are encouraging Americans to alert local law enforcement if they see something that is potentially dangerous.

Immigration Reform

- **I want to thank the Major Cities Chiefs' Association for your support against the ill-guided effort** of some of the Department's critics to file suit to try to stop the President from using his, clearly defined, **executive authority to help many of you to better protect your communities.**
- **The President sees his executive actions as only the first in a series of steps toward comprehensive immigration reform that only Congress can provide.**
- These actions are focused on prioritizing threats to national security, public safety, and border security. We are **making sure that we are moving felons and high security risk** to the front of the line **for deportation and not families.**
- As many of you know, under the President's executive actions we are ending the **Secure Communities program and replacing it with the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP).**
- **PEP will be implemented in a way that supports community policing and works to complement the local law enforcement ethos.**
- I will **continue to use my long-standing authority to grant deferred** action on a case-by-case basis to certain parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, and individuals arriving in the **United States before the age of sixteen.**
- **The implementation of all these initiatives will be carefully monitored** and supervised at DHS headquarters, with **Deputy Secretary Mayorkas** leading the implementation task force.

Border Security – Southern Border and Approaches Campaign

- **The United States border is safer and more secure than at any time in our Nation's history.** Over the last **15 years**, our government has **invested more in border security than at any point in history.**
- A measure of our **success is that the number of apprehensions on our southwest border** – the key indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally – **has declined to less than a third of its level in 2000, reaching its lowest point since the 1970s.**
- Notwithstanding our advances over the last decade plus, **DHS is building an even more secure border with our Southern Border and Approaches Campaign.**
- Our **Southern Border and Approaches Campaign is a ground breaking Department-wide strategy.** We are establishing three new Department task forces, each headed by a senior official of this Department who, within their territorial jurisdiction, will direct the resources of CBP, ICE, CIS and the USCG as needed without the unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape.

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- Many of you here today may have heard that **DHS is currently under what is called a Continuing Resolution. This means that Congress has only funded DHS through February.**
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- Just a few examples of **the impact the CR could have on DHS:**
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 - The majority of **DHS Non-Disaster Grants, such as the State and Urban Area Security Initiative grants,** would be considered new starts and therefore unable to be funded.
- **I have been adamant and will continue to be, political gamesmanship should not come at the expense of public safety or national security. The stakes are too high.**
- **I know you are facing a tough fiscal environment back home.** But I want to assure you that, **we're going to continue to look for ways to support the work you do.** You are an important and integral part of the security safety net that we have built across our country

Conclusion

- **I salute you all for your hard work and I am even more grateful for your partnership with DHS** in our efforts to keep the homeland secure. But we also know our work is not yet done.
- **I look forward to continuing our strong partnership in the coming year** as we work together to **build a safer, more secure, and more resilient nation.**
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**MEETING WITH WILLIAM EVANS, BOSTON POLICE COMMISSIONER
April 27, 2015**

Overview:

- You will participate in an introductory meeting with Boston Police Commissioner William Evans, at his request.
- The meeting is closed press.
- You will be staffed by Britton Yee. A full list of participants is below.

Discussion Points:

- Express your support for strengthening DHS's partnership with the Boston Police Department through enhanced communication, information sharing, and collaboration.
- Stress DHS's commitment to public safety and commend Commissioner Evans on a successful and safe Boston Marathon, which occurred last Monday, April 20th.
- Outline the mutually beneficial public safety implications of the Priority Enforcement Program, and the importance of local law enforcement cooperation with the Department, particularly with regard to requests for notification of priority alien releases and, in special circumstances, requests for detention.

Background:

- On November 1, 2013, former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino named Evans Interim Commissioner of the Boston Police Department. In January 2014, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh selected Evans to serve as Police Commissioner on a permanent basis.
- You have not met with Commissioner Evans individually, although you did meet him informally during your visit to the 2014 Boston Marathon. You also both participated in a law enforcement CVE Roundtable in December 2014 in Boston.
- Established in 1838, the Boston Police Department is the third oldest municipal police department in the United States. With over 2,100 sworn officers and 500 civilian staff, the Department is also the 20th largest law enforcement agency in the country, and the 3rd largest in New England.

Boston Marathon

- The 2015 Boston Marathon featured approximately 30,000 runners, a decrease of 6,000 runners from last year. The total attendance for the event included approximately 500,000 runners and spectators.
 - As in previous years, DHS provided significant personnel support to the 2015 Marathon, to include the appointment of a Federal Coordinator for the event, along with the deployment of personnel from the Special Events Program, the Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Office of Intelligence & Analysis for the purposes of providing coordination and enhanced situational awareness during the event.

- Commissioner Evans, then the Department’s Superintendent, ran the 2013 Boston Marathon and was at the Boston Athletic Club when he was informed by an officer that two bombs went off. Commissioner Evans returned home for his uniform and then went to the temporary command post at the Westin Hotel.
- On **April 3, 2015**, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) released their *After Action Report for the Response to the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombings*.
 - The report highlighted the key role that strong pre-existing relationships played in ensuring a successful unified command after the bombings and during the subsequent manhunt in Watertown. The report also praised the all-hazards medical system that was in place on Marathon Day, which ensured “that the capabilities and capacity to quickly triage and transport the injured from the scene of the incident were immediately available.”
 - The report also identified a “lack of coordination and management of mutual aid within the Watertown incident” as a key area for improvement, along with a lack of weapons discipline that was created by the self-deployment of a multitude of law enforcement officers to Watertown during the manhunt.

Priority Enforcement Program

- In August 2014, the Boston City Council passed and Mayor Walsh signed the Boston Trust Act (*attached*), an ordinance that limits the Boston Police Department’s ability to honor ICE detainees unless presented with a criminal warrant.
 - The Boston Trust Act also requires the police commissioner to submit a report to city officials with statistics on the number of detainment orders requested by ICE and honored by police, as well as the costs incurred for holding immigrants on the detainees.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funding

- The City of Boston is awarded grant funds as part of the Boston-Cambridge-Newton Metropolitan Statistical Area. Historical allocations under the Urban Areas Security Initiative program are provided in the table below

Year	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
UASI Award Amount	\$18,933,980	\$18,933,980	\$10,861,397	\$17,564,687	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000

- Commissioner Evans will likely express concern regarding the proposed National Preparedness Grant Program, which seeks to consolidate the existing suite of FEMA preparedness grants. The National Preparedness Grant Program was proposed by the Administration in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, FY 2014 and FY2015 budgets and was not approved by Congress. The National Preparedness Grant Program has been re-proposed in the President’s FY 2016 budget. Like many local officials,

Commissioner Evans will likely advocate for the existing structure of the UASI program to be maintained going forward.

Participants:

Secretary Jeh Johnson

Britton Yee, Law Enforcement Advisor to the Secretary

Alaina Clark, Deputy Assistant Secretary, IGA

William Evans, Commissioner, Boston Police Department

(b)(6) DC Representative, Boston Police Department

(b)(6) Director of Research and Development, Boston Police Department

(b)(6) Grants Manager, Boston Police Department

Attachments:

A. Talking Points

B. Boston One Year Later: DHS's Lessons Learned

C. Boston Trust Act

D. Biographies

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Heather Fong, Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement, OPE/SLLE

Boston One Year Later: DHS's Lessons Learned

Introduction and Summary

On April 15, 2013, two improvised explosive devices detonated near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three bystanders and wounding over 260 others. With no identified suspects, Federal, State and local law enforcement undertook a massive investigation, led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), culminating on April 18 in a public announcement identifying two possible suspects. Later that evening, two suspects matching the FBI's description reportedly killed a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer and engaged in a confrontation with law enforcement, resulting in the death of one of the suspects, later identified as Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The other suspect, later identified as Tamerlan's younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, eluded authorities, prompting a massive manhunt that went on for more than 12 hours. The suspect was eventually located, taken into custody, and charged with the use of a weapon of mass destruction and malicious destruction of property resulting in death.

Following the bombings at the Boston Marathon, then-Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano directed a "Hot Wash" of the event in order to identify key lessons learned for the Department. What follows are some of the lessons learned by DHS from the Boston experience, based on discussions with DHS leadership and component officials from both headquarters and the field. These lessons focus on the Department's preparedness efforts, its response to the incident itself, and communications between the Department and its various stakeholders.

DHS works with first responders, law enforcement, individuals, and communities across the country to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance preparedness while strengthening emergency response capabilities at the Federal, State, local, tribal and territorial levels. While America is stronger and more resilient as a result of efforts over the past decade to build robust national capabilities, the Boston Marathon bombings serve as a reminder that threats from terrorism persist and continue to evolve.

Goals & Objectives

The Department has sought to identify key lessons learned from the event and its aftermath. These findings and lessons learned serve as a basis for longer-term planning and implementation efforts and recommendations to improve the Department's capacity to support local efforts and coordinate the Federal response to evolving threats.

In the wake of this terrorist event, the Department conducted hours of discussions with DHS component leadership, as well as Boston area field personnel from component agencies. These discussions focused on a range of topics, including preparedness activities, actions taken immediately following the attack, support for law enforcement and the investigative process as well as information sharing with law enforcement and other stakeholders in the Boston area and across the country. Additionally, the discussions touched on DHS's longtime partnerships and work in the Boston region, which include training activities, exercises, grants and engagement with State and local law enforcement, first responders and other Federal partners.

Themes

DHS identified several themes throughout the planning and preparedness activities that were undertaken in cooperation with the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prior to the Boston Marathon, immediately following the attack in Boston, and in ongoing communication with stakeholders. Among the most significant themes identified were:

Early, Sustained Engagement and the Relationship to Preparedness: DHS grants, training and workshops as well as drills and exercises throughout the Northeast region, and specifically in Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, built preparedness capabilities to enhance responses to complex, catastrophic attacks. Participants credited these investments for the coordinated and effective response to the bombings by law enforcement, medical, and other public safety personnel.

Interoperable Communications: DHS components stressed the need for interoperable communications among Federal, State, and local partners. During the incident, State and local public safety officials reported that they were able to achieve interoperability across the various radio systems used to coordinate Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and law enforcement responses to the bombings as well as during the search for the second suspect on April 18 and 19, 2013. However, some DHS components, specifically U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and United States Secret Service (USSS), reported discrete episodes of commercial wireless network saturation and incompatibility of certain radio communications between law enforcement organizations and State and local responders.

Need for a Focal Point for Field and Headquarters (HQ) Response Coordination: In the wake of the attacks, DHS mounted a significant response effort in Boston, in Massachusetts, throughout the Northeast region and across the country. Field offices, HQ elements and component officials stressed the value of a single coordination point for their operations.

Strong Appetite for Information Sharing and Communications: Both internally and externally, DHS components raised the need to balance responding to requests for information quickly with the importance of relaying confirmed, official and actionable information. Multiple interagency equities, coupled with requests for information from around the country, added a further layer of complexity, as did the importance of preserving the integrity of the investigation. At the same time, feedback from external partners on communications throughout the immediate response and ongoing investigation was positive. DHS, in coordination with the FBI, released Joint Intelligence Bulletins highlighting protective measures and details of the device used in the attacks, which were well received by state and local law enforcement. Similarly, DHS, in coordination with the FBI, utilized regular stakeholder calls to share information with fusion centers and state and local officials.

DHS Law Enforcement Support: Following the bombings, DHS offered broad support for the FBI-led investigation in terms of law enforcement agents and officers assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), DHS personnel supporting the response and investigation, and unique authorities, expertise and resources.

Partnerships with Federal, State, Local and International Authorities are Vital: DHS components emphasized the importance of prior relationships with local, state, regional and international partners as critical to effective communication during and after an incident.

Boston Marathon Bombings Preparedness and Response Activities

Boston Marathon Event Posture

Prior to the Boston Marathon, DHS components supported and advised event planners. Within DHS, USSS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), Office of Operations Coordination and Planning (OPS), Science & Technology Directorate (S&T), Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A), National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP), and the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) were actively monitoring the event and ready to provide support as requested.

While intelligence reporting indicated no credible threat to the event, its designation as a Special Events Assessment Rating (SEAR) 2 by the Special Events Working Group meant there were Federal, State, and local security and logistical support resources on hand.¹ A long, open air venue, as well as the iconic nature of the event as the world's oldest annual marathon, contributed to the Boston Marathon's rating. In 2013, the Boston Marathon was the seventh highest rated overall SEAR event in the Nation. The FBI was designated the event's lead federal law enforcement agency and the Massachusetts State Police was the designated lead local law enforcement and public safety organization. The Massachusetts Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was the designated operations center for the event.

Leading up to the event, the DHS Massachusetts Protective Security Advisor (PSA) as well as representatives from FEMA, and NPPD's Federal Protective Service (FPS) participated in Boston Marathon Security Coordination meetings alongside the Boston Athletic Association, the Massachusetts Homeland Security Advisor, the Commonwealth Fusion Center/Massachusetts State Police Counter-Intelligence Unit, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, and the FBI/JTTF. The Massachusetts PSA worked directly with owners and operators of critical infrastructure to identify facilities in proximity to the event. Engagement included documenting protective measures, reviewing past assessments, providing State and local partners with map books of all critical infrastructure and chemical facilities in close proximity to the marathon route, and monitoring infrastructure for changes in posture on a real-time basis.

In addition to collaboration with the interagency, as well as State and local partners, DHS field offices in Boston have longstanding relationships with one another, helping to foster a "One DHS" culture. This ensured that roles and responsibilities were clearly delineated and understood, resulting in a coordinated response to the attack in Boston. For example, DHS components worked together on port security, at Boston Logan International Airport and through the Boston JTTF. DHS law enforcement agencies also regularly participate in forums designed to foster strong relationships and collaboration among Federal law enforcement in the Boston

¹ An Integrated Federal Support Overview was created for the Boston Marathon which included the roles of the 16 federal participants and personnel deployment information for the nearly 200 personnel on call.

area and in Massachusetts such as quarterly Special Agents in Charge (SAC) meetings, chaired by the USSS Boston SAC, and issue-specific boards.

Immediate Response

The role of bystanders immediately after an incident can make a critical difference in managing injuries and saving lives. As a major athletic event, the Boston Marathon attracted a number of individuals with medical backgrounds or training, including event medical personnel staged near the bombing sites. In addition, bystanders acted on good instincts, working to control bleeding and rapidly moving the wounded to hospitals, which saved lives. The Boston attack also highlighted a potential paradigm shift in EMS protocols during a mass casualty event. Under widely used protocols, EMS is generally instructed to wait until a scene is safe and secure before entering to treat victims. However, because EMS members and medical staff were pre-staged and on scene for the Marathon, they were able to attend to victims immediately following the bombings. FEMA personnel noted that the EMS success in Boston is leading the first responder community to rethink the utility of securing a perimeter before EMS can enter and instead move to a system in which they can begin treating victims immediately.

Likewise, the City of Boston was well positioned to respond to emergency situations given the significant planning, exercises and training focused on similar, large-scale, complex events it had undertaken in recent years. Patients were treated by first responder personnel, as well as bystanders, and evacuated to local hospitals for further care. This immediate response, along with careful planning by first responders to distribute patients throughout area hospitals instead of only one facility, worked well.

Following the bombings and initial response, FEMA activated its Regional Response Coordination Center in Boston to monitor response operations in the event that federal assistance became necessary, and contacted Federal and Commonwealth emergency management partners to reiterate FEMA's support. In support of the responders in the immediate Boston area, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) worked collaboratively with the Boston Police Department and Massachusetts State Police to deploy air assets and other forms of transportation support. In addition, the Medical Intelligence Center² in Boston was used to share critical information among first responders in the wake of the attack.

The NPPD Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) also provided field support through their Regional Coordination Program (RCP). Following the bombings, NPPD/OEC's RCP coordinated the use of interoperability frequencies throughout the region to successfully ensure an interoperability channel for use by Boston officials. In addition, the National Coordinating Center for Communications under the NCCIC hosted conference calls with Federal, State, and private sector emergency communications responders to share awareness and solicit requirements. These calls confirmed that the wireless network status immediately after the bombings was congested for four hours, but neither damaged nor shutdown. Traffic demand

² The Medical Intelligence Center is a municipal organization, partially funded through DHS Urban Area Security Initiative grants, which allows Boston Emergency Medical Services, first responder agencies, including police and fire, hospitals, public health departments, community health centers, long-term care facilities, State and Federal as well as public and private partners to share information and work collaboratively in response to large scale incidents.

dropped to levels supportable by existing infrastructure within four hours and no additional network enhancement was required.

In response to Massachusetts Governor Patrick's request, President Obama issued an Emergency Declaration for Massachusetts on April 17 to "alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the counties of Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk." This declaration authorized FEMA to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. FEMA also authorized State and local agencies in Massachusetts to use previously awarded grant funding to support law enforcement and first responder overtime costs resulting from investigation support activities and heightened security measures, from April 15 through May 5, 2013. Additionally, FEMA granted a similar authorization for State and local agencies in other jurisdictions hosting upcoming major special events.

Law Enforcement Assistance

DHS provided support to its Federal, State, and local law enforcement partners in the investigation following the attack. This included establishing an extended perimeter to intercept potential suspects and interview witnesses, working with the FBI to develop products such as Joint Intelligence Bulletins, and providing briefings to State and local law enforcement and homeland security officials, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and faith-based organizations.

During the initial period following the attack, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)/Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and NPPD/FPS agents were paired with FBI agents in the field in order to amplify coverage. ICE/HSI, NPPD/FPS, and USSS personnel staffed the FBI command post and immediately deployed agents to the blast site, as well as other locations to secure crime scenes and gather evidence. ICE and NPPD/FPS personnel assisted in establishing an extended perimeter in the Boston area, an initiative supported by the FBI and other agencies.

Immediately after the incident, CBP's National Targeting Center (NTC) re-vetted all flights that had departed earlier in the day from Boston, New York and Newark to identify any potential subjects of interest linked to the bombing. CBP also began enhanced vetting of all outbound flights departing from these three cities and initiated heightened outbound operations, supported by ICE/HSI and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which included interviewing potential witnesses at the airport to gather information for the investigation, complementing interviews with witnesses at the bomb site. Along the Northern Border, CBP collaborated with Federal, State, local and Canadian authorities to conduct enhanced outbound operations.

In support of the response effort, TSA heightened security throughout the Northeast region airports with increased explosive trace detection, canine deployment, gate checks and behavior detection activities. The week of April 15, 2013, TSA conducted Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) operations at multiple mass transit, passenger rail, and aviation locations

in the Boston metropolitan area. Nationwide, TSA increased the operational tempo of its VIPR teams by approximately 90 percent, focusing on the Northeast and on mass transit locations³.

As a precautionary measure after the bombings, NPPD/FPS raised its Operational Condition at all Facility Security Level IV federal facilities nationwide. NPPD/FPS's increased security posture included reducing entrances to facilities, rescreening occupants, and increasing canine sweeps. NPPD/Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) supported the National Explosives Task Force sharing the most up-to-date intelligence and investigative information. Resources and products included a Quick Look Report, Boston Marathon Response Toolkit, and a U.S. Government Counter-IED Resource List and Usage Guide that were made available to stakeholders through TRIPwire and the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).⁴

After reports of an explosion⁵ at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, situated in Boston Harbor, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Captain of the Port (COTP) Boston raised the Maritime Security (MARSEC) level to MARSEC 2, increasing all vessel and facility security measures across the port in accordance with their individual security plans and the Maritime Transportation Security Act. In support of the response effort, USSS deployed a hazardous materials specialist and agents to secure and assess the scene. After it was determined that the incident was unrelated to the Marathon attack, MARSEC 2 was modified to focus on passenger ferries to safeguard the largest concentrations of the public within the maritime transportation system.

In addition to the measures taken by industry, the USCG immediately raised and coordinated its on-water security presence with increased patrols 24/7 in the inner harbor and along ferry routes, and deployed security teams supplemented by Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) agents on passenger ferries and in ferry terminals. On the evening of April 18, 2013, the Commandant directed COTP Boston to resume MARSEC Level 1 in the port of Boston. Although the MARSEC Level implemented by vessels and facilities was lowered, the USCG extended and maintained its heightened security posture (boat escorts, ferry ride-alongs, shore-side harbor patrols, and airborne use of force helicopter patrols) through April 20 consistent with the security posture of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority.

During the search for the second suspect on April 19, ICE/HSI Boston special agents and NPPD/FPS agents assisted with the evacuation of residents, clearing the area of any suspected IEDs, and containing the suspect while USSS deployed personnel to provide staffing for the perimeter in Watertown, MA.

³ Operations involved personnel from the Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service and the Office of Security Operations (Transportation Security Inspectors, Transportation Security Officers, Behavior Detection Officers, Transportation Security Specialists, and Explosives Detection Canine Teams).

⁴ The Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) is a national secure and trusted web-based portal for information sharing and collaboration between Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, private sector, and international partners engaged in the homeland security mission.

⁵ The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum incident was initially of an unknown origin and out of an abundance of caution was presumed to be a crime scene. It was determined later that the fire was mechanical in nature and not a deliberate act.

Investigative Support

DHS components including ICE, USSS, CBP, TSA, USCG, NPPD, I&A and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provided investigative support to the JTTF in Boston, including evidence collection, media exploitation, pursuing investigative leads, and supporting the search for the second suspect. During steady state operations, three ICE/HSI special agents are assigned to the JTTF, with two at the field office and one at the Logan International Airport annex. After the bombings, ICE surged over 50 agents to support the JTTF. CBP's representatives at the JTTF, both at the field office and at the Logan annex, also contributed to the investigation. There were three USSS agents assigned to the Boston JTTF as well and a USCIS officer detailed there on a part time basis.

In addition, the USSS leveraged its private sector partnerships and expertise to identify suspect financial transactions. The USSS utilized its New England Electronic Crimes Task Force to collect and review business surveillance videos in proximity to the bombing site for evidence related to investigation. After the FBI released video and photos of the two bombing suspects, CBP, NPPD, USCIS and ICE assisted the FBI in investigating leads through multiple DHS owned and operated databases.

Based on a fingerprint of the first subject taken at the hospital, law enforcement was able to identify the suspects as Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Upon confirmation of their identities, CBP and USCIS began providing data on the suspects to the FBI investigation while I&A facilitated information sharing with the broader Intelligence Community and fusion center network as well as state and local homeland security officials. Over the course of the week, CBP produced 24 Special Research Reports, which were shared with the FBI. USCIS and ICE/HSI also provided subject matter expertise to law enforcement agencies on immigration issues in the Boston investigations while leveraging their unique immigration authorities to assist the investigation. Throughout the investigation, CBP, TSA, and USCG referred potential leads to the FBI.

Stakeholder Engagement and Information Sharing

Following an incident requiring a coordinated federal response, whether a natural disaster or act of terrorism, the DHS Office of Public Affairs (OPA) has responsibility for leading Federal communications coordination under Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5. The DHS National Joint Information Center⁶ serves as the Federal incident communications coordination center. DHS components involved in information sharing and external affairs efforts, including OPA, the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA), the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), NPPD, and I&A, work to strike the balance of sharing information quickly while working with interagency partners to confirm its accuracy.

⁶ The NJIC is staffed by incident communications response personnel and can rapidly mobilize and coordinate the Federal external communications effort. The "virtual" Federal interagency team and National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) are controlled at the NJIC. The NJIC coordinates with and supports the Secretary, NOC, Crisis Action Team (CAT), FEMA National Response Coordination Center, National Infrastructure Coordination Center, Federal Coordinating Officer, Unified Coordination staff, and Emergency Support Function #15 staff as needed.

Information Sharing

As with many incidents, in the wake of the bombings, a large information void existed. Nothing was known about the attackers, their methods, possible co-conspirators, affiliations or potential follow-on attacks. OPS and I&A, together with other DHS components, immediately began working on what was known in order to keep DHS officials, stakeholders, law enforcement, and the wider public informed.

The DHS National Operations Center (NOC) began immediate notification and communications support to the Office of the Secretary and DHS Leadership, activated the DHS Crisis Action Team and initiated National Level Reporting which was displayed and shared on the DHS Common Operating Picture⁷. These resources were used to share information with Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial partners. The NOC facilitated a communication request between the Boston Mayor's office and several DHS components during the first hour of the event and leveraged its close working relationship with the Boston Police Department, which had a representative assigned to the NOC, during the initial information sharing phase.

In addition to engaging in a two-way information exchange directly with the fusion centers, including the Boston Regional Intelligence Center and the Commonwealth Fusion Center, the National Network of Fusion Centers utilized a portal on HSIN for posting and discussing information concerning the incident with its partners, both in the region and around the country. This portal provided information related to the incident as well as other relevant information such as protective measures to law enforcement and security professionals.

I&A activated the Intelligence Crisis Action Team (ICAT), to analyze and confirm information regarding the incident. Later, the ICAT expanded to a DHS Threat Task Force to include representatives from CBP, FEMA, ICE, NPPD, OPS, TSA, USCG, USCIS and USSS, continuing to share information internally and externally, while assuming other law enforcement and Intelligence Community support responsibilities. The Task Force published a twice-daily common intelligence picture of vetted all-source reporting and actions for internal dissemination within DHS and to inform external engagements.

In the days following the attack, I&A and FBI published three unclassified Joint Intelligence Bulletins for use by law enforcement, covering confirmed aspects of the investigation, including details about the explosive devices and protective measures for use by law enforcement. These products, distributed via HSIN and other means, received strong, positive reviews by recipients.

Additionally, NCCIC noticed an increase in suspicious cyber activity, which prompted NCCIC to create an alert that was disseminated to Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial and private sector partners. Following the creation of this product, US-CERT posted a similar warning to its website for public consumption. The National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC) provided situational awareness messages and situation reports to DHS leadership and critical

⁷ The DHS Common Operating Picture (COP) is shared with fusion centers, interagency partners, State and local law enforcement and DIIS operation centers. The COP is also available via IISIN.

infrastructure partners. In addition, the NPPD/IP PSA assisted the Security Directors at Fenway Park and TD Garden with security planning and preparation for the first Red Sox and Bruins home games following the bombings.

Public Affairs

Immediately following the Boston Marathon attack, communicating official, accurate information to DHS's various stakeholders was critical. DHS OPA mobilized to coordinate Federal, State, local, and private sector communications in the NJIC using proven systems like the National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL), the State Incident Communications Conference Line (SICCL) and the Private Sector Incident Communications Conference Line (PICCL) as per the Domestic Incident Communications Strategy (DCS)⁸. These calls which supported a network of 1,100 communicators including representatives from the Department of Defense, NORTHCOM, DHS, the Department of Justice (DOJ), FBI, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, the DHS Counter Terrorism Advisory Board (CTAB) and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) enabled relevant interagency partners to connect with field personnel in Boston and ensure the dissemination of information (both internally and externally) was closely coordinated. NICCL calls were held April 15 through 17 and summaries were distributed following each call to ensure message visibility.

While DHS assumed responsibility for coordination of federal communications, White House Communications maintained the lead for Federal strategic communications direction. The FBI and DOJ were leads for communication related to the Federal law enforcement investigation. To support the response and investigation, DHS continued to promote "If You See Something, Say Something™" messaging to engage the public and key frontline employees to identify and report suspicious activity as well as indicators of terrorism, crime and other threats to the proper law enforcement authorities.

Intergovernmental Outreach

Immediately following the attack, IGA reached out to senior officials in Massachusetts, including Governor Patrick and Boston Mayor Menino's offices as well as the Massachusetts Homeland Security Advisor and Director of Boston Emergency Management. While each of these calls confirmed that there were no unmet needs in the Boston area, during an April 16, 2013 call with former Secretary Napolitano, former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis asked DHS to provide additional video analysis support and continue heightened USCG security in the surrounding maritime environment.

In addition to activities in the Boston region, IGA also conducted outreach to state and local jurisdictions nationwide. Immediately following the attack, IGA reached out to major cities including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago, the District of Columbia, New York, and San Francisco. During each of these discussions, IGA informed stakeholders of the DHS response and encouraged stakeholders to reach out in the event their city needed DHS support. In addition, IGA and FEMA conducted outreach to States and local jurisdictions regarding FEMA's

⁸ The DCS is a public information strategy that outlines Federal incident communications options that can be implemented in conjunction with a major terrorist incident in the United States.

authorization to allow Massachusetts, Boston and other State and local jurisdictions the ability to use grant funding for operational overtime for enhanced security measures.

Coincidentally, former FEMA Deputy Administrator Rich Serino was in Boston to attend the Marathon and connected with key local first responders on the ground quickly after the blast. The Deputy Administrator was able to liaise with city and State officials and served as a high-level conduit for DHS outreach, while also directing requests back to the Department.

On April 16, former Secretary Napolitano spoke with Governor Patrick, Mayor Menino, and Commissioner Davis. Throughout the day, IGA engaged with its myriad stakeholder groups to offer both updates on the investigation and DHS's security posture and support. IGA, in conjunction with I&A, also organized three joint DHS/FBI conference calls to provide information to State homeland security advisors, fusion center directors, major cities intelligence commanders, and others. Each call attracted more than 300 participants from across the country. The initial call on April 16 included a briefing on the response, type of IED used in the bombing, Joint Intelligence Bulletin, and an update from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Boston fusion center. The second call on April 19 focused on the ongoing investigation and pursuit of the remaining suspect. The third call, which occurred following the apprehension of the suspect, served to close out the events for DHS stakeholders. In addition, the DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council convened a call with the Faith Based Advisory Council, while the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held an Incident Community Coordination Call with community members, including representatives of the Muslim-American community, to discuss potential impacts of the Boston Marathon bombing on these groups.

Legislative Outreach

As the situation in Boston unfolded, OLA reached out to key Members of Congress including the chairs of the Department's authorizing committees as well as the Massachusetts delegation. The majority of Member inquiries and requests related to stories and facts being reported in the media. From April 23-25, briefings were convened for members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and all interested members of the House of Representatives and Senate. These engagements with senior officials continue in order to keep Members and others providing oversight apprised of the Department's activities.

Preparedness Activities

Over the past several years, DHS has greatly enhanced and expanded its collaboration with State and local officials as well as first responders to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters and other threats while supporting efforts across the homeland security enterprise to build nationwide capabilities. Many of these DHS supported activities, including grant funding, training and workshops as well as drills and exercises enhanced preparedness and response capabilities in Boston and served to prepare the city for complex, mass casualty scenarios.

Grant Funding

DHS provides resources to its State and local partners to train and prepare for complex attacks and mass casualty shootings primarily through the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). Since 2002, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

has received more than \$943 million through 22 DHS grant programs, including nearly \$370 million for the Boston urban area. This funding has been used to equip and train tactical and specialized response teams specifically in IED detection, prevention, response, and recovery, including SWAT teams and Explosive Ordinance Disposal canine detection teams among other local law enforcement units.

In 2012, Boston completed a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), a comprehensive process for assessing regional capability gaps required annually by each State and urban area designed to prioritize investments in key deployable capabilities. Fifty-six states and urban areas, including Boston, identified complex attacks as one of their top threats/hazards in their 2012 THIRAs. These assessments assist States and urban areas planning and preparation for various scenarios, prioritizing the development of capabilities to address known and evolving threats.

Training, Exercises and Drills

DHS grant funding also supports increased coordination and capacity building, particularly with respect to joint exercises, drills and trainings, including more than a dozen exercises involving the City of Boston over the past several years. During the review, multiple component officials and field personnel credited these activities for preparing the coordinated response to Boston, including the following:

Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop (JCTAWS)

Through Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshops (JCTAWS), FEMA, NCTC, and the FBI bring together stakeholders from law enforcement, incident management, and the private sector in cities across the country to engage in scenario-based reviews of their complex-attack prevention and response capabilities. These workshops revolve around a 24-hour scenario in which multiple, coordinated assaults occur, similar to the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India. Throughout the exercise, participants jointly evaluate whether the city's existing plans, procedures, and capabilities are adequate to manage a coordinated, multi-site complex-attack and identify existing programs or resources they can use to close any gaps.

In March 2011, a JCTAWS was held in Boston involving more than 200 stakeholders from law enforcement, incident management, and the private sector focused on the integrated response to a complex attack in the Boston metropolitan area. The Boston Police Department incorporated several key lessons learned into their policies and operations.

In recent years, NPPD/OBP has worked with authorities in the greater Boston area on surveillance detection and counter-IED training in support of multiple special events including the Boston 4th of July Celebrations, Bi-Centennial of the War of 1812, Boston New Year's Eve, and the 2013 Boston Marathon. In addition, in 2009, OBP worked with State and local security partners to conduct a Multi-Jurisdiction Improvised Explosive Device Security Planning (MJIEDSP) workshop in Boston to assist with the development of an IED security plan integrating assets and capabilities from multiple areas and

emergency service sectors. Participants included representatives from the Massachusetts State Police, FBI, Boston Police Department, Boston Fire Department, Boston Emergency Management Agency, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

First Responder Training

Since 2000, more than 5,500 Boston area first responders have received training through the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium and Continuing Training Grants, including courses on casualty response and recovery, explosive devices, medical response, hospital incident command systems, crime scene management, hazardous evidence collection, and law enforcement response to bombing incidents.

Boston Marathon Tactical Communications Assessment

In 2010, NPPD/OEC worked with Metro Boston Homeland Security Region jurisdictions to assess emergency communications used for the Boston Marathon as part of implementing the Nation Emergency Communication Plan. In the 2010 After Action Report, NPPD/OEC recommended that the Boston area conduct more inclusive communications planning with all response disciplines. Boston public safety officials adopted OEC's recommendations for the 2013 radio communications plan for the Marathon. As a result of the 2010 NPPD/OEC assessment, Boston officials requested NPPD/OEC technical assistance training for All-Hazards Communications Unit Leaders (COML) and a trained COML was used to coordinate communications during the 2013 Marathon and response to the bombings.

Planning

DHS technical assistance and funding enabled the City of Boston to codify its emergency response plans and protocols through planning support initiatives. Since 2005, FEMA has provided six technical assistance deliveries for the Boston urban area and seven for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including assistance with IED awareness, fusion centers, equipment, anti-terrorism training, and interoperable communications. Further, NPPD/OEC has worked closely with jurisdictions in the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region to improve coordination, training, and tactical planning for emergency communications.

As part of FEMA's Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region in 2012 exercised a Regional Catastrophic Coordination Plan designed to augment existing operations plans by facilitating communication, situational awareness, and functional area coordination across the region in a catastrophic event. The region also developed a Regional IED Annex using DHS grant funding in 2010, creating coordinated response protocols for State and local agencies to respond to a catastrophic IED incident and codified the structure of explosive ordnance teams within the region when collaborating on multiple IED scenarios.

Impact of Investments

Due to the investments DHS has made over the past ten years, the City of Boston had greater capabilities to respond to the Boston Marathon attack and had exercised its citywide response plans. The findings from the exercises described above helped the city refine its plans and procedures for responding to a complex attack and laid the groundwork for coordination and collaboration among Federal, State and local first responders and law enforcement personnel

necessary for an effective response. According to FEMA, the approach that both the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have taken to utilize grant dollars and prioritize threats and corresponding capability development is considered a best practice for other States and urban areas.

These exercises and trainings helped familiarize relevant personnel and agencies with response plans while building relationships that proved critical during the response to the bombings. Numerous DHS components involved in the response to the Boston Marathon bombings indicated that these personal and pre-existing relationships on the ground were critical to ensuring an effective and efficient response to the incident. As noted by Rear Admiral Daniel Abel, U.S. Coast Guard First District Commander, relationships cannot be “surged” during crises, rather they must be a pre-existing component of interagency partnerships.

Lessons Learned

The Boston Marathon was unique in many ways due to the response assets on hand, first responder personnel on site, and longstanding personal relationships that were relied upon. However, DHS can apply key outcomes from this tragedy in order to prevent and respond to evolving threats in the future.

Importance of Partnerships

Strong partnerships among Federal, State, local, and international agencies are critical to effective communication and response during and following an incident such as this. In addition to the Department’s significant presence in the Boston area, DHS participates in regional security exercises, task forces, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, and the Boston Regional Intelligence Center. Through these activities and structures, DHS officials develop and strengthen professional relationships and build trust with partners.

While relationships between Federal, State and local personnel on the ground in Boston were strong, some DHS components stated that there was not a full appreciation for the resources their component could provide. For example, ICE described a strong familiarity with its unique capabilities and authorities among local Federal law enforcement entities, but less familiarity among surge forces deployed to Boston from elsewhere in the country. Efforts should be made to better educate the interagency about the work DHS components do and services they can offer through outreach and joint trainings or exercises.

Need for Effective and Reliable Communications for DHS Responders

In response to an attack, it is critical to have effective communications capabilities to coordinate people and resources. All land mobile radios that facilitate mission critical voice communications were operational at the time of the attack in Boston, and public safety officials said they were generally able to achieve interoperability during the response between State and local responders. The Massachusetts Statewide Interoperability Coordinator told NPPD/OEC that there was “seamless communications across major radio systems” in the Boston metro area. However, ICE/HSI as well as USSS agents reported a limited ability to transmit messages via radio to State and local law enforcement.

Over the past several years, DHS has worked to support efforts to build reliable communications systems among Federal, State, and local partners. Best practices include having an Incident Radio Communications Plan and avoiding the use of code names specific to departments or agencies. Common channel planning between Federal, State and local partners in advance of major events helps ensure that Federal, State, local and regional interoperability channels enhance communication. The Boston Marathon was a pre-planned event and common channel planning, including development of an *Incident Command System Incident Radio Communications Plan*⁹ for all jurisdictions participating, has been routine for the Boston Marathon since 2010.¹⁰

With respect to the investigation, custody of original information and documentation must also be coordinated among partners. As a practical matter, the alien files of the bombing suspects were made available digitally on the day of the request. However, in a high profile incident such as this, multiple agencies requested information pertinent to the investigation and it was not clear to whom the original file information should be transferred. It is recommended that protocols be drafted in concert with the JTTF to codify how information, such as immigration records, should be transferred in the future.

Finally, while public communications were led by the FBI and facilitated by DHS, per the aforementioned DCS, components noted the need to distribute a unified Federal Government message as soon as practically possible to field offices and stakeholders, including fusion centers, in order to respond to media and other inquiries in a timely fashion.

Review of Internal Mechanisms

Through exercises and training, DHS has developed Continuity of Operations plans for a variety of scenarios. Still, multiple components faced obstacles getting their employees to their work sites following the Boston Marathon bombings. With mass transit systems closed during the manhunt on April 19, components came up with innovative solutions including expanded free parking and transportation options so personnel could drive to their designated location. While these actions were not formalized ahead of time, DHS field offices leveraged their existing relationships to identify ways to bring the full weight of the Department's resources to bear in the response to and investigation of the incident.

DHS components also noted a continual shift in the "center of gravity" of operations coordination following the event, which led to difficulties in accessing and sharing information and confusion about the lead for activities outside the immediate investigation. The State EOC (SEOC) in Framingham, MA was activated pre-incident and remained at full activation until April 16, when it assumed partial activation. Immediately following the bombings, the Boston EOC was activated, and remained activated until April 18, when it implemented a reduced status. Components reported that the two different EOCs—the SEOC and the Boston EOC—created

⁹ Known as the ICS 205, this plan provides information on all radio frequency assignments for the event for use by incident responders.

¹⁰ ICE and USSS did not participate in the advance communications planning for the marathon, but there is general planning that can be done unassociated with a particular event when Federal partners know they would be required to communicate with state/local responders and managers.

confusion about the center of gravity for response operations and the lead for coordinating response activities. Additionally, the two components of the post-incident response—the ongoing law enforcement investigation and the emergency response—also made it difficult to determine the lead agency for response operations. The FBI was the lead for the investigation with its own command center, but the lead for the emergency response operations was less defined. Components have suggested establishing clearer protocols transitioning to and sustaining a crisis EOC in the event of an incident and merging Federal protocols with local operations plans to support this transition.

In the course of discussions, DHS field offices expressed a desire for a unified regional structure for enhanced coordination and deployment of resources. There could be a benefit in identifying a singular coordination mechanism at the regional level for DHS officials in the field to coordinate amongst themselves, and then integrate into the JTTF. A number of examples have been suggested including leveraging the existing CTAB structure as well as the Multi-Agency Command utilized during National Special Security Events. This could provide better organization to general DHS response activities as well as streamlined reporting to HQ elements. This coordination mechanism could also serve as the intake point for DHS personnel deployed in the field.

A Year Later

Almost a year has passed since the attack on the Boston Marathon took the lives of three innocent bystanders, injured hundreds of others, and shattered one of the world's most iconic sporting events in one of America's greatest cities. In the tense days that followed, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Police Officer Sean Collier was murdered and other police officers were injured or put in harm's way as the suspects sought to escape the Boston area.

The previous report, conducted in the months following the incident as part of a Department specific focus on a number of key areas, most notably DHS's department wide coordination, and support to local law enforcement, including preparedness efforts, both before and during the incident, examined DHS' actions leading up to, during, and after the 2013 Boston Marathon. Since the attack, DHS and its interagency partners, conducted numerous briefings on a wide range of issues with Congress, state and local first responders, and other stakeholders. Building on the lessons learned throughout the drafting of the report and our engagements, DHS has continued to work closely with federal, state, and local partners to combat the so-called "lone wolf" threat: independent actors living within our midst, with easy access to materials that, in the wrong hands, can become tools for mass violence. This threat may be the hardest to detect and requires even greater collaboration among law enforcement, first responders, and the communities we serve.

Since the attack, DHS has built closer relationships with partners in communities across the Nation and improved its support to them, actions that will continue to make America stronger and more resilient to terrorist attacks, and threats and hazards of all kinds. These actions have included:

Enhancing National Preparedness

DHS has continued its support to law enforcement and first responder partners to sustain and enhance national preparedness, with a particular focus on mass casualty incidents. In August 2013, DHS hosted the Boston Summit with senior leaders from the Administration as well as federal, state and local officials, law enforcement, and first responders from across the country to assist them with lessons learned from, preparation for, and response to terrorist and other threats and hazards. DHS also prioritized in its 2013 grant guidance funding for activities that directly support citizen preparedness drills and exercises that serve to strengthen state and local mass casualty planning, training, and exercises among law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service providers. Recognizing the important role that bystanders played in the immediate response to the bombings, the 2013 grant guidance specifically included two new program priorities: Innovation and Sustained Support for the National Campaign for Preparedness, and Improve Immediate Emergency Victim Care at Mass Casualty Events. Taken together, these additions to the grant guidance encouraged states and urban areas to utilize grant funding to promote preparedness activities that empower communities and individuals; actively support citizen preparedness drills, exercises, and community days of action such as the Great Shakeout; and empower community bystanders through public education initiatives and training about life sustaining actions and how they can support survivors and providers in a mass casualty event. Additionally, these program priority areas encouraged grantees to utilize grant funding to engage in mass casualty planning, training, and exercises specifically involving law enforcement, fire service, and EMS providers to rapidly deploy into areas that have been cleared but not secured in order to initiate treatment at or near the point of injury and effect rescue of survivors.

In addition, DHS provided funding exercises for first responders and law enforcement to identify lessons learned and improve information sharing, and DHS participated in several large-scale exercises to strengthen overall preparedness for mass-casualty events.

Countering IED Threats

As evidenced by the Boston Marathon bombings, violent extremists have shown an enduring interest in improving IED materials and methods to evade security measures and conduct small arms attacks. While violent extremists' mistakes have sometimes contributed to intelligence and law enforcement successes, lone offender plots using IEDs or small arms present unique challenges as a result of being tactically simple and adaptable in both timing and location of execution, complicating discovery and disruption by authorities.

To protect soft targets, DHS is adopting approaches that are intelligence-led, analytically driven, and pursued in close cooperation between federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners as well as with the public. To counter the threat posed by IEDs and small arms attacks, DHS plans to expand and promote activities such as suspicious activity reporting and private sector security measures. Working with more than 75 foreign partners, DHS employs a global approach to homeland security and has expanded counter-IED efforts to address their frequent source – transnational plots originating overseas. Internationally, DHS supports multilateral efforts, such as the World Customs Organization's Program Global Shield, which shares information on the global movement of precursor chemicals used to manufacture IEDs and raise security standards. DHS will also continue researching next-generation technology solutions to stay ahead of advances in wireless technology, given the use of wireless technology in IED detonation and control mechanisms.

Across all of these efforts, DHS will place an increased emphasis on deterrence, including enhancing efforts to publicly communicate tailored descriptions of homeland security capabilities to influence the perceptions, risk calculations, and behaviors of adversaries.

Strengthening Information Sharing

Since the Boston attack, DHS, the FBI, and NCTC have expanded our ability to share information with state and local officials about potential threats. Examples of recent events where information has been shared include the 9/11 anniversary and the homeland security implications of the conflict in Syria. DHS identified ways to more effectively work with interagency partners at FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces and sent updated guidance to officers in the field to improve such collaboration. DHS also continues to work closely with federal partners to screen and vet domestic and international travelers, visa applicants and other persons of interest to identify potential threats. After the Boston attack, DHS reviewed its name-matching capabilities, leading to improvements in its ability to detect variations of names derived from a wide range of languages.

Identifying Potential Threat Indicators

Following the bombings, DHS, the FBI, and others conducted additional analysis of past mass casualty incidents, both in the U.S. and abroad, to better recognize behaviors and indicators that may provide warning of a potential attack. DHS and the FBI completed 2,037 community engagement events over the past year addressing mass-casualty attack prevention and response, including 96 school security district outreach briefings. In the aftermath of the multi-day attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2013, DHS and the FBI also led guided discussions with venue operators and law enforcement partners in 56 of America's largest cities.

DHS analysis and research has been shared with state and local law enforcement officials to help them improve their ability to detect and mitigate threats, and it has been integrated into countering violent extremism (CVE) training materials for law enforcement personnel. For example, an I&A product analyzed mass casualty attacks—both those motivated by violent extremism and those that may not appear to be ideologically motivated—which upon release to state and local partners, may provide these homeland security stakeholders with insight regarding the common characteristics associated with attack methodology and pre-attack preparations. Additionally, S&T-sponsored research related to lone actors, geospatial patterns of violent extremism, and the characteristics of communities where violent extremism occurs was shared with these audiences in 2013.

These materials are posted on a joint DHS-FBI CVE Training Resources and Active Shooter Webportal, which was launched in August 2012 through the Homeland Security Information Network for Law Enforcement training practitioners and first responders. The Webportal was the culmination of numerous CVE workshops for frontline State and Local Law Enforcement that were held across the country. The Webportal contains over 500 accurate and appropriate CVE training resources, including guidelines and best practices for CVE training development, case studies on multiple types of violent extremism, reports on terrorism trends, community oriented policing best practices, training frameworks, training videos and other tools that trainers can incorporate into their training development efforts. Further in partnership with the FBI, DHS

has developed a series of webinars and DVDs for local law enforcement on violent Sovereign Citizens, Violent White Supremacists, and responding to a mass casualty shooting also posted on the Webportal.

Countering Violent Extremism

The Department's CVE efforts illuminate the risk posed by other violent extremist groups and individuals within the Homeland inspired by various other religious, political, or other ideological beliefs. Accordingly, DHS has and will continue to prioritize CVE efforts to address the threat from violent extremists inspired by Al-Qa'ida and its affiliates, but has also designed a CVE approach that applies to all forms of violent extremism, regardless of ideology and that focuses not on radical thought or speech but instead on preventing violent attacks. DHS CVE efforts are based on the understanding that this issue requires a whole of government, multi-pronged approach, where efforts are tailored to specifically address the needs and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved.

The Department's efforts are categorized into three broad objectives, listed below:

1. Understanding Violent Extremism. Support and coordinate efforts to better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism, including assessing the threat it poses to the nation as a whole and within specific communities;
2. Supporting Local Communities. Bolster efforts to catalyze and support non-governmental, community-based programs, and strengthen relationships with communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists; and
3. Supporting Local Law Enforcement. Disrupt and deter recruitment or individual mobilization through support for local law enforcement programs, including information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts that for decades have proven effective in preventing violent crime.

Supporting Community Engagement

DHS has continued to study and share information with state and local law enforcement and community partners regarding violent extremism, including the factors that may influence extremist activities as well as potential indicators. As part of this effort, the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties has been involved in multiple roundtable exercises with communities, including a table-top exercise designed to improve communication on countering potential violent extremism. DHS and NCTC completed a pilot of this program in Washington, D.C. in June 2013, and implemented the first exercise in the Chicago area in December 2013. In 2014, DHS and NCTC will work with local partners to implement this exercise in cities across the United States, with planning discussions scheduled for Boston, Columbus, and Raleigh/Durham. Over the past few years, DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) has held more than 70 community engagement events and more than 75 training events on cultural awareness and how to best engage with communities for state and local law enforcement and fusion center personnel.

In an effort to mitigate threats, and to counter violent extremism on a broader scale, CRCL has developed an "enhanced" community engagement initiative, one that builds upon the existing CRCL community engagement structure. The purpose of this enhanced engagement is to:

- Conduct more focused, topic-specific engagement, particularly on issues relating to CVE;

- Learn about the community's efforts in countering violent extremism, particularly in the wake of the Boston Marathon attacks;
- Disseminate best practices and strategies to empower these communities to better counter violent extremism in their constituencies; and
- Target non-traditional partners, community organizers, and religious leaders.

DHS also continues to work with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to develop a DHS-funded national training program to raise awareness on different types of violent extremism; promote community policing and community-based solutions to prevent violent extremism; and address radicalization to violence online.

Our overall challenge within the Department of Homeland Security, and within the enterprise of Federal, State and local governments, is to learn from and adapt to the changing character of the evolving threats we face, including threats from those who self-radicalize to violence or may be inspired by radical, violent ideology to do harm to Americans. The attack in Boston, and the response to it, highlighted the critical importance of close coordination among law enforcement, first responders and hospitals, partners at every level of government, and the general public.

Conclusion

The lessons of the Boston Marathon bombings continue to serve as a basis for longer-term planning and implementation efforts that will improve the Department's capacity to prevent and respond to similar attacks and threats in the future.

The events in Boston have highlighted how close coordination among Federal, State, and local officials is critical in the immediate aftermath and response to terrorist attacks and reinforces the principle and value of whole community contributions, including from the general public. Both the work leading up to the Boston Marathon and the quick action following the event demonstrate the significant progress that has been made over the past eleven years.

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**INTERVIEW WITH JON DECKER
FOX NEWS RADIO
Topline Messaging**

Interagency Cooperation and the and Evolving State of Counterterrorism

The full weight of the U.S. government—including our military, intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security communities, along with our partners in state and local law enforcement—is currently dedicated to detecting and defeating terrorism and protecting the Homeland.

This is our number one priority. In this current threat environment, which includes the prospect of homegrown violent extremism, the public has a role to play too.

As directed by President Obama, our government, along with our coalition partners, continues to take the fight militarily to terrorist organizations overseas.

ISIL is the terrorist organization most prominent on the world stage.

We have moved from a world of terrorist-directed attacks, to a world that also includes the threat of terrorist-inspired attacks—attacks by those who live among us in the Homeland and self-radicalize, inspired by terrorist propaganda on the internet.

By their nature, terrorist-inspired attacks are often difficult to detect by our intelligence and law enforcement communities, could occur with little or no notice, and in general, make for a more complex homeland security challenge.

Q: Are we safe? What is the current threat picture?

- In December, we described a new phase in the global threat environment, which has implications on the Homeland. This basic assessment has not changed. This bulletin was updated in June 2016, with a five-month duration that will expire just before the holiday season. We will reassess the threats of terrorism at that time.
- In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice. The tragic events of Orlando, Florida, reinforce this. Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of

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the terrorist organization that he is inspired by; may never have trained with the organization; may never have been to Iraq or Syria; may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

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Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's Countering Violent Extremism efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is in my judgement as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

In our efforts to build these bridges, what I consistently hear that ISIL has hijacked their religion, and they do not represent Islam. They are a terrorist organization claiming the banner of Islam and to refer to the Islamic State or al-Qa'ida as "Islamic extremism," suggests the notion that they occupy an aspect of their religion.

Moving forward, building bridges with Muslim communities and integrating them into the fabric of our society is crucial to our homeland security efforts.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by; may never have trained with the organization; may never have been to Iraq or Syria; may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the CVE Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.

- The CVE Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.
- The Department has also recently announced the Fiscal Year 2016 CVE Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the Homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families, and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.
- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: Was this Department priority a reaction to Paris and San Bernardino?

- No. Both of these initiatives were started well before these attacks and followed comprehensive reviews of our established domestic and international CVE efforts. The reviews have roots in the February 2015 White House CVE Summit and were intended to improve the implementation of the 2011 Strategy, Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States.
- The horrific attacks in Paris and San Bernardino last year were a stark reminder of the importance of this work.
- The Department has worked to counter violent extremism since its inception. As the threat environment has changed, DHS has increased its efforts to prioritize and coordinate CVE initiatives, including community engagement and research on the causes of and best methods to counter violent extremism.
- In recent years, DHS has employed new tools to raise awareness of the threat and encourage communities to do more with the Department, local government and law enforcement. For example, DHS has led Community Awareness Briefings and Community Resilience Exercises in multiple cities across the country

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify

non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

Additional Messaging: CVE Online and Encryption

- The Administration is committed to taking every action possible to confront and interdict terrorist activities wherever they may occur, including in cyberspace. DHS is working to partner with industry leaders and media experts to ensure we bring the most innovative private and public sector thinking to all aspects of combating terrorism.
- The consistent message we have received from businesses is that they want to be helpful, and they do not want their platforms to be abused by terrorist groups like ISIL. We are working together to prevent this from happening, while observing the First Amendment and privacy rights of users.
- Our Office of Community Partnerships is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.
- We are concerned about any space terrorists use to plot attacks. When the use of social media crosses the line from communication—the expression of views, even views that we may find profoundly troubling—and into active terrorist plotting that is deeply concerning and has to be addressed. Neither we nor the providers of these technologies want to allow terrorists to plot attacks.
- As a government, we have been extremely open about the fact that we are seeing key sources of information that we used to be able to obtain through intelligence collection dry up because of encryption as well as some other issues. I want to underscore how significant that is for us and how much harder it makes our job of keeping the Nation safe.
- We are continuing our dialogue with technology providers and others about how to best ensure that terrorist plotting can be disrupted and the terrorists involved can be brought to justice.

Staff Responsible: Todd Brasseale, Assistant Secretary, OPA,

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CHICAGO CVE EVENT DISCUSSION August 24, 2016

Overview:

- This prep discussion will be an opportunity to discuss the upcoming Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) event in Chicago and to learn more about the Islamic Society of North America's (ISNA) work in the American Muslim community.
 - On September 3, 2016, you will meet with leaders from the Islamic Society of North America to discuss their 53rd annual convention in Chicago (Rosemont), Illinois, where you will deliver keynote remarks.
 - During the September 2, 2016 engagement, you will have the opportunity to:
 - Thank Islamic Society of North America leaders for their work and engagement with the American Muslim Community;
 - Introduce the work of OCP; and
 - Recognize challenges of the CVE mission space, such as the current political and legislative environments and the change in administration.
- You will discuss your preparation and remarks for the upcoming event.

Background:

Islamic Society of North America

- The Islamic Society of North America has served American Muslims for over 40 years to build bridges of understanding and cooperation. The Islamic Society of North America aims to be an exemplary and unifying Islamic organization in North America that contributes to the betterment of the Muslim community and society at large.

Convention Logistics

- The theme of the 53rd annual convention is, "*Turning Points: Navigating Challenges, Seizing Opportunities.*" The event will be held at the Rosemont Convention center in Rosemont, Illinois.
- About 10,000 people are expected to attend. The convention is the largest annual faith gathering in the United States.
- The audience will primarily be American Muslims.
- The event will be **OPEN PRESS**.
- Select featured speakers at the 2016 convention include: Khizr and Ghazala Khan, parents of a deceased Muslim U.S. soldier; Linda Sarsour, community activist in New York, Imam Majid, ADAMS mosque; and Mehdi Hassan, a British political journalist.
- One of the main activities at the Islamic Society of North America convention will be the "ISNA Bazaar" with more than 500 booths with 300 vendors. Because the convention represents a broad spectrum of the Muslim community in America, the Bazaar provides an opportunity for businesses to understand the unique needs of their customers.

Participants:

Secretary Johnson

Paul Rosen, Chief of Staff

George Selim, Director, OCP

Sayyid M. Syeed, National Director, Islamic Society of North America

Azhar Azceez, President, Islamic Society of North America

Perviz Nasim, Vice President, Islamic Society of North America

Rizwan Jaka, Member, Islamic Society of North America

Attachments:

A. Conference Invitation

B. Biographics

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Staci Johnson, Senior Planning Advisor, OCP,

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OGC Reviewer: Megan Ludtke, Chief of Staff, OGC,

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The Islamic Society of North America

July 27, 2016

Honorable Secretary Johnson
Department of Homeland Security

Greetings of peace,

On behalf of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) we are honored to confirm your participation at ISNA's 53rd Annual Convention that will take place on Labor Day weekend September 2-5th, at the Rosemont Convention Center.

The rising anti-Muslim sentiment is affecting Americans at their schools, workplaces, mosques and public places. In your long career you have served your constituents faithfully and we are truly honored you will be attending our event. Our convention attracts 20,000 Muslims and people of other faiths and the program consists of large number of panel discussions, lectures, interfaith dialogues, workshops and meetings. There will be about 30 emerging faith leaders from Jewish and Christian seminaries formally attending our convention and becoming oriented to how American Muslims address issues of faith and other challenges of community development. Our evening events are our prime-time events where the convention hall is fully filled of 10,000 spectators.

Per your staffer's (George Salem) conversation with our organizations President Azhar Azeez your tentative program for the event will be as such:

- Arrival will take place at 530pm to the Rosemont Convention Center
- 6pm Dinner and addressing Muslim Community Leadership and Youth Leadership
- 730pm visiting the Bazar and ISNA convention facilities.
- 8pm Addressing ISNA Convention and Introducing President Obama's Message
- 830pm-9pm Depart from ISNA Convention

For more information, please contact the Secretary General, International Islamic Relief Foundation, 10000 Rockville Pike, Suite 1000, Rockville, MD 20850, USA. Tel: +1 301 410 1300. Fax: +1 301 410 1301. Email: info@iirf.org

ISNA is a registered charity in the United States of America. The Muslim American Relief Society (MARS) is a registered charity in the United States of America. The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) is a registered charity in the United States of America.

We hope that you are comfortable with this special event, and look forward to receiving your positive response. Kindly email or call your response as soon as possible to Eftakhar Alam at (b)(6). It is important that we have an accurate count of these events to ensure adequate arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you.

Peace and blessings,

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, National Director
Islamic Society of North America
Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances

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**Remarks for Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh C. Johnson
Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC
October 5, 2016**

Good morning. It's great to be here. This is actually my third address to the Association of the United States Army, and it's always a privilege to address so many extraordinary individuals. In many years, being here feels like a homecoming, after working in the Pentagon for four years as the general counsel of the Department of Defense, and for two years as the general counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

When I was general counsel at the Pentagon, I used to receive a daily briefing on intelligence and counterterrorism matters. A young Army Major would come up to my office and deliver my briefing each and every day. He was ordinary and unassuming, but he did his job well. After he finished his tour in the Pentagon and was reassigned, someone told me that this young man had been on 16 deployments, been in six accidents, broke his back and neck when his parachute failed to open, lost part of his leg to a RPG, was shot in the back, and was the victim of three separate IED attacks in Afghanistan.

Today, he runs triathlons and 50-mile races. This seemingly ordinary young man I saw each morning for two years possessed extraordinary courage and perseverance. That is the quality and character of people in in the United States Army today.

I have a deep and abiding appreciation for the U.S. Army that goes beyond my time working in national security. My grandfather was a Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army, and was a combat veteran of World War I. My father was an Army Sergeant during the Korean War. Two of my Uncles were Tuskegee Airmen in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

They taught me the value of public service. They shaped me into the man I am today. And the U.S. Army shaped them. I owe the Army a great deal in that regard.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, I have a vital mission—to secure the homeland from the many threats we face. We have 22 Components, and about 232,000 employees. We are responsible for counterterrorism, border security, port security, aviation security, maritime security, enforcement and administration of our immigration laws, detection of chemical or nuclear threats, response to disasters, and the protection of our national leaders.

Our duties are wide-ranging, but our goal is very clear: to keep the homeland safe.

We need the assistance of our colleagues at the Department of Defense, including the U.S. Army, to fulfill that mission. We are two sides of the same coin, focused on protecting our nation, our communities, and our fellow citizens.

We cooperate closely with Defense Department's Geographical Combatant Commands such as NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM in our homeland security mission, and the Army is an essential part of that contribution. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Army National Guard are invaluable partners in our disaster response mission. I saw that in Louisiana last month, where members of the Louisiana National Guard responded to the devastating floods there. Craig Fugate, the Director of FEMA recently met with the commander of NORTHCOM last month, to coordinate NORTHCOM's disaster relief mission.

The Army also supports our chemical, radiological, and nuclear defense response, border security, and support for law enforcement. This past August, at Ft. Hood in Texas, Joint Task Force--Civil Support conducted an exercise in responding to a radiological event. Many units of U.S. Army-North participated in the exercise, and they are an important partner in our relief plans for disasters, both natural and manmade. The Army is an important partner to every facet of our homeland security mission.

The theme of this year's event is "America's Army: Ready Today, Preparing for the Future. That's particularly appropriate from a homeland security perspective. Our goal is to be ready to meet today's threats to our homeland, while preparing for future ones.

One of my colleagues from the Pentagon and a friend, General Tony Thomas, commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, has a term for preventing threats that some of you here might be more familiar with—being "left of bang." That is, identifying potential problems before they became crises, and developing procedures to preempt and prevent them.

In today's threat environment, staying "left of bang" is becoming more challenging.

There is a new reality that those of us who are responsible for defending the homeland must face. The global terrorist threat has evolved. New York City, New Jersey, Minnesota, San Bernardino and Orlando are terrible reminders of the new threats we face to the homeland.

On September 11th, 2001, we faced a terrorist-directed attack, one conducted by people who were recruited, trained, and equipped overseas. That was the conventional model of terrorism that we understood in the years after 9/11. The attempted “underwear bombing” in Detroit in 2009, the attempted Times Square bombing in May 2010, and the attempted package bomb plot in October 2010 were prominent examples of this type of attack.

We have moved from a world of terrorist-directed attacks, to a world that also includes the threat of terrorist-inspired attacks—attacks by those who live among us in the homeland and self-radicalize, inspired by terrorist propaganda on the Internet.

We also face terrorist-enabled attacks—those who are provided general guidance, such as potential targets, often in online conversations with terrorists overseas.

Groups like Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula no longer have to build bombs and try to smuggle them into the U.S. in printer cartridges. They now put out an online instruction manual so potential recruits can build their own.

By their nature, terrorist-inspired attacks and terrorist-enabled attacks are difficult to detect by our intelligence and law enforcement communities, could occur with little or no notice, and in general, make for a more complex homeland security challenge. The potential lone-wolf actor might operate completely independently.

We've also witnessed a worrying flow of foreign terrorist fighters to conflict zones, including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, the Horn of Africa, and Libya. Many of these foreign fighters come from North Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe, or even, in some cases, the United States. The FBI has estimated that over 200 Americans either have traveled or have attempted to travel to Syria to participate in the conflict there. We have to remain vigilant about the possibility of some of them attempting to apply lessons learned on foreign battlefields to attacks in the homeland.

So what are we doing to address these problems?

First, our military, including the U.S. Army, has continued to take the fight militarily to terrorist organizations overseas. We've killed or captured many of the leaders of terrorist organizations, including many members of al-Qaeda and ISIL.

ISIL in particular has shrunk geographically. It has lost 49 percent of the populated areas it once controlled in Iraq, and thousands of square miles of territory it once controlled in Syria. We have, to a very large degree, been successful in degrading the threat to our Homeland from overseas.

But as ISIL loses territory, it has increased its plotting on targets outside of Iraq and Syria, and continues to encourage attacks in the United States.

That's why we are enhancing measures to detect and prevent travel to this country by foreign terrorist fighters.

We are strengthening the security of our Visa Waiver Program, which permits travelers from 38 different countries to come to the U.S. for a limited time period without a visa. In 2014, we began to collect more personal information that travelers from Visa Waiver countries are required to use. As a result of these enhancements, since 2014, over 3500 additional travelers were denied visa-free travel here through this program.

Through the passage in December of the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, Congress has codified into law several of these security enhancements, and placed new restrictions on eligibility for travel to the U.S. without a visa. Early this year, under the authority given me by the new law, I also added three countries—Libya, Yemen and Somalia—to a list that prohibits anyone who has visited these nations in the past five years from traveling to the U.S. without a visa. In April, DHS began enforcing the mandatory use of high security electronic passports for all Visa Waiver Program travelers coming to the United States.

We've also asked the public for help. If You See Something, Say Something is much more than a slogan. It's a strategy for enhancing public safety. During the recent attempted bombings in New Jersey and New York, we saw that principle in action when two members of the public discovered pipe bombs in a trashcan, potentially saving lives. Public awareness and public vigilance are essential parts of our homeland security mission.

Given the rise in the number of lone-wolf actors, we have embarked upon stronger efforts at what we call CVE, or Countering Violent Extremism.

What that means is that members of my Department, the FBI, and other departments, DOJ, literally go out to communities in this country to talk to them about countering violent extremism. I personally traveled to Boston, New York City, Brooklyn, Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland, Chicago, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Houston, Columbus, Ohio, and elsewhere to meet with leaders of the Muslim community. I hear repeatedly from Muslim leaders in this country the hatred that they feel for the Islamic State. They say over and over to me "Mr. Secretary, they're trying to hijack my religion."

My message to them is help us help you. Help us help you when it comes to public safety. Help us protect the homeland. Help us protect your communities. If you see someone heading towards violence, let us know; help us to help you. In my view, we must enhance our CVE efforts beyond where they are now, given how the threat to our homeland security has evolved. We also want to encourage the participation of the tech sector, the digital community, to help Muslim leaders amplify their counter-message to counter the ISIL message.

Along with counterterrorism, cybersecurity remains a cornerstone of our Department's mission. I know that cybersecurity is a concern for many of you here as well. At DHS, our mission is to give the American public confidence that their daily interactions are safe and secure—both social and economic, both in person and online. That means working with the private sector to make sure our infrastructure, our power plants, dams, waterways and electric grids are resilient against a barrage of cyber threats. We work with both the public and private sector to achieve that mission.

In our cybersecurity mission, this is the nature of what we do—offer and provide assistance upon request. We do this for private businesses and other entities across the spectrum of the private and public sectors. DHS assistance is strictly voluntary and does not entail regulation, binding directives, and is not offered to supersede state and local control over the process. Our role is limited to support only.

Accomplishing our homeland security mission in such a complex field as cybersecurity demands a large and talented workforce. We're always on the lookout for top talent. And we're always looking to our veterans for that talent.

DHS is a leader among federal agencies in employing veterans. We're third behind the Defense Department and the VA in the number of vets we hire each year. There are 53,000 veterans working at DHS. That's about 28 percent of our entire workforce.

Each year, we have a goal of making sure 25 percent of new hires are veterans. Last year, we exceeded that goal. In Fiscal Year 2015, veterans accounted for 27 percent of new hires. So far this year, approximately 24 percent of our hires were veterans. We have a recruiting booth here at AUSA, so we might increase that percentage even more today.

I'm personally a big fan of hiring people from the U.S. Army in particular. When I left the Pentagon, I took a lot of Army officers with me to DHS. Colonel Tia Johnson, United States Army is now my Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs. Lt. Colonel Todd Breasseale, United States Army, retired, is now my Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Jeanette Manfra, a former United States Army Captain, is one of my top cybersecurity experts.

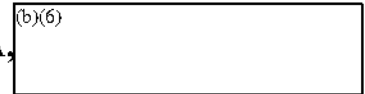
There is no aspect of the work you are doing in the Army that doesn't translate into the work that we do in the Department of Homeland Security.

The similarities between the Army and DHS go beyond our shared mission of defending the nation. There's a quote in the Soldier's Creed which is consistent with my own mission: "I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life."

The Army is not just the guardian of our safety, the guardian of our national defense; the Army is the guardian of freedom and the American way of life. In homeland security we must strike a balance between basic physical security on the one hand and preserving our laws and values in a free society. I am a guardian of one as the other.

Thank you.

Staff Responsible: Faris Alikhan, Speechwriter, OPA,



**ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY CONFERENCE AND BOOTH VISITS
Topline Messaging**

Interagency Cooperation and the Evolving State of Counterterrorism

The full weight of the U.S. Government—including our military, intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security communities, along with our partners in state and local law enforcement—is currently dedicated to detecting and defeating terrorism and protecting the Homeland.

This is our number one priority. In this current threat environment, which includes the prospect of homegrown violent extremism, the public has a role to play too.

As directed by President Obama, our government, along with our coalition partners, continues to take the fight militarily to terrorist organizations overseas.

ISIL is the terrorist organization most prominent on the world stage.

We have moved from a world of terrorist-directed attacks, to a world that also includes the threat of terrorist-inspired attacks—attacks by those who live among us in the Homeland and self-radicalize, inspired by terrorist propaganda on the internet.

By their nature, terrorist-inspired attacks are often difficult to detect by our intelligence and law enforcement communities, could occur with little or no notice, and in general, make for a more complex homeland security challenge.

Q: Are we safe? What is the current threat picture and what keeps you up at night?

- In December, we described a new phase in the global threat environment in the first issued NTAS Bulletin. This basic assessment has not changed. The bulletin was updated in June 2016, with a five-month duration that will expire just before the holiday season. We will reassess the threat at that time.
- In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice. The tragic events of Orlando, Florida, reinforce this. Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance.
- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist-inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by; may never have trained with the organization; may never have been to Iraq or Syria; may not have ever received a direct order from a

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terrorist leader but is inspired by something in social media, or on the internet to go commit an attack.

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Recent OIG Report: “Potentially Ineligible Individuals Have Been Granted U.S. Citizenship Because of Incomplete Fingerprint Records”

As noted in the OIG report, ICE identified a number of decades-old fingerprints in legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) paper files that were not digitized and therefore not available as part of the immigration adjudication process.

While the vast majority of these fingerprints date back to the 1990's, DHS is and has been taking steps to address this issue.

DHS and its Components have taken and continue to take actions to address the challenges posed by the existence of legacy, paper-based fingerprint records.

Today, all DHS fingerprints are digitally uploaded into IDENT, a data system accessible across all DHS Components and interoperable with other federal agencies.

OIG made two recommendations, which the Department is expeditiously, and in large part already had been, implementing.

It is important to note that the fact that fingerprint records in these cases may have been incomplete at the time of the naturalization interview does not necessarily mean that the applicant was in fact granted naturalization, or that the applicant obtained naturalization fraudulently.

Preliminary results from the file reviews show that in a significant number of these cases naturalization had been denied and that, in some cases, naturalization was not improperly granted.

Other cases are subject to ongoing criminal investigation or to denaturalization proceedings that are pending or completed.

Where the DHS review process finds that naturalization was obtained fraudulently, DHS will appropriately refer the case to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for civil or criminal proceedings, including for denaturalization.

Q: How is DHS implementing OIG's recommendations?

- First, ICE will continue digitizing all available paper-based fingerprint records for the files identified in the OIG report. Before the report was issued, ICE had already digitized the majority of the 315,000 records which it had previously identified as having potentially missing paper fingerprint records. The remaining number will be reviewed and digitized.

- Second, the Department has established a USCIS-led review team, which is working closely with ICE and DHS headquarters personnel to review every file identified in the OIG report as being a case of possible fraud and where digital fingerprint records were not or may not have been available at the time of the naturalization adjudication.
 - This team has begun its review of the cases identified in the OIG report to determine whether naturalization was in fact fraudulently or otherwise improperly obtained.
 - This review builds on the prior and ongoing collaboration between DHS and DOJ to seek denaturalization when citizenship has been obtained unlawfully.
- As the OIG report notes, the Department had already identified and prioritized for potential criminal prosecution approximately 120 naturalized citizens who appear to have committed fraud and who avoided detection because their fingerprint records were not digitally available at the time of naturalization.
 - Individuals involved in fraudulent applications represent a very small number of all those naturalizing.

Southwest Border Security

The Department of Homeland Security and its interagency partners continue to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Central America and current migration trends.

We are working aggressively to address the underlying causes of this migration, to deter future increases and support broader regional efforts to provide avenues for protection of vulnerable populations in Central America.

While CBP has registered an increase in the number of apprehensions of unaccompanied children (UAC) and families over the past several months, this upward rise is not incongruous with seasonal trends. Furthermore, the number of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 apprehensions are significantly less than the number of apprehensions in FY 2014. Total apprehensions across our entire Southwest border remain at near-historic lows.

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala make up the majority of unaccompanied children and family unit apprehensions, and general conditions related to the economy and violence in those countries continue to serve as push factors leading to migration northward.

As I have said repeatedly, our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values. At the same time, we will work to protect vulnerable populations in Central America, in accordance with our legal and humanitarian obligations.

Q: Can you comment on the latest apprehension numbers?

- In August 2016, apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border—an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally—increased from June and July 2016.
- Of the overall 37,057 total Border Patrol apprehensions on the southwest border reported in August 2016, 5,804 were unaccompanied children and 9,359 were members of family units traveling together.

Q: What are the criteria for migrants targeted for removal?

- Our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values.
- Recent enforcement actions, which focus on those apprehended at the border on or after January 1, 2014, continue.

- With respect to family units, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are adults and their children who:
 - Were apprehended after January 1, 2014;
 - Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court; and
 - Have exhausted appropriate legal remedies, and have no outstanding appeal or claim for asylum or other humanitarian relief under our laws.
- With respect to unaccompanied children, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are unaccompanied children who:
 - Entered the United States illegally as unaccompanied children after January 1, 2014;
 - Are now over 18 year of age;
 - Have been ordered removed by an immigration court; and
 - Have no pending appeal or claim of asylum or other relief.

Q: How will the Department continue to strategize on this issue?

- We recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. More border security and removals, by themselves, will not overcome the underlying conditions that currently exist in Central America.
- In the meantime, DHS and DOS are accelerating the development of new mechanisms to process and screen Central American refugees in the region.
- We are expanding access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in the region and developing more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.
- With DOJ, we are also doubling down on our efforts to apprehend and prosecute smugglers through initiatives like Operation Coyote.
- We support DOJ's efforts to ensure that as many unaccompanied children as possible have appropriate representation.
 - To support improving the process for all those in immigration proceedings, the Administration has requested over \$17 million as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request to support long-standing critical initiatives that provide legal assistance services and information to vulnerable immigrants.
 - This includes over \$1 million for Justice AmeriCorps—a program that specifically provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors.

Q: The President of the National Border Patrol Council said that agents are being told to “stand down” and let immigrants go. Is that true?

- The assertion that there exists some Department policy requiring U.S. Border Patrol agents to release undocumented immigrants apprehended at the border and not provide an effective response to an attempted illegal entry simply has no basis in fact. This assertion is also wholly inconsistent with the actual direction and training agents have received.

- The U.S. Border Patrol continues to enforce immigration laws consistent with the Department's enforcement priorities, which are focused on border security, national security, and public safety. As I have said many times, our border is not open to illegal migration, and those cross the border illegally will be sent back.
- The Border Patrol's resources are most effectively focused on the border—prioritizing the apprehension and removal of individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. Our removal numbers reflect that. Border Patrol Agents are issuing Notices to Appear, consistent with law, regulation, and the Department's enforcement priorities.

Syrian Refugee Vetting and Resettlement

The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other.

The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, all refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of a comprehensive and stringent security screening.

Q: How many Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States?

- The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe that these goals are mutually exclusive.
- The Administration's emphasis is on admitting the most vulnerable refugees from around the world. In the case of Syrians, we focus on admitting survivors of violence and torture, those with severe medical conditions, and women and children in a manner that is consistent with U.S. national security.
- Thanks to concerted and careful coordination between the Departments of State, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services, we have met and exceeded the President's goal of welcoming 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this fiscal year.
- As of September 7, 2016, 11,277 refugees have been resettled in the United States.
- We have prioritized the most vulnerable of Syrian refugees for resettlement, which include the victims of the violence perpetrated by both the Assad regime and ISIL in Syria.

Q: Given the recent bombings in New York and the attacks in Minneapolis, both carried out by people reported to have been admitted through the U.S. Refugee Program, why should the United States continue to admit any refugees given concerns over security screening

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for applicants of all nationalities. The refugee vetting process in place today employs the highest security measures of any immigrant or non-immigrant travel program to protect against risks to our national security and USCIS continues to engage with law enforcement agencies to ensure that refugee vetting for Syrian applicants is as robust as possible.
- Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. Screening procedures have been expanded over time to include a broader range of checks and applicants. Screening partners include the National

Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the FBI, DHS, DOD, and other Intelligence Community (IC) and law enforcement members.

- We are deeply committed to safeguarding the American public, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other. We have admitted three million refugees since 1975, and have a great deal of experience in safely admitting vulnerable refugees from around the world.

Q: But the DHS OIG just reported that there are serious gaps in the naturalization process, and that individuals were mistakenly provided naturalization. How can you say there is confidence in this system, when these gaps are clearly present?

- These two systems are separate and individuals who are screened through the refugee program go through the most rigorous screening of any traveler to the United States.
- We are taking the report from the Inspector General very seriously, and already have begun implementing the recommendations. DHS is taking the following actions:
 - First, ICE will continue digitizing all available paper-based fingerprint records for the files identified in the OIG report. Before the report was issued, ICE had already digitized the majority of the 315,000 records which it had previously identified as having potentially missing paper fingerprint records. Due to a lack of funding, that effort did not complete the digitization process. The remaining number is actively being reviewed and digitized.
 - Second, the Department has established a USCIS-led review team, which is working closely with ICE and DHS headquarters personnel to review every file identified in the OIG report as being a case of possible fraud and where digital fingerprint records were not or may not have been available at the time of the naturalization adjudication. This team has begun its review of the cases identified in the OIG report to determine whether naturalization was in fact fraudulently or otherwise improperly obtained.
 - This review builds on the prior and ongoing collaboration between DHS and DOJ to seek denaturalization when citizenship has been obtained unlawfully. As the OIG report notes, the Department had already identified and prioritized for potential criminal prosecution approximately 120 naturalized citizens who appear to have committed fraud and who avoided detection because their fingerprint records were not digitally available at the time of naturalization. Individuals involved in fraudulent applications represent a very small number of all those naturalizing.

Q: Has DHS identified any opportunities for enhancing current refugee security screening practices?

- DHS and USCIS have been working with Intelligence Community members to identify additional screening opportunities leveraging unique holdings and

capabilities. Security screening continuously evolves, and new enhancements to security screening practices have come on line and been refined as recently as this fiscal year. USCIS has operationalized manual Facebook checks for Syrian refugee enhanced review cases.

Q: How is it possible that you have admitted so many Syrians in so short a time, but claim that security screening has not been compromised?

- Refugees are the most thoroughly screened category of traveler to the United States. And Syrian refugees are subject to even more scrutiny.
- The increased processing capacity that enabled us to meet these goals does not represent a curtailment, in any way, of our comprehensive and robust security screening.
- We were able to increase the rate of processing through a collaborative interagency process:
 - DHS has worked with the intelligence community and other relevant agencies, to increase our capacity to conduct security screening overall;
 - DHS deployed more officers to interview applicants, thus conducting equally exhaustive and rigorous security screening reviews for more applicants, resulting in more refugees being approved for travel; and
 - By co-locating staff for a time in Jordan, we cut down the wait times between steps in the process.
- These efforts resulted in the steep reduction or elimination of wait times between stages, without curtailing in any way our health screening or our comprehensive and robust security screening.

Q: Where in the United States have Syrian refugees been resettled?

- DOS works with a network of domestic resettlement agencies to make initial placement decisions for newly arriving refugees. In some instances, this is driven by the location of relatives already residing in the United States or by particularized medical needs.
- In FY 2015, the largest placement states were Texas, California, and Illinois.

Q: There have been varying data reports on the ratio of men to women and children coming into our borders. Most of the statistics I have come across indicate that the majority of Syrian refugees are predominately males while a small percentage remains women and children. Is this true? And if so, what is the correct ratio of Syrian refugee men to women and children?

- The overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees we have accepted and will accept are families, children, and other especially vulnerable refugees, such as victims of torture and those with medical needs or disabilities.

Election Systems and Cybersecurity

We live in a world in which we must protect against increasingly sophisticated and creative cyber-attacks, from a range of bad actors—criminal, nation-state, hackactivists, and others. In an environment in which there has been a lot of chatter about attempts to influence the election, we must be concerned about copycats or those who are inspired by this chatter.

The prospect of a cyber-attack on systems critical to our national interest — such as financial or government—is real. This includes our Nation’s election system. We must do our best to stay one step ahead of these bad actors.

The system of elections in this country is decentralized; there are some 9,000 state and local jurisdictions that administer it, in many different ways with many different practices.

We recognize that state and local officials administer and oversee the election process, and we know also that the cybersecurity of election systems is one of the top priorities for these officials.

DHS, in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or NIST), and DOJ are offering support and assistance.

Q: What is DHS’ role and involvement then in ensuring the security of the U.S. voting process?

- It is critically important to continue to work to ensure the security and resilience of our electoral infrastructure, particularly as the risk environment evolves.
- On August 15, 2016, I hosted a call with State Election Officials regarding cybersecurity and offered Department support alongside the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and DOJ.
- We are working to raise awareness of best cybersecurity practices. The states have long been doing important work to ensure the integrity and security of the Nation’s elections, and we are inviting representatives of the National Association of Secretaries of State to join this group.

Q: What specifically can the federal government provide in support the states?

- DHS stands ready to provide assistance, through our National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), including vulnerability scans, sharing timely and actionable information, and access to other tools and resources for improving cybersecurity.

- We have been in discussions with states and some have taken us up on our offer of assistance.
- We are exploring all other ways to deliver more support to the sector in a collaborative and non-prescriptive manner, including examining whether designating certain electoral systems as critical infrastructure would be an effective way to offer this support.

Q: What does DHS recommend in preparation for the election?

- States are encouraged to now focus on implementing existing recommendations from the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Election Assistance Commission on securing election infrastructure, such as ensuring that electronic voting machines are not connected to the internet.
- We have also offered the states points of contact who can provide assistance, and are encouraging state officials to sign up for the NCCIC's cybersecurity alerts.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's CVE efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is, in my judgement, as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the Homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist-inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization, may never have trained with the organization, may never have been to Iraq or Syria, may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader, but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the CVE Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.
- The CVE Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.
- The Department has also recently announced the FY 2016 CVE Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the Homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families, and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent

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extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.

- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Pedro Ribeiro, Deputy Assistant Secretary,

OPA,

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**INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Topline Messaging**

Interagency Cooperation and the Evolving State of Counterterrorism

The full weight of the U.S. Government—including our military, intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security communities, along with our partners in state and local law enforcement—is currently dedicated to detecting and defeating terrorism and protecting the Homeland.

This is our number one priority. In this current threat environment, which includes the prospect of homegrown violent extremism, the public has a role to play too.

As directed by President Obama, our government, along with our coalition partners, continues to take the fight militarily to terrorist organizations overseas.

ISIL is the terrorist organization most prominent on the world stage.

We have moved from a world of terrorist-directed attacks, to a world that also includes the threat of terrorist-inspired attacks—attacks by those who live among us in the Homeland and self-radicalize, inspired by terrorist propaganda on the internet.

By their nature, terrorist-inspired attacks are often difficult to detect by our intelligence and law enforcement communities, could occur with little or no notice, and in general, make for a more complex homeland security challenge.

Q: Are we safe? What is the current threat picture?

- In December, we described a new phase in the global threat environment in the first issued National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin. This basic assessment has not changed. The bulletin was updated in June 2016, with a five-month duration that will expire just before the holiday season. We will reassess the threat at that time.
- In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice. The tragic events of Orlando, Florida, reinforce this. Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance.
- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist-inspired attack where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by; may never have trained with the organization; may never have been to Iraq or Syria; may not have ever received a direct order from a

terrorist leader but is inspired by something in social media, or on the internet to go commit an attack.

Southwest Border Security

The Department of Homeland Security and its interagency partners continue to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Central America and current migration trends.

We are working aggressively to address the underlying causes of this migration, to deter future increases and support broader regional efforts to provide avenues for protection of vulnerable populations in Central America.

While CBP has registered an increase in the number of apprehensions of unaccompanied children (UAC) and families over the past several months, this upward rise is not incongruous with seasonal trends. Furthermore, the number of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 apprehensions are significantly less than the number of apprehensions in FY 2014. Total apprehensions across our entire Southwest Border remain at near-historic lows.

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala make up the majority of unaccompanied children and family unit apprehensions, and general conditions related to the economy and violence in those countries continue to serve as push factors leading to migration northward.

As I have said repeatedly, our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values. At the same time, we will work to protect vulnerable populations in Central America, in accordance with our legal and humanitarian obligations.

Q: Can you comment on the latest apprehension numbers?

- In August 2016, apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border—an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally—increased in June and July 2016.
- Of the overall 37,057 total Border Patrol apprehensions on the Southwest Border reported in August 2016, 5,804 were unaccompanied children and 9,359 were members of family units traveling together.

Q: What are the criteria for migrants targeted for removal?

- Our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values.
- Recent enforcement actions, which focus on those apprehended at the border on or after January 1, 2014, continue.

- With respect to family units, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are adults and their children who:
 - Were apprehended after January 1, 2014;
 - Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court; and
 - Have exhausted appropriate legal remedies, and have no outstanding appeal or claim for asylum or other humanitarian relief under our laws.
- With respect to unaccompanied children, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are unaccompanied children who:
 - Entered the United States illegally as unaccompanied children after January 1, 2014;
 - Are now over 18 year of age;
 - Have been ordered removed by an immigration court, and;
 - Have no pending appeal or claim of asylum or other relief.

Q: How will the Department continue to strategize on this issue?

- We recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. More border security and removals, by themselves, will not overcome the underlying conditions that currently exist in Central America.
- In the meantime, DHS and DOS are accelerating the development of new mechanisms to process and screen Central American refugees in the region.
- We are expanding access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in the region and developing more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.
- With DOJ, we are also doubling down on our efforts to apprehend and prosecute smugglers through initiatives like Operation Coyote.
- We support DOJ's efforts to ensure that as many unaccompanied children as possible have appropriate representation.
 - To support improving the process for all those in immigration proceedings, the Administration has requested over \$17 million as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request to support long-standing critical initiatives that provide legal assistance services and information to vulnerable immigrants.
 - This includes over \$1 million for Justice AmeriCorps—a program that specifically provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors.

Q: The President of the National Border Patrol Council said that agents are being told to “stand down” and let immigrants go. Is that true?

- The assertion that there exists some Department policy requiring U.S. Border Patrol agents to release undocumented immigrants apprehended at the border and not provide an effective response to an attempted illegal entry simply has no basis in fact. This assertion is also wholly inconsistent with the actual direction and training agents have received.

- The U.S. Border Patrol continues to enforce immigration laws consistent with the Department's enforcement priorities, which are focused on border security, national security, and public safety. As I have said many times, our border is not open to illegal migration, and those who cross the border illegally will be sent back.
- The Border Patrol's resources are most effectively focused on the border—prioritizing the apprehension and removal of individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. Our removal numbers reflect this fact. Border Patrol Agents are issuing Notices to Appear, consistent with law, regulation, and the Department's enforcement priorities.

Syrian Refugee Vetting and Resettlement

The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other.

The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, all refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of a comprehensive and stringent security screening.

Q: How many Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States?

- The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe that these goals are mutually exclusive.
- Thanks to concerted and careful coordination between DHS, DOS, and HHS, we have met and exceeded the President's goal of welcoming 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this fiscal year.
- As of September 7 2016, 11,277 refugees have been resettled in the United States.
- We have prioritized the most vulnerable of Syrian refugees for resettlement, which include the victims of the violence perpetrated by both the Assad regime and ISIL in Syria.

Q: Does DHS feel comfortable that existing refugee security screening practices are sufficient to identify Syria-based extremists?

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for applicants of all nationalities. The refugee vetting process in place today employs the highest security measures of any immigrant or non-immigrant travel program to protect against risks to our national security, and USCIS continues to engage with law enforcement agencies to ensure that refugee vetting for Syrian applicants is as robust as possible.

Q: Do intelligence and vetting gaps in the refugee process still exist? If so, what is being done to fix them?

- Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. Screening procedures have been expanded over time to include a broader range of checks and applicants. Screening partners include the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the FBI, DHS, DOD, and other Intelligence Community and law enforcement members.

- We are deeply committed to safeguarding the American public, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other. We have admitted three million refugees since 1975, and have a great deal of experience in safely admitting vulnerable refugees from around the world.

Q: Has DHS identified any opportunities for enhancing current security screening practices?

- DHS and USCIS have been working with Intelligence Community members to identify additional screening opportunities leveraging unique holdings and capabilities. Security screening continuously evolves, and new enhancements to security screening practices have come on line and been refined as recently as this fiscal year. USCIS has operationalized manual Facebook checks for Syrian refugee enhanced review cases.

Q: Where in the United States have Syrian refugees been resettled?

- DOS works with a network of domestic resettlement agencies to make initial placement decisions for newly arriving refugees. In some instances, this is driven by the location of relatives already residing in the United States or by particularized medical needs.
- In FY 2015, the largest placement states were Texas, California, and Illinois.

Q: There have been varying data reports on the ratio of men to women and children coming into our borders. Most of the statistics I have come across indicate that the majority of Syrian refugees are predominately males while a small percentage remains women and children. Is this true? And if so, what is the correct ratio of Syrian refugee men to women and children?

- The overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees we have accepted and will accept are families, children, and other especially vulnerable refugees, such as victims of torture and those with medical needs or disabilities.

Q: As we welcome an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees in FY 2016 alone, how are you and your partner agencies planning to monitor admitted refugees to ensure violent extremists have not infiltrated their ranks?

- Refugees undergo a rigorous screening process prior to their admission into the United States. The process is the most rigorous for any category of individuals seeking admission into the United States. The process is multi-layered and intensive. It involves multiple law enforcement, national security, and intelligence agencies across the Federal Government. Only those satisfying these stringent requirements are admitted into the United States as refugees.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Review of Detention Operations

The Department of Justice (DOJ) recently directed the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to move towards ultimately ending the use of privately-operated prisons.

Secretary Johnson recently announced the formation of a Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) subcommittee to evaluate whether the immigration detention operations conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement should move away from the use of private detention facilities.

Q: How does the DOJ decision on private prisons affect DHS detention centers?

- On August 26, 2016, I directed our Homeland Security Advisory Council, chaired by Judge William Webster, to evaluate whether the immigration detention operations conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement should mirror the Department of Justice's announcement to reduce and ultimately end its use of private facilities.
- Furthermore, Judge Webster will establish a Subcommittee of the Council to review our current policy and practices concerning the use of private immigration detention and evaluate whether this practice should be eliminated. The Subcommittee will consider all factors concerning ICE's detention policy and practice, including fiscal considerations.
- The subcommittee will return a written report by November 30, 2016.
- In considering the DOJ directive regarding private prisons in relation to ICE's use of privatized immigration detention, it is important to understand how the BOP system compares to the ICE detention system.

Q: How does the BOP system compare to the ICE detention system?

- Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Model
 - BOP incarcerates people who have already been sentenced to a term of imprisonment. This means that BOP can predict the length of stay for population and construct facilities to address this purpose.
- U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)
 - The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) is also under DOJ. It is not subject to the same directive from DOJ regarding ending the use of private prisons.
 - The USMS mission includes detaining people who are pre-trial. This means that the population under USMS control is subject to varying lengths of stay that are generally not knowable ahead of time.
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - ICE detains people who are awaiting adjudications. This means that the population of people in ICE detention is subject to varying lengths of stay that are not knowable ahead of time.
 - The average length of stay for individuals in ICE facilities is 34.4 days.

- ICE detainees are housed in a variety of facilities across the United States, including but not limited to ICE-owned-and-operated facilities; local, county, or state facilities contracted through Intergovernmental Service Agreements, and contractor-owned-and-operated facilities. ICE uses these various models to meet the Component's detention needs while protecting taxpayer resources.
- ICE provides several levels of oversight in order to ensure that detainees in ICE custody reside in safe, secure, and humane environments and under appropriate conditions of confinement. Oversight is provided by on-site Detention Service Managers employed by ICE, the ICE/ERO Detention Standards Compliance Unit, ICE Office of Detention Oversight, and the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, all of whom have open access to ICE detention facilities.
- The Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) is responsible for conducting independent reviews of ICE detention facilities to assess their compliance with the Component's national detention standards. ICE/ODO's compliance inspection reports have been publicly available on ICE.gov since the start of Fiscal Year 2012. ICE/ODO's findings, coupled with regular onsite inspections, enable ICE to isolate and quickly address any operating deficiencies identified at its detention facilities.

Q: What is the Department's stance on the Ninth Circuit Courts ruling on the Flores settlement Agreement?

- The case remains in litigation following the Ninth Circuit's remand order dated July 6, 2016, which affirmed in part and reversed in part the July and August 2015 orders issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California. ICE continues to comply with the Flores Settlement Agreement as interpreted by the courts.

Election Systems and Cybersecurity

We live in a world in which we must protect against increasingly sophisticated and creative cyber-attacks, from a range of bad actors—criminal, nation-state, hackactivists, and others. In an environment in which there has been a lot of chatter about attempts to influence the election, we must be concerned about copycats or those who are inspired by this chatter.

The prospect of a cyber-attack on systems critical to our national interest— such as financial and government systems—is real. This includes our Nation’s election system. We must do our best to stay one step ahead of these bad actors.

The system of elections in this country is decentralized; there are some 9,000 state and local jurisdictions that administer the system, in many different ways with many different practices.

We recognize that state and local officials administer and oversee the election process, and we know also that the cybersecurity of election systems is one of the top priorities for these officials.

DHS, in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or NIST), and DOJ are offering support and assistance.

Q: What is DHS’s role and involvement then in ensuring the security of the U.S. voting process?

- It is critically important to continue to work to ensure the security and resilience of our electoral infrastructure, particularly as the risk environment evolves.
- On August 15, 2016, I hosted a call with State Election Officials regarding cybersecurity and offered Department support alongside the Election Assistance Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or NIST), and the Department of Justice.
- We are working to raise awareness of best cybersecurity practices. The states have long been doing important work to ensure the integrity and security of the Nation’s elections, and we are inviting representatives of the National Association of Secretaries of State to join this group.

Q: What specifically can the Federal Government provide in support the states?

- DHS stands ready to provide assistance, through our National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), including vulnerability scans, sharing timely and actionable information, and access to other tools and resources for improving cybersecurity.

- We have been in discussions with states, and some states have taken us up on our offer of assistance.
- We are exploring all other ways to deliver more support to the sector in a collaborative and non-prescriptive manner, including examining whether designating certain electoral systems as critical infrastructure would be an effective way to offer this support.

Q: What does DHS recommend in preparation for the election?

- States are encouraged to now focus on implementing existing recommendations from NIST and the EAC on securing election infrastructure, such as ensuring that electronic voting machines are not connected to the internet.
- We've also offered the states points of contact who can provide assistance, and are encouraging state officials to sign up for the NCCIC's cybersecurity alerts.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's Countering Violent Extremism efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is, in my judgement, as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

In our efforts to build these bridges, what I consistently hear is that ISIL has hijacked their religion and does not represent Islam. ISIL is a terrorist organization claiming the banner of Islam, and to refer to the Islamic State or al- Qaeda as "Islamic extremism," wrongly suggests the notion that they occupy an aspect of the religion.

Moving forward, building bridges with Muslim communities and integrating them into the fabric of our society is crucial to our homeland security efforts.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the Homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist-inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization, may never have trained with the organization, may never have been to Iraq or Syria, may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader, but is inspired by something in social media, or on the internet to go commit an attack.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the CVE Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.
- The Countering Violent Extremism Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.

- The Department has also recently announced the FY 2016 CVE Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the Homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families, and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.
- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. This competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

Staff Responsible: Pedro Ribeiro, Deputy Assistant Secretary, OPA, (b)(6)

**INTERVIEW WITH APRIL RYAN
AMERICAN URBAN RADIO NETWORKS
Topline Messaging**

Syrian Refugee Vetting and Resettlement

The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other.

The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, all refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of a comprehensive and stringent security screening.

Q: How many Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States?

- With increased referrals from UNHCR, Syrian refugee admissions rose to 105 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, and 1,682 in FY 2015. To date this Fiscal Year, we have resettled 5,186 Syrian refugees, while another 6,482 have been approved for resettlement, and 4,128 have been conditionally approved pending security checks. DOS estimates at least 10,000 Syrian refugees will be admitted to the United States by the end of FY 2016.

Q: Does DHS feel comfortable that existing refugee security screening practices are sufficient to identify Syria-based extremists?

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for applicants of all nationalities. The refugee vetting process in place today employs the highest security measures of any immigrant or non-immigrant travel program to protect against risks to our national security and USCIS continues to engage with law enforcement agencies to ensure that refugee vetting for Syrian applicants is as robust as possible.

Q: Do intelligence and vetting gaps in the refugee process still exist? If so, what is being done to fix them?

- Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. Screening procedures have been expanded over time to include a broader range of checks and applicants. Screening partners include the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the FBI, DHS, DOD, and other Intelligence Community (IC) and law enforcement members.

- We are deeply committed to safeguarding the American public, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other. We have admitted three million refugees since 1975, and have a great deal of experience in safely admitting vulnerable refugees from around the world.

Q: Has DHS identified any opportunities for enhancing current security screening practices?

- DHS and USCIS have been working with Intelligence Community members to identify additional screening opportunities leveraging unique holdings and capabilities. Security screening continuously evolves, and new enhancements to security screening practices have come on line and been refined as recently as this fiscal year. USCIS has operationalized manual Facebook checks for Syrian refugee enhanced review cases.

Q: Where in the United States have Syrian refugees been resettled?

- DOS works with a network of domestic resettlement agencies to make initial placement decisions for newly arriving refugees. In some instances, this is driven by the location of relatives already residing in the United States or by particularized medical needs.
- In FY 2015, the largest placement states were Texas, California, and Illinois.

Q: There have been varying data reports on the ratio of men to women and children coming into our borders. Most of the statistics I have come across indicate that the majority of Syrian refugees are predominately males while a small percentage remains women and children. Is this true? And if so, what is the correct ratio of Syrian refugee men to women and children?

- The overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees we have accepted and will accept are families, children, and other especially vulnerable refugees, such as victims of torture and those with medical needs or disabilities. We have prioritized the most vulnerable of Syrian refugees for resettlement—which include those who are victims of the violence perpetrated by both the Assad regime and ISIL in Syria.

Q: As we welcome an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees in FY 2016 alone, how are you and your partner agencies planning to monitor admitted refugees to ensure violent extremists have not infiltrated their ranks?

- Refugees undergo a rigorous screening process prior to their admission into the United States. The process is the most robust for any category of individuals seeking admission into the United States. The process is multi-layered and intensive. It involves multiple law enforcement, national security, and intelligence

agencies across the Federal Government. Only those satisfying these rigorous requirements are admitted into the United States as refugees.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

In the current threat environment, countering violent extremism is a key focus of DHS's work to secure the homeland.

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's Countering Violent Extremism efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

This office is also working with communities and with the private sector to ensure that non-violent messages from credible voices are amplified.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the Countering Violent Extremism Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.
- The Countering Violent Extremism Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.
- The Department has also recently announced the FY 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.
- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: Was this Department priority a reaction to Paris and San Bernardino?

- No. Both of these initiatives were started well before these attacks and followed comprehensive reviews of our established domestic and international Countering Violent Extremism efforts. The reviews have roots in the February 2015 White House Countering Violent Extremism Summit and were intended to improve the

implementation of the 2011 Strategy, Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States.

- The horrific attacks in Paris and San Bernardino last year were a stark reminder of the importance of this work.
- The Department has worked to counter violent extremism since its inception. As the threat environment has changed, DHS has increased its efforts to prioritize and coordinate Countering Violent Extremism initiatives, including community engagement and research on the causes of and best methods to counter violent extremism.
- In recent years, DHS has employed new tools to raise awareness of the threat and encourage communities to do more with the Department, local government and law enforcement. For example, DHS has led Community Awareness Briefings and Community Resilience Exercises in multiple cities across the country

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

Southwest Border Security

The Department of Homeland Security and its interagency partners continue to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Central America and current migration trends.

We are working aggressively to address the underlying causes of this migration, to deter future increases and support broader regional efforts to provide avenues for protection of vulnerable populations in Central America.

While CBP has registered an increase in the number of apprehensions of unaccompanied children (UAC) and families over the past several months, this upward rise is not incongruous with seasonal trends. Furthermore, the number of FY 2016 apprehensions are significantly less than the number of apprehensions in FY 2014. Total apprehensions across our entire Southwest border remain at near-historic lows.

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala make up the majority of unaccompanied children and family unit apprehensions, and general conditions related to the economy and violence in those countries continue to serve as push factors leading to migration northward.

As I have said repeatedly, our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values. At the same time, we will work to protect vulnerable populations in Central America, in accordance with our legal and humanitarian obligations.

Q: Can you comment on the latest apprehension numbers?

- In June 2016, apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border—an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally—decreased from May and April 2016.
- Of the overall 34,463 total Border Patrol apprehensions on the southwest border reported in June 2016, 4,809 were unaccompanied children and 6,633 were members of family units traveling together.

Q: What are the criteria for migrants targeted for removal?

- Our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values.
- Recent enforcement actions, which focus on those apprehended at the border on or after January 1, 2014, continue.

- With respect to family units, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are adults and their children who:
 - Were apprehended after January 1, 2014;
 - Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court; and
 - Have exhausted appropriate legal remedies, and have no outstanding appeal or claim for asylum or other humanitarian relief under our laws.
- With respect to unaccompanied children, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are unaccompanied children who:
 - Entered the United States illegally as unaccompanied children after January 1, 2014;
 - Are now over 18 year of age;
 - Have been ordered removed by an immigration court, and;
 - Have no pending appeal or claim of asylum or other relief.

Q: How will the Department continue to strategize on this issue?

- We recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. More border security and removals, by themselves, will not overcome the underlying conditions that currently exist in Central America.
- In the meantime, DHS and DOS are accelerating the development of new mechanisms to process and screen Central American refugees in the region.
- We are expanding access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the region and developing more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.
- With DOJ, we are also doubling down on our efforts to apprehend and prosecute smugglers through initiatives like Operation Coyote.
- We support DOJ's efforts to ensure that as many unaccompanied children as possible have appropriate representation.
 - To support improving the process for all those in immigration proceedings, the Administration has requested over \$17 million as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request to support long-standing critical initiatives that provide legal assistance services and information to vulnerable immigrants.
 - This includes over \$1 million for Justice AmeriCorps—a program that specifically provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors.

Q: The President of the National Border Patrol Council said that agents are being told to “stand down” and let immigrants go. Is that true?

- The assertion that there exists some Department policy requiring U.S. Border Patrol agents to release undocumented immigrants apprehended at the border and not provide an effective response to an attempted illegal entry simply has no basis in fact. This assertion is also wholly inconsistent with the actual direction and training agents have received.

- The U.S. Border Patrol continues to enforce immigration laws consistent with the Department's enforcement priorities, which are focused on border security, national security, and public safety. As I have said many times, our border is not open to illegal migration, and those cross the border illegally will be sent back.
- The Border Patrol's resources are most effectively focused on the border—prioritizing the apprehension and removal of individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. Our removal numbers reflect that. Border Patrol Agents are issuing Notices to Appear, consistent with law, regulation, and the Department's enforcement priorities.

TSA Summer Travel Wait Times

We will not compromise safety for convenience.

TSA is taking every step possible to protect the American people while managing the amount of time spent awaiting security screening at U.S. airports.

First, TSA is increasing the number of its Transportation Security Officers, so passengers can move through the checkpoint process more securely and more quickly without compromising security.

Second, TSA has added more canine teams to help screen passengers at the Nation's busiest seven airports.

Third, TSA is collaborating with airports and airlines to support non-security screening operations that are personnel-intensive—for example, returning personal property bins, and reminding travelers of checkpoint policies, like three ounce containers for liquids. TSA is also working with airports and airlines to help TSA manage checkpoint lines, passenger flows, and communication with the traveling public.

Fourth, TSA is expanding enrollment efforts for TSA Pre✓[®], which provides a more streamlined screening experience.

This is not a short-term fix. TSA is focused on enhancing security and screening in the long-term, not just for the summer, but for the busy summer travel season and into the future.

The traveling public can help, too, by enrolling in DHS's Trusted Traveler programs, like TSA Pre✓[®] and Global Entry; leaving prohibited items at home; and checking luggage, or packing an uncluttered carry-on.

Q: Why are we seeing longer lines now?

- The increase in wait times is fueled, in part, by the rapid growth in travel volume, with the number of travelers up significantly over the last year. TSA is screening 125,000 more people per day over last year and is on pace to screen over 740 million passengers and crew. This is 45 million more people than last year. Further, more people are choosing to travel with carry-on bags, which still must be screened to ensure safe flights.

Q: Are wait times improving? Have the wait times changed since the beginning of the busier summer travel season?

- TSA works hard to keep passengers moving through security checkpoints, and keep them safe. From June 30 to July 4, 2016, TSA screened 10.7 million travelers. June 30 and July 1, 2016, were the highest-volume travel days we have seen since 2007. During this period, however, the average wait time nationwide in standard security lines was less than ten minutes, while those in TSA Pre-Check lines waited less than five minutes.

Q: Do you feel that security will be compromised if your focus is on processing more travelers more quickly?

- Traveler security is TSA's first priority and we will remain intensely focused on this important mission. With that said, we are working to alleviate the stress of long lines on travelers, while ensuring our security mission is not compromised.

Q: What is your advice to the traveling public for smooth traveling?

- Every traveler, frequent flier or not, also plays a critical role in security. Just one prohibited item in a carry-on bag can significantly delay movement in a checkpoint line. Passengers can make a positive impact on the security process by packing responsibly, being prepared for checkpoint screening, and arriving at the airport with plenty of time before departure.
- TSA strongly encourages travelers to arrive at the airport early enough (up to two hours prior to domestic departure) to allow for effective screening.
- Most of all, we encourage travelers to enroll in TSA Pre✓® or other Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs such as Global Entry, Nexus, or Sentry. These programs help improve security, but they also reduce wait times. The more people who enroll, the more efficient and pleasant screening is for everybody.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is one of the Department of Homeland Security's highest priorities, and we've recently made significant progress increasing the cybersecurity posture of our government, our citizens, and our critical infrastructure.

In December 2015, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015. This established the Department's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, or NCCIC, as the Federal Government's hub for cyber threat indicator sharing.

Now, with the help of Congress, we will be able to continue our work to protect the cybersecurity of the American public, American businesses large and small, and the Federal Government, and take that work to the next level.

Q: What impact will the Department's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request have on the Department's cybersecurity efforts?

- The budget provides \$471.1 million for the National Cybersecurity Protection System that will maintain currently deployed EINSTEIN capabilities, and invest in new capabilities for analytics, information sharing, and intrusion prevention.
- Also included in the budget is \$274.8 million for the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program which provides hardware, software, and services designed to support activities that strengthen the operational security of federal ".gov" networks.
- DHS is also continuing to work with the Congress to reorganize and transition NPPD into an agency focused on cyber and infrastructure protection.

Q: What is the status of U.S. relations with China in cyberspace?

- As part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit in September 2015, we received several key commitments from China on cyber issues. These focus on concrete actions and arrangements that will allow us to hold Beijing accountable to the commitments they have made.
- These commitments do not resolve all our challenges with China on cyber issues. However, they do represent a step forward in our efforts to address one of the sharpest areas of disagreement in the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.
- Four notable commitments were secured during Chinese President's Xi Jinping's state visit:
 - China will provide timely responses to requests for assistance from the United States regarding malicious cyber activity emanating from China;
 - Neither government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled economic espionage for commercial gain;

- Our governments will work together to further identify and promote appropriate norms of state behavior in cyberspace and hold a senior experts group on international security issues in cyberspace; and
- Our governments will establish a Ministerial-level joint dialogue mechanism on fighting cybercrime and related issues.
- The United States and China held the first ministerial level dialogue on cybercrime and other related issues in Washington on December 1, 2015.

Q: Is China adhering to these commitments?

- Holding the first ministerial level dialogue on cybercrime and other issues was a positive step.
- We are monitoring China's cyber activities closely, to make sure they are complying, but we cannot comment further on our intelligence activities.
- As the President said in September 2015, "the question now is, are words followed by actions. And we will be watching carefully to make an assessment as to whether progress has been made in this area."

DHS Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative

Protecting the Nation from cyber-attacks will require a trained and mentally-agile workforce. One of the Department's highest priorities is to acquire, grow and sustain the most talented people in cybersecurity.

Through the DHS Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative, the Department is hiring a diverse group of cybersecurity professionals to secure the Nation's digital assets and critical infrastructure. That includes computer engineers, scientists, analysts, and Information Technology (IT) specialists.

DHS is also building strong cybersecurity career paths within the Department and in partnership with other government agencies. To accomplish this critical task, we have created a number of very competitive scholarship, fellowship, and internship programs to attract top talent.

Q: How is DHS's effort to hire cyber professionals progressing?

- We are focused on attracting, training, and retaining quality IT professionals to DHS. We do this in part by supporting the CyberSkills Management Support Initiative (CMSI) to develop and execute programs that will create, enhance, and support a top-notch cyber workforce.
- We have also developed and leverage the National Workforce Framework to identify the critical skills needed to create an agile cyber workforce.

Need for Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency

Cybersecurity has emerged as one of our country's most important national security priorities, as a range of range of traditional crimes are now perpetrated through cyberspace including threats to the Nation's critical infrastructure.

Over the last few years, our cyber operations have become more unified, agile and effective in the face of a growing and evolving threat environment. Now we believe we need an agency focused on cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, and so our vision is to reform, rebuild the National Protection and Programs Directorate, which is a directorate, into a Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency.

These efforts are being closely coordinated with internal and external stakeholders. The proposed structure would realign the Component's programs and functions, allowing for enhanced operations and performance of its critical mission while implementing efficiencies.

Q: What is the status of the transition from NPPD to CIP?

- We continue to work with our partners in Congress, as completing these transition efforts will require congressional action.
- We provided a report to Congress with specifics regarding the organization and additional capabilities of the new CIP structure. We continue to listen to feedback from internal and external stakeholders, as well as members of Congress.

Staff Responsible: Todd Breasscale, Assistant Secretary, OPA,

(b)(6)

**INTERVIEW WITH THOM SHANKER
NEW YORK TIMES
July 21, 2016**

Overview:

- You will participate in a 30-minute interview with New York Times Assistant Washington Editor Thom Shanker to discuss current Department priorities and your time in leadership at DHS.
- The interview will take place in your office at the Nebraska Avenue Complex.

Background:

- Mr. Shanker is the Assistant Washington Editor at the New York Times. He covers the Pentagon and national security policy.
- This interview was coordinated with the Homeland Security Advisory Council and in advance of the Aspen Security Conference.
- Topics are likely to include interagency cooperation and the new and evolving state of counterterrorism, the unity of effort initiative, management priorities, advancement in law enforcement technologies, the question of religion as a test for admission to the United States, countering violent extremism in communities and online, encryption, and the Hatch Act and election year.

Participants:

Secretary Johnson

Thom Shanker, New York Times

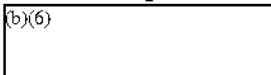
Attachments:

A. Expected Discussion Topics and Suggested Talking Points

B. Biography

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Todd Breasseale, Assistant Secretary, OPA,

(b)(6)



**INTERVIEW WITH THOM SHANKER
NEW YORK TIMES
Expected Discussion Topics and Suggested Talking Points**

Interagency Cooperation and the New and Evolving State of Counterterrorism

- The full weight of the U.S. Government—including our military, intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security communities, along with our partners in state and local law enforcement—is currently dedicated to detecting and defeating terrorism and protecting the homeland.
- This is our number one priority. In this current threat environment, which includes the prospect of homegrown violent extremism, the public has a role to play too.
- As directed by President Obama, our government, along with our coalition partners, continues to take the fight militarily to terrorist organizations overseas. ISIL is the terrorist organization most prominent on the world stage.
- Since September 2014, air strikes and special operations have in fact led to the death of a number of ISIL's leaders and those focused on plotting external attacks in the West.
- On the law enforcement side, the FBI continues to, in my judgment, do an excellent job of detecting, investigating, preventing, and prosecuting terrorist plots here in the homeland.
- We have moved from a world of terrorist-directed attacks, to a world that also includes the threat of terrorist-inspired attacks—attacks by those who live among us in the Homeland and self-radicalize, inspired by terrorist propaganda on the internet.
- By their nature, terrorist-inspired attacks are often difficult to detect by our intelligence and law enforcement communities, could occur with little or no notice, and in general, make for a more complex homeland security challenge.
- In December, we described a new phase in the global threat environment, which has implications on the homeland. This basic assessment has not changed.
- This bulletin was updated in June 2016, with a five-month duration that will expire just before the holiday season. We will reassess the threats of terrorism at that time.
- In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice. The tragic events of Orlando reinforce this.
- Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance.

Formation of Joint Task Forces and Unity of Effort (in comparison to the Department of Defense under Goldwater-Nichols)

- The Goldwater–Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 reworked and streamlined the command structure of the different branches of the U.S. military.
- No such legislation exists for the Department of Homeland Security, though we work to the same end through initiatives such as the Unity of Effort and Joint Task Forces.
- The Unity of Effort initiative I announced in April 2014, focuses on more centralized programming, budgeting and acquisition processes.
- Today, we focus Department-wide on our mission needs, rather than through component stove-pipes.
- With the support of Congress, we are moving to a simplified budget structure that will support better decision-making across the Department.
- As a part of the Unity of Effort initiative, we created the Joint Task Forces dedicated to border security along the southern border.
- The intent is effective enforcement and interdiction across land, sea, and air; to degrade transnational criminal organizations; and to do these things while still facilitating the flow of lawful trade, travel and commerce across our borders.
- The campaign harnesses more effectively the assets and personnel of CBP, ICE, USCIS, USCG, and other resources of the Department.

Management Priorities

- Management reform continues to be one of my top priorities as Secretary of Homeland Security.
- During a hearing this Spring to discuss proposed legislation on DHS Management and Acquisition Reform, both the GAO representatives and the DHS Inspector General testified about the progress the Department has made in improving our acquisition and management processes, many of which address issues on GAO’s “high risk” list.
- I want to acknowledge the hard work across the Department that has placed us on the path towards removal from the high risk list.
- We have made significant progress, and although we have more work to do, we are firmly committed to getting there.

Advances in Law Enforcement Technologies

- Technology and threats evolve rapidly in today’s ever-changing environment. The Department’s Science and Technology Directorate monitors those threats and capitalizes on technological advancements at a rapid pace, developing solutions and bridging capability gaps.
- S&T’s mission is to deliver effective and innovative insight, methods and solutions for the critical needs of the Homeland Security Enterprise.

- As DHS's primary research and development arm, S&T manages science and technology research, from development through transition, for the Department's operational Components and the Nation's first responders.
- S&T's engineers, scientists and researchers work closely with industry and academic partners to ensure R&D investments address the high-priority needs of today and the growing demands of the future.
- For years, Congress and other have urged us to develop a system of biometric exit—that is, to take the fingerprints or other biometric data of those who leave the country. CBP has begun testing technologies that can be deployed for this nationwide.
- With the passage of the omnibus bill, Congress authorized \$1 billion in fee increases over a period of ten years to pay for the implementation of biometric exit.
- I have directed CBP to begin implementing the system, starting at airports, in 2018.

The Question of Religion as a Test for Admission to the United States

- As you stated this spring at the Countering Violent Extremism Symposium, in the current environment the answer cannot be to vilify whole communities and throw a net of suspicion over entire religions. Doing so would be counter to our homeland security efforts, and it is un-American.
- We need to build bridges and build relationships with Muslim communities across this country and not vilify them and not drive them in the exact opposite direction. I think that would be hugely counterproductive to our effort.
- Violent extremists and those who profess hate are actively targeting our communities. This may also include divisive rhetoric that threatens to pull apart communities—I will stand with communities to push back against hate.

Countering Violent Extremism in Communities and Online/Encryption

- The Administration is committed to taking every action possible to confront and interdict terrorist activities wherever they may occur, including in cyberspace. DHS is working to partner with industry leaders and media experts to ensure we bring the most innovative private and public sector thinking to all aspects of combating terrorism.
- The consistent message we have received from businesses is that they want to be helpful, and they do not want their platforms to be abused by terrorist groups like ISIL. We are working together to prevent this from happening, while observing the First Amendment and privacy rights of users.
- Our Office of Community Partnerships is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.

- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.
- We are concerned about any space terrorists use to plot attacks. When the use of social media crosses the line from communication—the expression of views, even views that we may find profoundly troubling—and into active terrorist plotting that is deeply concerning and has to be addressed. Neither we nor the providers of these technologies want to allow terrorists to plot attacks.
- As a government, we have been extremely open about the fact that we are seeing key sources of information that we used to be able to obtain through intelligence collection dry up because of encryption as well as some other issues. I want to underscore how significant that is for us and how much harder it makes our job of keeping the Nation safe.
- We are continuing our dialogue with technology providers and others about how to best ensure that terrorist plotting can be disrupted and the terrorists involved can be brought to justice.

Hatch Act and the Election Year

- It has been reported that Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro violated the federal Hatch Act when he praised Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton during an interview conducted from his government office.
 - A report by government investigators found that Castro did not separate his role as HUD secretary well enough from his role as a Clinton supporter and referring the finding to President Obama.
- The Hatch Act of 1939, officially “An Act to Prevent Pernicious Political Activities,” is a United States federal law whose main provision prohibits employees in the executive branch of the Federal Government, except the president, vice-president, and certain designated high-level officials of that branch, from engaging in some forms of political activity. The law was named for Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico. It was most recently amended in 2012.
- It provided that persons below the policy-making level in the executive branch of the federal government must not only refrain from political practices that would be illegal for any citizen, but must abstain from "any active part" in political campaigns, using this language to specify those who are exempt:
- President Barack Obama signed the Hatch Act Modernization Act of 2012 on December 28, 2012. It modified penalties under the Hatch Act to allow for

disciplinary actions in addition to removal for federal employees; clarified the applicability to the District of Columbia of provisions that cover state and local governments; limited the prohibition on state and local employees running for elective office to employees whose salary is paid completely by federal loans or grants.

- The Hatch Act applies two sets of restrictions to three groups of employees.
- The first and more restrictive set applies to (1) individuals appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate and individuals service in non-career SES positions; and (2) career members of the SES, contract appeals board members, and all employees of the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency , and the National Geo-Spatial-Intelligence Agency
- The second and more lenient set of restrictions applies to all other employees including Schedule C political appointees.
- Active Duty personnel may not engage in partisan political activities and all military personnel should avoid the interference that their political activities imply or appear to imply official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement of a political candidate, campaign, or cause.
 - Active duty members may, however, express their personal opinion on political candidates and issues, make monetary contributions to a political campaign or organization, and attend political events as a spectator when not in uniform.

Staff Responsible: Todd Breascale, Assistant Secretary, OPA,

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2016

GREENWALD PAVILION

- 12:00 PM** **Registration**
Attendees may pick up their registration packets prior to the Opening Session. Packets will contain a master program, as well as a Forum badge, which will be required to enter any Forum event. Registration packets will be available for pick-up through July 30th.
DOERR-HOSIER CENTER
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM** **A Chat with the Secretary**
In his final months in office, the Secretary of Homeland Security gives us his assessment of the state of the nation's security.

Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security
Moderator: Thom Shanker, Assistant Washington Editor, *The New York Times*
- 7:15 – 8:30 PM** **Opening Reception**
DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016

DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

- 9:00 – 9:45 AM** **Central Command: At the Center of the Action**
The new CENTCOM Commander surveys the Mideast battlefield.

Joseph Votel, Commander, United States Central Command
Moderator: Richard Engel, Chief Foreign Correspondent, NBC News
- 9:45 – 10:30 AM** **The Russian Bear on the Prowl**
Putin continues to taunt the US and Europe at every turn by testing NATO's resolve, propping up Assad, provoking Ukraine, and even doing what he can to further complicate the migrant crisis.

Heather Conley, Senior Vice President for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic; Director, Europe Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Elissa Slotkin, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs
Moderator: Massimo Calabresi, Deputy Washington Bureau Chief and Senior Correspondent, *Time Magazine*
- 10:30 – 10:45 AM** **Break**
- 10:45 – 11:30 AM** **Africa: The Next Hotbed of Terrorism?**
From ISIL and Al Qaeda in Libya and Mali, to Boko Haram in Nigeria and Cameroon, to Al Shabab in Somalia and Kenya, has the long suffering, but recently promising, continent become the latest breeding ground for terrorism?

Jennifer Cooke, Director, Africa Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Carter Ham, President, Association of the US Army
Cyril Sartor, Deputy Assistant Director for Africa, Central Intelligence Agency
Moderator: Eric Schmitt, National Security Correspondent, *The New York Times*

- 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM** **Cyber's Role in America's Security Arsenal**
 What role should cyber tools play in securing the nation, both offensively and defensively?
- John Carlin**, Assistant Attorney General for National Security
Michael Daly, Chief Technology Officer, Cybersecurity and Special Missions, Raytheon
Steve Grobman, Chief Technology Officer, Intel Security Group
Vinny Sica, Vice President, Defense and Intelligence Space Ground Solutions, Lockheed Martin
Moderator: Evan Perez, Justice Correspondent, CNN
- 12:15 – 1:15 PM** **Lunch**
- 1:15 – 2:00 PM** **Directing National Intelligence**
 One year after his debut at the Aspen Security Forum, the global threat environment facing the United States is even more complicated, murky, and dangerous. What further challenges, and potential opportunities, does the DNI see ahead?
- James Clapper**, Director of National Intelligence
Moderator: Jim Sciutto, Chief National Security Correspondent, CNN
- 2:00 – 2:45 PM** **The Great Mideast Crackup: The Inevitable Comes to Pass**
 For decades analysts have predicted that the Mideast would eventually be rent asunder by pent-up resistance to the lack of political, civil, and economic opportunity; sectarianism; and the contradiction between the modernizing effects of globalization and religious and cultural fundamentalism. From Egypt to Yemen and in between, we are seeing the crackup before our eyes. Meanwhile, after depending on the United States for their security since time immemorial, in the wake of our indecision in Syria and the nuclear deal with Iran, the Saudis and other traditional American partners in the Gulf are going their own way. What comes next, for the region and for our relationships there?
- Lukman Faily**, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States
Rob Malley, Special Assistant to the President and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf Region
Shibley Telhami, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution; Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development, University of Maryland
Moderator: Peter Bergen, National Security Analyst, CNN
- 2:45 – 3:00 PM** **Break**
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM** **The New Normal?**
 Paris, San Bernardino, and Brussels—are these kinds of attacks (relatively frequent attacks carried out by relatively small cells and on soft targets) the “new normal?” Our increasing ability to prevent catastrophic 9/11-scale attacks may make less lethal but still devastating attacks even more likely than ever.
- William Bratton**, Commissioner, New York City Police Department
Robert Griffin, General Manager, Safer Planet, IBM Analytics
Peter Neffenger, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration
Michael Steinbach, Executive Assistant Director, National Security Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Moderator: Shane Harris, Senior Intelligence and National Security Correspondent, The Daily Beast

4:00 – 4:45 PM

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Now that the nuclear deal is done, will Tehran uphold its end of the bargain? And, will the agreement lead to Iran’s reintegration into the international community or will it continue to be a state sponsor of terror and a regional sectarian provocateur?

Frank Klotz, Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security; Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration

Cliff Kupchan, Chairman and Eurasia Practice Head, Eurasia Group

Bernadette Meehan, Former Spokesperson, National Security Council

Danielle Pletka, Senior Vice President for Foreign and Defense Policy, American Enterprise Institute

Moderator: Margaret Warner, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, PBS NewsHour

4:45 – 5:00 PM

Break

5:00 – 6:00 PM

From Pyongyang to Brussels—Frying Pan to Fire?

The new Commander of European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, formerly Commander of United States Forces Korea, discusses the arguably even greater challenges now facing him in Brussels.

GREENWALD PAVILION

Curtis Scaparrotti, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO; Commander, United States European Command

Moderator: David Ignatius, Columnist and Associate Editor, *The Washington Post*

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016

DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

9:00 – 9:45 AM

Taking the Fight to the Enemy

The new Special Operations Command Commander reflects and expounds on the key role Special Operators play in modern warfare.

Raymond “Tony” Thomas, Commander, United States Special Operations Command

Moderator: Catherine Herridge, Chief Intelligence Correspondent, Fox News

9:45 – 10:30 AM

The Continuing Counterterrorism Fight in Afghanistan/Pakistan: War Without End

As President Obama exits the White House, the Taliban are recapturing territory and carrying out terror attacks even in the heart of Kabul. Pakistan remains a refuge for both the Taliban and Al Qaeda, even while professing to be our partner in fighting terrorism. What can the next Administration do to turn things around?

Ryan Crocker, Dean and Executive Professor, George Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University; Former Ambassador of the United States to Afghanistan

Hamdullah Mohib, Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States

Rizwan Sheikh, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, DC

Moderator: Kim Dozier, Contributing Writer, The Daily Beast; Global Analyst, CNN

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Break

- 10:45 – 11:30 AM** **Countering Violent Extremism**
 What turns a young man or woman into a terrorist? What are the drivers? What are the triggers? What are the warning signs? And, how can violent extremism be countered?
- Monika Bickert**, Head of Global Policy Management, Facebook
Ed Royce, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; US Representative (R-CA)
George Selim, Director, Office for Community Partnerships, Department of Homeland Security
Jessica Stern, Fellow, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health;
 Co-Author, *ISIS: The State of Terror*
Moderator: Noah Shachtman, Executive Editor, The Daily Beast
- 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM** **The Security State**
 Can—and should—GITMO finally be closed? Can—and should—terrorists be tried here at home and in civilian courts? What obligations do private companies, and private citizens have to provide support to the government in its efforts to combat terrorism? Should victims of terrorism be able to sue nations, even U.S allies, they believe to be complicit? Have we gotten the balance between security and liberty right? And, are we overemphasizing a military response to global threats and under emphasizing democracy, human rights, and socio-economic development?
- Karen Greenberg**, Director, Center on National Security, Fordham University School of Law
Elisa Massimino, President and CEO, Human Rights First
John Negroponte, Former Director of National Intelligence
Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; Contributor, Defense One; Author, *Ashley's War*
Moderator: Ken Dilanian, Intelligence and National Security Reporter, NBC News
- 12:15 – 1:15 PM** **Lunch**
- 1:15 – 2:00 PM** **Peril on the 38th Parallel**
 North Korea continues its underground nuclear tests, and there are indications that it has succeeded in miniaturizing a nuclear warhead. Sanctions and threats have seemed only to embolden the volatile young leader in Pyongyang. Can Kim Jong Un be stopped before he turns the peninsula, and the region, into a nuclear wasteland?
- Jane Harman**, President, Director, and CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Jean H. Lee, Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Katharine Moon, SK-Korea Foundation Chair in Korea Studies and Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution; Professor of Political Science and Wasserman Chair of Asian Studies, Wellesley College
Moderator: Gordon Chang, Columnist, The Daily Beast
- 2:00 – 2:45 PM** **Syria: Past the Point of No Return?**
 Is it time to concede the reality that the Assad regime is there to stay and the goal now must be countering ISIS. (and other terror groups), providing urgently needed humanitarian relief, and restoring some degree of normalcy to stanch the flow of political and economic refugees?
- Michael Ratney**, United States Special Envoy for Syria
Moderator: Margaret Brennan, Foreign Affairs Correspondent, CBS News
- 2:45 – 3:00 PM** **Break**

- 3:00 – 4:00 PM** **Seeing Around Corners: The Intelligence Professional’s Challenge**
Four intelligence professionals grapple with the perennial puzzle of the “unknown unknowns.”
- S. Leslie Ireland**, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Intelligence and Analysis
Marcel Lettre, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence
John Scarlett, Former Chief, Secret Intelligence Service, United Kingdom
Gregory Treverton, Chairman, National Intelligence Council
Moderator: Brian Bennett, National Security and Intelligence Reporter, *Los Angeles Times*
- 4:00 – 4:45 PM** **ISIL and Al Qaeda: Lethal One-Upmanship**
ISIL and Al Qaeda, and their various affiliates and offshoots, are vying to be the biggest and baddest terror groups on the world stage. What does this deadly competition for global primacy portend?
- Brett McGurk**, Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL
Nick Rasmussen, Director, National Counterterrorism Center
Moderator: David Sanger, Chief Washington Correspondent, *The New York Times*
- 4:45 – 5:00 PM** **Break**
- 5:00 – 6:00 PM** **A Candid Conversation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency**
In a rare interview and his debut appearance in Aspen, the CIA Director surveys the global security scene and tells how he sees it.
GREENWALD PAVILION
- John Brennan**, Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Moderator: Dina Temple-Raston, Counterterrorism Correspondent, NPR

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016

DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

- 9:45 – 10:30 AM** **The View from the Fort and Cyber Command**
The Director of the National Security Agency and the Commander of US Cyber Command discusses cyberwarfare, cyberterrorism, cyberespionage, and cybercrime, and what he and his partners in government and out are doing to combat them.
- Mike Rogers**, Director, National Security Agency; Commander, United States Cyber Command
Moderator: Fred Kaplan, Columnist, *Slate*
- 10:30 – 10:45 AM** **Break**

- 10:45 AM – 11:30 PM** **Europe in Crisis**
 The migration crisis is reshaping the face of Europe, literally, and it poses a grave security challenge to the continent, the region, and the world. What more can be done to address this problem of near Biblical dimension? And, what has the crisis, and other political, economic, and military shocks, affected the decades-long project of European integration, and what are the security implications of those effects.
- Gilles de Kerchove**, Counterterrorism Coordinator, European Union
Marie Harf, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Strategic Communications, Department of State
Peter Westmacott, Former Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States
Peter Wittig, Ambassador of Germany to the United States
Moderator: Michael Crowley, Senior Foreign Affairs Correspondent, *POLITICO*
- 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM** **Intelligence Led Cyber Security: Operating Globally While Balancing Risk and Speed**
 The panelists cover issues relating to people, process, and technology from their respective private and public sector perspectives.
- Jay Healey**, Senior Research Scholar, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; Nonresident Senior Fellow, Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Atlantic Council
Sean Roche, Associate Deputy Director for Digital Innovation, Central Intelligence Agency
Patrick Walsh, Senior Vice President, iSight Partners; General Manager, ThreatSPACE
Moderator: Ryan Lizza, Washington Correspondent, *The New Yorker*
- 12:15 – 1:15 PM** **Lunch**
- 1:15 – 2:00 PM** **The View from the West Wing**
 President Obama's chief counterterrorism and homeland security advisor shares a view from inside the White House on the evolving threat posed by terrorist groups and violent extremism, as well as how the Administration leverages all elements of national power to address that threat.
- Lisa Monaco**, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism
Moderator: Walter Isaacson, President and CEO, The Aspen Institute
- 2:00 – 2:15 PM** **Break**
- 2:15 – 3:00 PM** **Congress and the War on Terror**
 How do various leaders on Capitol Hill view the war on terrorism? How do they grade the outgoing Administration? With no progress on a revised authorizing resolution, how do they grade themselves? And what policies should the next Administration pursue?
- Mike Rogers**, Former Chairman, House Intelligence Committee
Adam Schiff, Ranking Member, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; US Representative (D-CA)
Moderator: Greg Miller, National Security Correspondent, *The Washington Post*

3:00 – 3:45 PM

The Fight for Geopolitical Supremacy in the Asia Pacific

China's buildup of air and naval capability in the South China Sea shows no signs of abating. If anything, the pace since last summer has accelerated, and the Chinese attitude is more belligerent. Will the economic slowdown, signs of political instability, and US and allied military pushback give China pause or will it double down in the historic race for regional hegemony?

Jonathan Pollack, Senior Fellow, Center for East Asia Policy Studies, Brookings Institution

David Shear, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs

Cui Tiankai, Ambassador of China to the United States

Moderator: Gordon Lubold, Pentagon Reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*

3:45 – 4:00 PM

Break

4:00 – 5:30 PM

The Thinking from the Tank

Three service chiefs take us inside the "Tank" where they meet with the Chairman to plan America's military strategy to confront our global challenges.

GREENWALD PAVILION

David Goldfein, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Mark Milley, Chief of Staff, United States Army

Robert Neller, Commandant, United States Marine Corps

Moderator: Bret Stephens, Deputy Editor and Foreign Affairs Columnist, *The Wall Street Journal*

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Closing Reception

MARBLE GARDEN TENT

Brian Bennett
National Security and Intelligence Reporter, *Los Angeles Times*



Brian Bennett writes about national security and intelligence in Washington, D.C. He has documented a pattern of excessive force by U.S. Border Patrol agents and revealed the first arrest on U.S. soil using a Predator drone. He started as a reporter for Time magazine in Hong Kong in 2000, reported from Pakistan and Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001, attacks and was Time's Baghdad bureau chief in 2003 and 2004. He was part of a team of reporters awarded the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news on the San Bernardino shooting and the terror investigation that followed.

Peter Bergen
National Security Analyst, CNN



Peter Bergen is a journalist, documentary producer, vice president at New America, CNN national security analyst, professor of practice at Arizona State University, and the author or editor of seven books, three of which were New York Times bestsellers. The books have been translated into twenty languages and documentaries based on them have been nominated for two Emmys and also won the Emmy for best documentary. Bergen has produced multiple documentaries for CNN, National Geographic, Discovery and HBO. He has held teaching positions at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins. He has a degree in Modern History from Oxford.

Monika Bickert
Head of Global Policy Management, Facebook



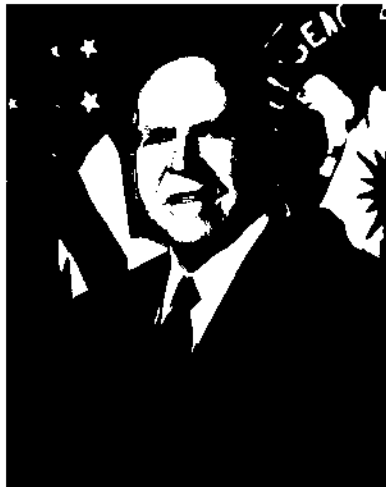
Monika Bickert is Facebook's head of product policy. Her global team manages the policies for what types of content can be shared on Facebook. Monika originally joined Facebook in 2012, as lead security counsel. Prior to joining Facebook, Monika served as Resident Legal Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. She also served as Assistant United States Attorney for 11 years in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, prosecuting federal crimes ranging from public corruption to gang-related violence. Monika received a B.A. from Rice University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**William Bratton
Commissioner, New York Police Department**



William (Bill) J. Bratton was sworn in as the 42nd Police Commissioner of the City of New York on January 1, 2014. During his nearly 50-year career in law enforcement, Commissioner Bratton has established an international reputation for re-engineering police departments and fighting crime. He has served as chief executive of the New York City Transit Police, the Boston Police Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the New York City Police Department (two terms). At each post, Commissioner Bratton revitalized morale, cut crime, and strengthened police-community relations.

John Brennan
Director, Central Intelligence Agency



John O. Brennan was sworn in as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency on March 8, 2013. As Director, he manages intelligence collection, analysis, covert action, counterintelligence, and liaison relationships with foreign intelligence services.

Margaret Brennan
Foreign Affairs Correspondent, CBS News



Since 2012, Ms. Brennan has covered foreign policy issues and traveled with secretaries Kerry, Clinton, and Hagel. She was among the first to interview Secretary Kerry about freezing Iran's nuclear program and destroying Syria's chemical weapons. She interviewed South Korean President Park Geun-Hye and reported from Tehran during the 2012 Non-Aligned Movement. She was part of the CBS team to win a DuPont-Columbia Award for coverage of the Newtown Tragedy. Previously, Ms. Brennan spent a decade at Bloomberg Television and CNBC. She is a Council on Foreign Relations term member, University of Virginia alum, and studied Arabic at Yarmouk University as a Fulbright-Hays Scholar.

Massimo Calabresi
Deputy Washington Bureau Chief and Senior Correspondent, *Time Magazine*



Massimo Calabresi is Deputy Washington Bureau Chief and Senior Correspondent for Time Magazine. He writes and edits feature and investigative pieces on foreign and domestic policy. He joined the Washington bureau of Time in 1999, and has covered the CIA; the U.S. Departments of State, Justice, Treasury; Congress; and the White House. He covered the wars in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo as Time's Central Europe Bureau Chief from 1995 to 1999, and the collapse of the Soviet Union as a freelancer in Moscow in 1991.

John Carlin
Assistant Attorney General for National Security



John P. Carlin is the Assistant Attorney General for National Security. As Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Carlin oversees nearly 400 employees responsible for protecting the country against international and domestic terrorism, espionage, cyber, and other national security threats. Mr. Carlin joined NSD after serving as Chief of Staff to Robert S. Mueller, III, Director of the FBI. Mr. Carlin served as National Coordinator of DOJ's Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) program, a cadre of prosecutors specially trained to prosecute cyber crime and intellectual property cases. Mr. Carlin earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his B.A. from Williams College.

Gordon Chang
Columnist, The Daily Beast



Gordon G. Chang is the author of *The Coming Collapse of China* and *Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes On the World*. His writings have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's*, *The Weekly Standard*, *Commentary*, and *The National Interest*, among other publications. Chang has given numerous briefings in Washington and other capitals and has frequently appeared on CNN, Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network, Bloomberg, CNBC, and PBS. He is a columnist at *The Daily Beast* and a contributor at *Forbes.com*. He blogs at *World Affairs Journal*. He has served two terms as trustee of Cornell University.

James Clapper
Director of National Intelligence



James Clapper was sworn in as the fourth Director of National Intelligence on August 9, 2010. As DNI, he leads the U.S. Intelligence Community and serves as the President's principal intelligence advisor. His military career began as a Marine Corps Reserve rifleman and culminated as Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, an Air Force lieutenant general. Starting September 2001, he served five years as the first civilian director of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, transforming it into the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. He then served three years in two Administrations as the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.

Heather Conley
Senior Vice President for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic; Director, Europe Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies



Heather A. Conley is senior vice president for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic and director of the Europe Program at CSIS. Prior to joining CSIS in 2009, she served as executive director of the Office of the Chairman of the Board at the American National Red Cross. From 2001 to 2005, she served as deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau for European and Eurasian Affairs with responsibilities for U.S. bilateral relations with the countries of northern and central Europe. From 1994 to 2001, she was a senior associate with an international consulting firm led by former U.S. deputy secretary of state Richard L. Armitage. Ms. Conley began her career in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. She was selected to serve as special assistant to the coordinator of U.S. assistance to the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Ms. Conley is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Arctic and is frequently featured as a foreign policy analyst on CNN, MSNBC, BBC, NPR, and PBS. She received her B.A. in international studies from West Virginia Wesleyan College and her M.A. in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Jennifer Cooke
Director, Africa Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies



Jennifer Cooke is director of the CSIS Africa Program, where she manages a range of projects on political, economic, and security dynamics in Africa, providing research and analysis to U.S. policymakers, members of Congress, and the U.S. military, as well as the broader public. She is a frequent writer and lecturer on U.S.-Africa policy, on political and economic trends across the continent, and on emergent security threats. She recently led the CSIS Nigeria Election Forum, a two-year project examining the major challenges associated with Nigeria's 2015 elections; co-chaired a CSIS project on Africa's new oil and gas producers; and directed a multiyear study on the intersection of religion and politics in Africa.

Ryan Crocker
Dean and Executive Professor, George Bush School of Government and Public
Service, Texas A&M University;
Former Ambassador of the United States to Afghanistan



Ryan Crocker is Dean and Executive Professor at the George Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University, where he holds the Edward and Howard Kruse Endowed Chair. He was the James Schlesinger Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Virginia (2012-2014), and he served as the first Kissinger Senior Fellow at Yale University (2012-2013).

He retired from the Foreign Service in April 2009, after a career of over 37 years but was recalled to active duty by President Obama to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan in 2011. He has served as U.S. Ambassador six times: Afghanistan (2011-2012), Iraq (2007-2009), Pakistan (2004-2007), Syria (1998-2001), Kuwait (1994-1997), and Lebanon (1990-1993). He has also served as the International Affairs Advisor at the National War College, where he joined the faculty in 2003. From May to August 2003, he was in Baghdad as the first Director of Governance for the Coalition Provisional Authority and was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs from August 2001 to May 2003. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1971, he also has had assignments in Iran, Qatar, Iraq and Egypt, as well as Washington, D.C. He was assigned to the American Embassy in Beirut during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the bombings of the embassy and the Marine barracks in 1983.

Michael Crowley
Senior Foreign Affairs Correspondent, *Politico*



Michael Crowley is POLITICO's Senior Foreign Affairs Correspondent, covering foreign policy and national security from Washington, D.C. Prior to joining POLITICO in October 2014, Michael was Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for TIME Magazine. He has reported from more than a dozen countries, including Iraq, China, Israel, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Lebanon and Ukraine. From 2000 to 2008, Michael was a senior editor at *The New Republic*. He also has worked for The Boston Globe and has contributed to *The New York Times Magazine*, *New York*, *GQ*, and many other publications.

Michael Daley
Chief Technology Officer, Cybersecurity and Special Missions, Raytheon



Michael Daley is CTO, Cybersecurity & Special Missions, and principle engineering fellow at Raytheon providing cyber solutions to global government and commercial customers, delivering quick-reaction mission solutions, and providing support to high consequence special missions. He was the 2006 recipient of the People's Choice Award for ISE NE Information Security Executive of the Year and 2007 recipient of the Security 7 Award, Manufacturing. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Boston University. He supports the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee and is an advisor to the Kogod Cybersecurity Governance Center at American University.

Ken Dilanian
Intelligence and National Security Reporter, NBC News



Ken Dilanian covers national security in Washington for the NBC News investigative unit. He previously wrote about intelligence and security for the Associated Press, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, where he was a foreign correspondent covering the Iraq war. He graduated from Williams College in 1991, with a degree in political science and history.

Kim Dozier
Contributing Writer, *The Daily Beast*;
Global Analyst, CNN



Kim Dozier joined *The Daily Beast* and CNN as a contributing writer/on-air analyst in 2014, after four years as Associated Press' intelligence writer with trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and 17 years as an award-winning CBS News foreign and national security correspondent. She held the 2014-2015 General Omar Bradley Chair at the United States Army War College, Dickinson College, and the PSU/Dickinson School of Law and International Affairs. She authored *Breathing the Fire*, about a car bomb that hit her CBS News team in Iraq in 2006. She's now researching stories of resilience in the special operations and intelligence world.

Richard Engel
Chief Foreign Correspondent, NBC News



Richard Engel is widely regarded as one of America's leading foreign correspondents for his coverage of wars, revolutions and political transitions around the world over the last 15 years. Most recently, he was recognized for his outstanding reporting on the 2011 revolution in Egypt, the conflict in Libya and unrest throughout the Arab world.

Engel was named chief foreign correspondent of NBC News in April 2008. His reports appear on all platforms of NBC News, including "Nightly News with Brian Williams," "TODAY," "Meet the Press," "Dateline," MSNBC, and NBCNews.com.

Engel, one of the only western journalists to cover the entire war in Iraq, joined NBC News in May 2003. He previously worked as a freelance journalist for ABC News, most notably during the initial U.S. invasion of Iraq. He remained in Baghdad as NBC's primary Iraq correspondent until his appointment as senior Middle East correspondent and Beirut bureau chief in May 2006. Engel also covered the war between Israel and Hezbollah in the summer of 2006 from Beirut and southern Lebanon.

Lukman Faily
Ambassador of Iraq to the United States



Mr. Lukman Faily serves as Iraq's Ambassador to the United States, a position he has held since July 2013 to June 2016. From June 2010 until May 2013, Mr. Faily served as Iraq's Ambassador to Japan. Mr. Faily was an active leader within the large Iraqi exile community in the UK and served as a trustee for several non-governmental Iraqi organizations. He also played an active role in opposing Saddam's dictatorship and advocated for democracy and rule of law in Iraq.

David Goldfein
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force



Gen. David L. Goldfein is Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He serves as the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for organizing, training, and equipping 660,000 Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian forces in the United States and overseas. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the general advises the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the President. Gen. Goldfein entered the Air Force in 1983, as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Prior to his current position, he was Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Karen Greenberg
Director, Center on National Security, Fordham University School of Law



Karen J. Greenberg is the Director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law. An expert on terrorism, civil liberties and national security, she is the author most recently of *Rogue Justice, The Making of the Security State*. She is also the author of *The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo's First 100 Days*, which was named one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post* and *Slate.com*, and the co-editor of the *Torture Papers* and the *Enemy Combatant Papers*. She appears frequently in national media outlets and is a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Robert Griffin
General Manager, Safer Planet, IBM Analytics



Robert Griffin is the General Manager for the Safer Planet division of IBM where he has global leadership responsibility for solutions addressing the intelligence, law enforcement and city operations communities as well as cross industry Counter Fraud and Financial Crimes solutions. Mr. Griffin has been a key player and successful serial entrepreneur in the Software and Services industry for more than 35 years. In October of 2011, he facilitated the sale of his company, i2, to IBM. His many board appointments include member of the Board of Directors for the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA), and for the National Cyber Forensics and Training Alliance (NCFTA).

Steve Grobman
Chief Technology Officer, Intel Security Group



Steve Grobman is the chief technology officer for Intel Security Group at Intel Corporation. In this role, Grobman sets the technical strategy and direction for the company's security business across hardware and software platforms, including McAfee and Intel's other security assets.

Grobman joined Intel in 1994, as an architect in IT and has served in a variety of senior technical leadership positions during his Intel career. Before assuming his current role in late 2014, he spent a year as chief technology officer for the Intel Security platform division. Prior to that role, he spent two years as chief technology officer at Intel's subsidiary McAfee to integrate security technology from the two companies.

Carter Ham
President, Association of the U.S. Army



General Carter F. Ham, U.S. Army Retired, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of the United States Army. He began his Army service as an enlisted Infantryman before graduating from John Carroll University. His final assignments in military service were Director for Operations, The Joint Staff; Commander, U.S. Army Europe; then Commander, U.S. Africa Command. He recently chaired the congressionally-mandated National Commission on the Future of the Army.

Marie Harf
Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Strategic Communications, Department of State



Marie Harf is Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications to Secretary of State John Kerry. She previously served as State Department Deputy Spokesperson and advisor to Chuck Hagel during his Secretary of Defense confirmation. In 2012, Ms. Harf was Associate Policy Director responsible for all national security and foreign policy issues on President Obama's re-election campaign. She began her career in 2006, at the Central Intelligence Agency as a Middle East analyst, and later served as its Media Spokesperson. Ms. Harf received her Master's Degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia and Bachelor's Degree with honors from Indiana University.

Jane Harman
President, Director, and CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars



Jane Harman resigned from Congress in 2011, to join the Woodrow Wilson Center as its first female Director, President, and Chief Executive Officer. Representing the aerospace center of California during nine terms in Congress, she served on all the major security committees. Harman is a member of the Defense Policy Board, the State Department Foreign Policy Board, the Homeland Security Advisory Committee, the Presidential Debates Commission and the Iridium Board of Directors. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Trilateral Commission and the Advisory Board of the Munich Security Conference, and is a Trustee of the Aspen Institute and the University of Southern California.

Shane Harris
Senior Intelligence and National Security Correspondent, *The Daily Beast*



Shane Harris is the senior national security and intelligence correspondent at The Daily Beast and the author of two books, *@War: The Rise of the Military-Internet Complex* and *The Watchers: The Rise of America's Surveillance State*. He is also a fellow in the International Security Program at New America. Shane won the 2010 Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense. *The Watchers* received the Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism from the New York Public Library.

Jay Healey
Senior Research Scholar, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; Nonresident Senior Fellow, Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Atlantic Council



Jason Healey is Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's School for International and Public Affairs, specializing in cyber conflict and risk. He started his career as a U.S. Air Force intelligence officer, before moving to cyber response and policy jobs at the White House and Goldman Sachs. He was founding director for cyber issues at the Atlantic Council where he remains a Senior Fellow and is the editor of the first history of conflict in cyberspace, *A Fierce Domain: Cyber Conflict*, 1986 to 2012.

**Catherine Herridge
Chief Intelligence Correspondent, Fox News**



Catherine Herridge is an award-winning Chief Intelligence correspondent for the Fox News Channel. The first network correspondent assigned to the Homeland Security beat in 2001, Catherine now covers intelligence, the Justice Department, as well as the Department of Homeland Security. A graduate of Harvard College, and the Columbia Journalism School, Catherine began her career at ABC News. Her first book, published by Crown, *The Next Wave: On the Hunt for al Qaeda's American Recruits*, reveals how social networking is the lifeblood of the digital jihad, as well as the profound influence of the first American on the CIA's kill or capture list, Anwar al-Awlaki.

David Ignatius
Columnist and Associate Editor, *The Washington Post*



David Ignatius was born in 1950 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He received his B.A. Magna Cum Laude in Social Studies at Harvard College, and has been the author of a twice-weekly column on global politics, economics, and international affairs for *The Washington Post* since 2003. From 2000 to 2003, Ignatius was the Executive Editor of *The International Herald Tribune*. He joined *The Washington Post* in 1986, and has served as assistant managing editor in charge of business news, foreign editor, and editor of the Post's Outlook section. Ignatius is the author of eight novels, including "Body of Lies," which was made into a movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio and directed by Ridley Scott. His latest novel, "Bloodmoney," is set largely in Pakistan.

S. Leslie Ireland
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Intelligence and Analysis



S. Leslie Ireland has served as the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis since 2010. In this role, Ms. Ireland leads the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, which is responsible for the receipt, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence related to the Department's mission to safeguard the international financial system from abuse and to combat threats to U.S. national security.

Ms. Ireland also serves as the National Intelligence Manager for Threat Finance under the Director of National Intelligence.

Ms. Ireland has been a career intelligence officer for 30 years and has held a variety of positions in the analytical, collection, interagency and policy communities. Prior to joining Treasury, she was intelligence briefer to President Obama. Before that, she served as the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Iran Mission Manager, where she was responsible for integrating collection and analysis on Iran across the Intelligence Community.

Walter Isaacson
President and CEO, The Aspen Institute



Walter Isaacson is president and Chief Executive Officer of the Aspen Institute. Previously, he was chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CNN and editor of Time Magazine. He is the author of *Einstein: His life and Universe* (Simon & Schuster, 2007); *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (Simon & Schuster, 2003); and *Kissinger: A Biography* (Simon & Schuster, 1992). He is co-author of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made* (Simon & Schuster, 1986). After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Isaacson was appointed vice-chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. In 2007, he was appointed chairman of the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership by President George W. Bush. This year, he became vice-chair of Partners for a New Beginning, a joint effort between the U.S. State Department and the Aspen Institute to promote cultural exchange and economic opportunities in the Muslim world. He serves on many other boards and advisory councils.

Fred Kaplan
Columnist, *Slate*



Fred Kaplan is *Slate*'s "War Stories" columnist and author of "Dark Territory: The Secret History of Cyber War," "The Insurgents," "The Wizards of Armageddon," and others. A former Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the *Boston Globe*, he has a PhD from MIT.

Gilles de Kerchove
Counterterrorism Coordinator, European Union



Gilles de Kerchove was appointed EU Counterterrorism Coordinator on September 19, 2007. In this function, he coordinates the work of the EU in the field of counterterrorism, maintains an overview of all the instruments at the EU's disposal, closely monitors the implementation of the EU counterterrorism strategy, and fosters better communication between the EU and third countries to ensure that the EU plays an active role in the fight against terrorism. He is also a European law professor at the Catholic University of Louvain, at the Free University and the Université Saint Louis-Brussels

Frank Klotz
Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security;
Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration



Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz, United States Air Force (Ret.), was confirmed by the Senate on April 8, 2014, as the Department of Energy's Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Klotz is responsible for the management and operation of the NNSA, as well as policy matters across the DOE and NNSA enterprise in support of President Obama's nuclear security agenda. Prior to his Senate confirmation, Klotz served in a variety of military and national security positions, including former Commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, a position he held from 2009 to 2011.

Cliff Kupchan
Chairman and Eurasia Practice head, Eurasia Group



Cliff Kupchan is Eurasia Group's Chairman, Practice Head for Eurasia, and Director for both global macro and Iran coverage. He provides top-level analysis and thought leadership on global issues. Cliff, who has been studying global developments for more than two decades-as an academic, as part of the U.S. government, and in the private sector-speaks frequently to a wide variety of audiences and regularly briefs clients on macro developments. He is co-author of Eurasia Group's annual top risks publication.

In addition, Cliff covers Russia's domestic and foreign policy, as well as its energy sector; his analysis is informed by a network of elite Russian contacts. He likewise focuses on Iranian nuclear and foreign policy, Iranian domestic politics, and sanctions targeting Iran. His views are regularly cited as definitive by major media outlets. As a longtime analyst of two major energy-producing countries, Cliff's expertise affords him deep insight into the relationship between geopolitics and energy markets.

Jean H. Lee
Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars



Jean H. Lee is a former Associated Press bureau chief who led the news agency's coverage of the Korean Peninsula from 2008 to 2013. In 2011, Lee became the first American reporter granted extensive access on the ground in North Korea. In January 2012, she opened Associated Press' Pyongyang bureau, and became the first U.S. correspondent accredited to join the press corps in Pyongyang. Lee, a Pulitzer Prize nominee, now serves as a Global Fellow with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is a member of the Council of Korean Americans and the National Committee on North Korea.

Marcel Lettre
Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence



Marcel Lettre was nominated by President Obama as the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as the fourth Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence in December 2015.

As the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Secretary Lettre is the principal intelligence advisor to the Secretary of Defense. He exercises authority, direction, and control on behalf of the Secretary of Defense over all intelligence and security organizations within the Department of Defense, including the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, the Defense Security Service and the intelligence components of the combatant commands and military services. Across the Defense Intelligence components, Secretary Lettre oversees the \$18 billion Military Intelligence Program, the Defense portion of the \$54 billion National Intelligence Program, the intelligence interests within the Battlespace Awareness portfolio, and over 110,000 personnel. He is also dual-hatted as the Director of Defense Intelligence in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and reports to the DNI in this capacity. He is the Department's principal interface with the Central Intelligence Agency and other elements of the Intelligence Community, and represents the Department on intelligence and sensitive operations at the National Security Council.

Ryan Lizza
Washington Correspondent, *The New Yorker*



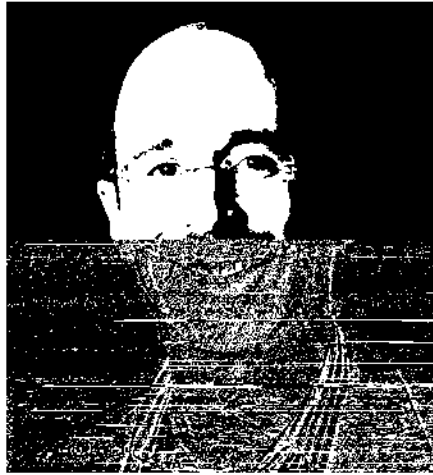
Ryan Lizza is the Washington Correspondent for *The New Yorker* and a political commentator for CNN. He covers the White House, Congress, and national politics. Lizza joined *The New Yorker* in 2007. He has also written for TNR, GQ, New York, *The New York Times*, *Washington Monthly*, and *The Atlantic*. “The Consequentialist,” Lizza’s article about President Obama’s foreign policy, won the 2012 National Press Club’s Hood Award for Diplomatic Correspondence. In 2013, Lizza was awarded the White House Correspondents’ Association’s Aldo Beckman Memorial Award for journalistic excellence for a series of articles about President Obama. Lizza is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University.

Gordon Lubold
Pentagon Reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*



Gordon Lubold has covered the military and national security for more than 15 years, now the Pentagon reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*. Prior to joining The Journal, he launched and authored three different national security newsletters for three outlets, including "Situation Report," read by 150,000 readers each morning. He served as a senior advisor at the United States Institute of Peace, and was national security correspondent for *The Christian Science Monitor*. He has covered conflict in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan across the Middle East, and has reported on military matters in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and East Asia.

Rob Malley
Special Assistant to the President and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region



Rob Malley is currently serving as a Special Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor for the Counter-ISIL Campaign. Since February 2014, Rob Malley has played a critical role in forming our policy on Iran, Iraq, Syria, and the Gulf. Rob served as Executive Assistant to National Security Advisor Sandy Berger between 1996 and 1998. In October 1998, he was appointed Special Assistant to President Clinton for Arab-Israeli Affairs, a post he held until the end of the administration in 2001. Between 2001 and 2014, he directed the Middle East Program at the International Crisis Group.

Elisa Massimino
President and Chief Executive Officer, Human Rights First



Elisa Massimino is President and Chief Executive Officer of Human Rights First, one of the Nation's leading human rights advocacy organizations. Established in 1978, Human Rights First's mission is to ensure that the United States is a global leader on human rights. The organization works in the United States and abroad to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law. Massimino leads a staff of 100 with offices in New York City, New York; Washington, D.C.; and Houston, Texas.

Massimino joined Human Rights First as a staff attorney in 1991, to help establish the Washington office. From 1997 to 2008, she served as the organization's Washington Director. Previously, Massimino was a litigator in private practice at the Washington law firm of Hogan & Hartson, where she was pro bono counsel in many human rights cases. Before joining the legal profession, she taught philosophy at several colleges and universities in Michigan.

Brett McGurk
Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL



Brett McGurk serves as Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL at the U.S. Department of State. His previous assignment was Deputy Special Presidential Envoy from September 2014 until November 2015. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Iraq and Iran in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs from August 2013, until his current appointment. In the Obama administration McGurk has served as a Senior Advisor in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs with a focus on Iraq and other regional initiatives, as a special advisor to the National Security Staff, and as Senior Advisor to Ambassadors Ryan Crocker, Christopher Hill, and James Jeffrey in Baghdad. In these capacities McGurk participated in President Obama's 2009 review of Iraq policy and helped manage the transition from military to civilian lead following the U.S. military drawdown. During the Bush administration McGurk served as Director for Iraq and then as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bernadette Meehan
Former Spokesperson, National Security Council



Bernadette Meehan is a career Foreign Service Officer who most recently served as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Spokesperson for the White House National Security Council.

Prior to her three year assignment at the National Security Council, Bernadette served at the State Department as Special Assistant to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Special Assistant in the State Department Executive Secretariat. Her overseas assignments include Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Special Assistant to the Ambassador and Consular Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq; and Consular Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia.

Greg Miller
National Security Correspondent, *The Washington Post*



Greg Miller is a National Security Correspondent for *The Washington Post* who covers U.S. intelligence agencies and issues related to terrorism. Miller was among the Post reporters awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2014, for the paper's revelation of secret surveillance programs by the NSA. He was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2013, for a series titled "The Permanent War on U.S. Counterterrorism Operations." Miller has made numerous overseas reporting trips to countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kuwait, and Serbia. A California native, Miller previously worked for *The Los Angeles Times* and was co-author of the book "The Interrogators."

Mark Milley
Chief of Staff, United States Army



General Mark A. Milley assumed duty as the 39th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army August 14, 2015, after most recently serving as the 21st Commander of U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He has served in command and leadership positions from the platoon and operational detachment alpha level through Corps and Army Command including the 82nd Airborne Division and the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, California; the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York; the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea; the Joint Readiness Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana; the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Infantry Division in Baghdad, Iraq.

Hamdullah Mohib
Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States



Before being appointed Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Hamdullah Mohib served as Deputy Chief of Staff to H.E. The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The role included oversight of the spokesperson's office, the office of correspondence and diplomatic communications, protocol office, petitions office, and the Presidential secretariat. During his tenure at the Presidential Palace, his role involved liaison with governmental counterparts and drafting of bilateral and multilateral agreements. Dr. Mohib also engaged in the substantive preparation and implementation of official presidential visits to Azerbaijan, Belgium, China, Germany, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States as part of the administration's strategy for geopolitical and economic integration. Dr. Mohib led the presidential negotiating team for several inter-government cooperation agreements and the formulation of Afghanistan's national development "Realizing Self-Reliance" reform strategy.

Lisa Monaco
Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism



Lisa Monaco assumed the duties of the Assistant to President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism and Deputy National Security Advisor on March 8, 2013. She advises the President on all aspects of counterterrorism policy and strategy as well as the coordination of all homeland security-related activities throughout the Executive Branch. Previously, Ms. Monaco served as the Assistant Attorney General for National Security from July 11, 2011 to March 8, 2013. Her previous assignment was as the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. Prior to joining the Deputy Attorney General's office, Monaco was the chief of staff to FBI Director Robert Mueller. Monaco initially joined the FBI on detail from the U.S Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

Katharine Moon
S-K Korea Foundation Chair in Korea Studies and Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution; Professor of Political Science and Wasserman Chair of Asian Studies, Wellesley University



Katharine (Kathy) H.S. Moon is nonresident senior fellow and the inaugural holder of the SK-Korea Foundation Chair in Korea Studies at the Brookings Center for East Asia Policy Studies. She also is a professor of political science at Wellesley College and holds the Edith Stix Wasserman Chair of Asian Studies. Moon's research includes the U.S.-Korea alliance, politics of East Asia, inter-Korean relations, socio-political changes in both Koreas, as well as democratization, women, and gender politics, and comparative social movements in East Asia. She received her bachelor's magna cum laude from Smith College and a doctorate from Princeton University in the Department of Politics.

Peter Neffenger
Administrator, Transportation Security Administration



Peter Neffenger was confirmed as the Transportation Security Administration's sixth administrator in June 2015. He leads a workforce of nearly 60,000 employees, security operations at nearly 450 airports throughout the United States, the Federal Air Marshal Service, and shared security for highways, railroads, ports, mass transit systems and pipelines.

Before joining TSA, Neffenger served as the 29th Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. He also served as the Deputy Commandant for Operations, where he directed strategy, resources, and policy for the employment of Coast Guard forces globally. He most notably served as the Deputy National Incident Commander for the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

John Negroponte
Former Director of National Intelligence



John D. Negroponte has been the Vice Chairman of McLarty Associates, a strategic consulting firm, since 2009. He is also a research fellow and lecturer in international affairs at Yale University. He is the Chairman of the Council of the Americas/Americas Society and of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA), as well as Co-Chair of the U.S.-Philippines Society and a trustee of the Asia Society. He is a member of the Secretary of State's Foreign Affairs Policy Board. Prior to 2009, Ambassador Negroponte served a total of 44 years in government in positions at the State Department, the White House and as the first Director of National Intelligence. He has been Ambassador to Honduras, Mexico, the Philippines, Iraq and the United Nations.

Robert Neller
Commandant, United States Marine Corps



General Robert B. Neller is the 37th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Commander, Marine Forces Command from July 2014 to September 2015 and Commander, Marine Forces Central Command from September 2012 to June 2014.

A native of East Lansing, Michigan, General Neller graduated from the University of Virginia and was commissioned in 1975. He has served as an infantry officer at all levels, including command of Marine Security Force Company Panama during Operations JUST CAUSE and PROMOTE LIBERTY; 3d Light Armored Infantry Battalion during Operation RESTORE HOPE; 6th Marine Regiment; and 3d Marine Division.

General Neller also served as Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (05-07); Assistant Division Commander for 1st and 2d Marine Divisions; and President of Marine Corps University.

Evan Perez
Justice Correspondent, CNN



Prior to coming to CNN, Perez covered justice, crime and national security at the Washington bureau of the Wall Street Journal. His team broke the news on the complaint that sparked the federal investigation of former CIA Director David Petraeus, and the subsequent removal of an FBI agent in the case. After the Boston bombings, Perez's team also broke news on important investigation developments, including the suspected source of explosives and materials used to make the bombs. Perez also covered the following beats while with the Wall Street Journal: real estate, airlines, cruise lines and the construction industry. His team was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the 2004 Florida hurricane season.

Prior to the joining the Wall Street Journal in 1998, Evan worked as a Miami reporter for the Associated Press. He was born in Belize City, Belize, and studied journalism at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Danielle Pletka
Senior Vice President for Foreign and Defense Policy,
American Enterprise Institute



Danielle Pletka was a longtime U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations senior professional staff member for the Near East and South Asia. As the senior vice president for foreign and defense policy studies at AEI, Ms. Pletka writes on national security matters with a focus on Iran and weapons proliferation, the Middle East, Syria, Israel and the Arab Spring. She is the coauthor of “Containing and Deterring a Nuclear Iran” (AEI, 2011) and “Iranian Influence in the Levant, Egypt, Iraq, and Afghanistan” (AEI, 2012). Her most recent study, “America vs. Iran: The Competition for the Future of the Middle East,” was published by AEI in January 2014.

Jonathan Pollach
Senior Fellow, Center for East Asia Policy Studies, Brookings Institution



Jonathan D. Pollack is the Interim SK-Korea Foundation Chair in Korea Studies in the Center for East Asia Policy Studies and a senior fellow in the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution. A specialist on East Asian international politics and security, he has published extensively on Chinese political-military strategy, U.S.-China relations, the political and security dynamics of the Korean Peninsula and U.S. strategy and policy in Asia and the Pacific. His latest publication, "No Exit: North Korea, Nuclear Weapons, and International Security", was published in May 2011, by Routledge for the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Nick Rasmussen
Director, National Counterterrorism Center



Nicholas Rasmussen, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center began his career as a Presidential Management Intern in 1991. He served in the State Department, National Security Council, and the National Counterterrorism Center as an analyst, policy adviser, and senior leader. At the NSC he was Director for Regional Affairs in the Office of Combating Terrorism, and returned as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism. He joined NCTC as a senior policy and planning officer; he returned to lead the Center as Deputy Director, Acting Director, and now Director. Mr. Rasmussen graduated from Wesleyan University and Princeton.

Michael Ratney
United States Special Envoy for Syria



In July 2015, Michael Ratney was appointed as the U.S. Special Envoy for Syria. From 2012 to 2015, Mr. Ratney served as the U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem. Until 2012, Mr. Ratney was Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Media and, prior to that, Spokesman for the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

Since joining the Foreign Service in 1990, Mr. Ratney served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar, as well as tours in Mexico City, Baghdad, Beirut, Casablanca, Bridgetown, and Washington, D.C. Mr. Ratney is from Massachusetts. He earned a B.S. from Boston University, and an M.A. from the George Washington University.

Sean Roche
Associate Deputy Director for Digital Innovation, Central Intelligence Agency



Sean P. Roche is the Associate Deputy Director of CIA for Digital Innovation. The Directorate for Digital Innovation is responsible for accelerating the integration of digital and cyber capabilities across all of CIA's mission areas. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Roche served as the Deputy Director for Science and Technology. In this role he provided leadership that enabled the Directorate to attack national intelligence problems with effective targeting, advanced technology and excellent tradecraft. During 34 years of federal service, Mr. Roche has been responsible for missions ranging from R&D to Operations and has held several leadership positions at CIA.

Mike Rogers
Director, National Security Agency; Commander, United States Cyber Command



Admiral Rogers' joint service both afloat and ashore has been extensive since his commissioning in 1981. He served as Director for Intelligence for both the Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Pacific Command and Commander, U.S. TENTH Fleet. Adm. Rogers became Commander, USCC and Director, NSA/Chief, CSS in April 2014. Admiral Rogers is a distinguished graduate of both the National and Naval War Colleges, a MIT fellow, Harvard National Security alum, and holds a M.S. in National Security Strategy and a bachelor's from Auburn University.

Mike Rogers
Former Chairman, House Intelligence Committee



Mike Rogers is a former member of Congress representing Michigan's Eighth Congressional District, officer in the U.S. Army, and FBI special agent.

From his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he chaired the powerful House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) and was a member of the Energy and Commerce panel, Mike built a legacy as a tireless and effective leader on counterterrorism and national security policy, as well as being active on healthcare, telecommunications, and automotive issues.

Ed Royce
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Representative (R-CA)



U.S. Representative Ed Royce serves California's 39th Congressional District, which encompasses parts of Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties.

Royce's priorities in Congress are: addressing our national debt, protecting our homeland, eliminating pork-barrel spending, fighting crime and supporting victims of crime, strengthening education for all students, spurring job creation and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

David Sanger
Chief Washington Correspondent, *The New York Times*



David Sanger is national security correspondent and senior writer at *The New York Times* and one of the country's leading authorities on American foreign policy. He has been a member of two New York Times teams that have won the Pulitzer prize and is author of two bestsellers, *The Inheritance*, and *Confront and Conceal: Obama's Secret Wars and Surprising Use of American Power*. He teaches national security policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is a 1982 graduate of Harvard.

Cyril Sartor
Deputy Assistant Director for Africa, Central Intelligence Agency



Cyril Sartor is the Deputy Assistant Director of CIA for Africa. He has served in a variety of senior leadership positions in the intelligence community, including serving as Briefer for two National Security Advisors, Acting National Intelligence Officer for Africa at the National Intelligence Council (NIC) and Director for the Office of Africa, Latin America and Global Issues. He received an M.A. in African History from Boston University in 1984.

Curtis Scaparrotti
Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO;
Commander, United States European Command



General Curtis M. Scaparrotti is a native of Logan, Ohio, graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, in 1978, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. A career infantry officer, General Scaparrotti most recently served as Commander, United States Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea. Prior to his service in Korea, General Scaparrotti served as the Director of the Joint Staff, Commander International Security Assistance Force and Deputy Commander U.S. Forces–Afghanistan, Commanding General of I Corps and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and the Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division.

John Scarlett
Former Chief, Secret Intelligence Service, United Kingdom



In August 2004, Scarlett rejoined SIS as its chief. As head of the service, he was responsible for the management of resources, the conduct of operations, and advice to the government during a period of major shifts in the global balance of power and significant global uncertainty and risk from international terrorism, regional instability, and potential conflict. He retired in 2009, after 38 years in government service.

Before running the SIS, Scarlett took up an appointment at the JIC—six days before September 11, 2001. During the following three years, he was responsible for the co-ordination and presentation of intelligence advice to the Prime Minister and senior members of the government and reinforcing links with his counterparts in America.

Adam Schiff
Ranking Member, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; US
Representative (D-CA)



Congressman Adam Schiff represents California's 28th Congressional District, and throughout his tenure in Congress, he has focused on growing the economy, bolstering national security, strengthening our communities, helping small businesses, and improving education, safety and health care for our children. In his eighth term in the House of Representatives, Schiff currently serves as the Ranking Member, or top Democrat, of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and as a Member of the Benghazi Select Committee. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence oversees the nation's intelligence agencies including components of the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, State and Energy. Schiff is currently on a leave of absence from the House Appropriations Committee.

Eric Schmitt
National Security Correspondent, *The New York Times*



Eric Schmitt, 55, is a senior correspondent for The New York Times who covers terrorism and national security issues. He is co-author of *Counterstrike: the Untold Story of America's Secret Campaign Against Al Qaeda*. For more than two decades, he has covered military and national security affairs for The Times, and has made two dozen reporting trips to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and West Africa. He has a bachelor's degree from Williams College and earned a Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University. Mr. Schmitt has shared two Pulitzer Prizes. He was reared in the San Francisco Bay area and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Jim Sciutto
National Security Correspondent, CNN



Jim Sciutto is CNN's chief national security correspondent based in Washington, D.C. He reports and provides analysis across the network's programs and platforms on all aspects of U.S. national security, including foreign policy, the military and the intelligence community.

Sciutto frequently reports from overseas, including the Charlie Hebdo and Paris terrorist attacks in France and the violent elections in the Ukraine. He has traveled to Asia, Europe, and the Middle East with senior U.S. leaders, as well as Tehran as the U.S. and Iran began implementing the historic nuclear agreement. He has twice interviewed Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, including securing Iran's first reaction to President Barack Obama's 2014 State of the Union remarks.

Noah Schachtman
Executive Director, *The Daily Beast*



Noah Schachtman is the Executive Editor of *The Daily Beast*. He previously served as Executive Editor for news at Foreign Policy. A former non-resident fellow at The Brookings Institution, Schachtman has reported from Afghanistan, Israel, Iraq, Qatar, Russia, Kuwait, and elsewhere. But he is perhaps best known as the founder and editor of *Wired* magazine's national security site, Danger Room, which won a National Magazine Award for reporting in digital media and an Online Journalism Award for best beat reporting.

George Selim
Director, Office for Community Partnerships, Department of Homeland Security



George Selim is the first Director of the Office for Community Partnerships at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). OCP was announced in September 2015, to support innovative locally-based programs to counter violent extremism (CVE) and to build relationships and promote trust with local communities. In 2016, Mr. Selim was also selected to lead the new CVE Task Force to coordinate government efforts and partnerships to prevent violent extremism in the United States.

Before assuming these roles, Mr. Selim served for four years at the White House on the National Security Council Staff as Director for Community Partnerships where he focused on policy development and program implementation on issues ranging from domestic to global security threats. Specific issues in Mr. Selim's portfolio included efforts to prevent violent extremism in the United States, building community resilience against transnational gangs, and developing a global network of governmental and civil society leaders to address of the most critical national security priorities.

Prior to his work at the White House, Mr. Selim served as a Senior Policy Adviser at the DHS Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, advising Department leadership on policy issues at the intersection of civil liberties and homeland security. Mr. Selim has also worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, the Arab American Institute, and served one year of AmeriCorps service.

David Shear
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs



David Shear began performing the duties of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy June 12, 2016. He is responsible for advising the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Secretary of Defense on all matters pertaining to the development and execution of U.S. national defense policy and strategy.

Previously Mr. Shear was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, in July 2014, with responsibility for defense and security policy in the Asia and Pacific region.

Mr. Shear served for 32 years in the Foreign Service, most recently as the United States Ambassador to Vietnam. He has also served in Sapporo, Beijing, Tokyo, and Kuala Lumpur. In Washington, he has served in the Offices of Japanese, Chinese, and Korean Affairs and as the Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs. He was Director of the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs from 2008 to 2009, and served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2009 to 2011.

Thom Shanker
Assistant Washington Editor, *The New York Times*



Thom Shanker is an assistant Washington editor of *The New York Times*, and co-author of “Counterstrike: The Untold Story of America’s Secret Campaign Against Al Qaeda,” a New York Times Best Seller. During 13 years as Pentagon correspondent for The Times, he conducted numerous reporting trips to Afghanistan and Iraq, embedding with units from the level of Green Beret “A Team” through corps headquarters. Previously, he was The Chicago Tribune’s foreign editor, and also served as senior European correspondent, based in Berlin, covering the wars in former Yugoslavia. He was The Tribune’s Moscow correspondent during the Gorbachev era, through the coup and collapse of the Soviet Union.

Rizwan Sheikh
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D.C.



Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh is a career diplomat from Pakistan with over two decades of experience. Before joining the Embassy in Washington D.C., Mr. Sheikh served as Joint Secretary at the National Security Division in Islamabad where he was primarily engaged in drafting Pakistan's first National Security Policy. Earlier, he was deputed to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) General Secretariat in Jeddah where he served for around five years as Secretary General's Spokesman/Executive Director OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC).

Vinny Sica
Vice President, Defense and Intelligence Space Ground Solutions, Lockheed Martin



Vincent "Vinny" Sica is the Vice President of Space Ground Solutions (SGS) for Lockheed Martin's Defense & Intelligence Solutions line of business. Comprised of approximately 4,000 employees and an annual sales base of \$1.3 billion, SGS delivers mission applications in the area of Command and Control, Mission Management, Sensor Processing as well as a significant presence in mission critical Operations across the DOD and Intelligence Community.

Since joining Lockheed Martin in 1984, Vinny served as vice president of IS&GS—National Integrated Ground Solutions programs area, I&TS/LMMS—Special Programs line of business and various levels of leadership and technical positions. In these roles, Vinny was responsible for the management, engineering, development and implementation of a broad portfolio of programs that support the defense and intelligence communities.

Elissa Slotkin
Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs



Elissa Slotkin is currently the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. She is the principal advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense on security strategy and policy issues related to the nations and international organizations of Europe (including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization), Russia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere. She also has oversight for security cooperation programs, including foreign military sales in these regions.

Previously, from September 2012 to January 2015, Ms. Slotkin served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. From July 2013 to August 2014, she performed the duties of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Michael Steinbach
Executive Assistant Director, National Security Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation



Michael Steinbach was appointed as Executive Assistant Director (EAD) of the National Security Branch (NSB) in February 2016. In this position, he is responsible for ensuring the FBI successfully executes its national security mission to defend the United States and its interests from national security threats, ranging from terrorism to espionage to weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Steinbach began his FBI career in April 1995, as a special agent in the Chicago Field Office Fugitive and Violent Crimes/Major Offenders program. In 2003, Mr. Steinbach was promoted to supervisor in the Counterterrorism Division at FBI Headquarters. In this role, he provided program management for FBI operations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and in Afghanistan.

Bret Stephens
Deputy Editor and Foreign Affairs Columnist, *The Wall Street Journal*



Bret Stephens writes “Global View,” the Wall Street Journal’s foreign-affairs column, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2013. He is the paper’s deputy editorial page editor, responsible for the international opinion pages of the Journal, and a member of the paper’s editorial board. He is also a regular panclist on the Journal Editorial Report, a weekly political talk show broadcast on Fox News Channel.

Jessica Stern
Fellow, FXB center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health; Co-Author, *ISIS: The State of Terror*



Jessica Stern is a fellow at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health and a Research Professor at Boston University's Pardee School of Global Studies. She is an Advanced Academic Candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Psychoanalysis and is an expert on terrorism. She serves on the Hoover Institution Task Force on National Security and Law. She is a 2014-2015 Fulbright Scholar, and, in 2009, she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for her work on trauma and violence.

She is a co-author of, *ISIS: The State of Terror*. She is the author of *DENIAL: A Memoir of Terror*, named a best non-fiction book of 2010 by the Washington Post, *Terror In The Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill*, selected by the New York Times as a notable book of the year; *The Ultimate Terrorists*; and numerous articles on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. She served on President Clinton's National Security Council Staff from 1994 to 1995.

Shibley Telhami
Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution;
Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development, University of Maryland



Shibley Telhami is the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland and a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. His best-selling book, *The Stakes: America and the Middle East*, was selected by Foreign Affairs as one of the top five books on the Middle East in 2003. His most recent book, *The World Through Arab Eyes: Arab Public Opinion and the Reshaping of the Middle East*, was published in 2013. Telhami was selected by the Carnegie Corporation of New York along with the New York Times as one of the “Great Immigrants” for 2013.

Dina Temple-Raston
Counterterrorism Correspondent, NPR



Dina Temple-Raston is NPR's counter-terrorism correspondent and has been reporting from all over the world for the network's news magazines since 2007. She recently completed a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University where she studied the intersection of Big Data and intelligence. Prior to NPR, Temple-Raston was a longtime foreign correspondent for Bloomberg News in Asia and covered the Clinton White House. She is the author of four books, including "The Jihad Next Door: Rough Justice in the Age of Terror," about the Lackawanna Six terrorism case.

Raymond “Tony” Thomas
Commander, United States Special Operations Command



General Raymond A. Thomas III currently serves as the 11th Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Prior to assuming command of USSOCOM, Gen. Thomas served as Commander, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Fort Bragg, N.C. GEN Thomas' other assignments as a general officer include: Associate Director for Military Affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency; Commanding General, NATO Special Operations Component Command–Afghanistan; Deputy Commanding General, JSOC; Deputy Director for Special Operations, The Joint Staff in the Pentagon; Assistant Division Commander, 1st Armor Division in Iraq; and Assistant Commanding General, JSOC.

Prior to being promoted to brigadier general, Gen. Thomas also served as the JSOC Chief of Staff and Director of Operations. His other formative and key, joint and special operations assignments include: Commander, Joint Task Force–Bravo, Soto Cano, Honduras; Commander, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Savannah, Georgia; and Commander, B Squadron, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment–Delta, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

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Cui Tiankai
Ambassador of China to the United States



Mr. Cui Tiankai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States. Mr. Cui experienced "educated urban youth in the rural areas" in the first half of 1970's and then studied at Shanghai Normal University and John Hopkins University. After joining the foreign service, he had serviced as spokesman, Director General, Assistant Minister and Vice Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He once worked at Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations as a Minister Counselor and Chinese Embassy in Tokyo as the Ambassador.

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Gregory Treverton
Chairman, National Intelligence Council



Dr. Gregory Treverton, also known as Greg, served as Director, Center for Global Risk and Security at RAND Corporation until August 2014. Dr. Treverton has a unique combination of world class analytic skills, a vast network of global thought leaders and practical experience working in government at the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the National Security Council and the NIC as Vice-Chairman. Dr. Treverton has been Chairman at National Intelligence Council since June 16, 2014.

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon
Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations;
Contributor, Defense One; Author, Ashley's War



Gayle Tzemach Lemmon is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author most recently of the New York Times bestseller *Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield* (2015); as well as the New York Times bestseller *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* (2011), about a young entrepreneur who supported her community under the Taliban.

Lemmon began her career as a journalist in Washington, D.C. From 1997 to 2004, she covered presidential politics and public policy issues for the ABC News Political Unit and served as an editorial producer during the first year of *This Week* with George Stephanopoulos. In 2004, she left ABC News to pursue her interest in international development and began MBA study at Harvard. It was during this time that she began reporting from conflict regions.

She has reported on Afghanistan since 2005, when she made her first trip to the country. She has written about the country's politics and economy, the evolving roles of Afghan women and the small but important class of young entrepreneurs for publications including *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *Fast Company*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *Newsweek Daily Beast*.

Joseph Votel
Commander, United States Central Command



General Joseph Votel is the tenth commander of the United States Special Operations Command. He is responsible for U.S. Special Operations Forces worldwide. General Votel's previous assignments include Commanding General of Joint Special Operations Command, Deputy Commanding General for CJTF-82 in Operation Enduring Freedom, Deputy Director of the Joint IED Defeat Organization established under the Deputy of the Secretary of Defense, Commander of 75th Ranger Regiment, and Commander of a Light Infantry Battalion. General Votel is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

Patrick Walsh
Senior Vice President, iSight Partners; General Manger, ThreatSPACE



Admiral Patrick M. Walsh is Senior Vice President, iSIGHT Partners, and General Manager of iSIGHT Partners' ThreatSpace® business unit, a live-fire cyber range and training facility where cyber security organizations earn hands-on experience in responding to cyber attacks.

Admiral Walsh, a Dallas native, retired from the Navy in 2012, after serving as the 59th Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. He is a two-time Exercise RIMPAC leader, acting as the multinational strike group commander in 2004, and as overall operational leader in 2010. With a 35-year career in training and leading joint forces, Walsh enables iSIGHT Partners to deliver specialized cyber training to large-scale and joint cyber security response operations.

Margaret Warner
Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, PBS NewsHour



Margaret Warner is Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for the PBS NewsHour, reporting on US foreign policy and developments abroad. Ten years ago, she founded the NewsHour's Overseas Reporting Unit. She's produced in-depth reports on areas in crisis—including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Russia, France, Britain, Germany, China, and Korea. Her coverage of Pakistan won her an Emmy Award, and the Edward Weintal Prize for International Reporting from Georgetown University. A Yale graduate and former fellow of the Yale Corporation, she serves on the board of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Peter Westmacott
Former Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States



Peter Westmacott was educated at New College Oxford, where he read History and French, and joined the Diplomatic Service in 1972. He is the current UK Ambassador to the United States. Prior to his posting in the United States, Peter served as Ambassador to France, and Ambassador to Turkey; spending most of his career working in or on the non-Arab Middle East (Iran and Turkey), Western Europe, and the Americas. From 1990 to 1993, he was Deputy Private Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales, and served as Director, Americas at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London in 1997. Peter is married to Susie Nemazee and between them they have four grown-up children.

Peter Wittig
Ambassador of Germany to the United States



Peter Wittig has served as German Ambassador to the United States since April 2014. Prior to this, he was German Ambassador to the United Nations in New York and represented Germany during its tenure as a member of the United Nations Security Council in 2011 and 2012. There, he drew on his wide expertise in United Nations matters, having previously served as Director-General for United Nations and Global Issues at the German Foreign Office in Berlin.

Wittig joined the German Foreign Service in 1982. He has served at the Embassy in Madrid; as private secretary to the Foreign Minister at the headquarters, then located in Bonn; and as Ambassador in Lebanon and in Cyprus. He was the German Government Special Envoy on the “Cyprus question” (the division of Cyprus). He has acquired extensive knowledge of the Middle East.

Staff Responsible: Sarah Morgenthau, Deputy Assistant Secretary, OPE/PSO, 202-282-9861.

**MOREHOUSE COLLEGE CROWN FORUM
Topline Messaging**

Louisiana Flooding Relief Efforts

Last week, I traveled to Baton Rouge to meet with state and local officials and to review and survey response and recovery efforts in areas affected by the severe flooding.

FEMA, through its regional office in Denton, Texas, and U.S. Coast Guard, under the coordination of Coast Guard Sector New Orleans, continue to engage in response efforts throughout Louisiana as flooding continues across areas of the Gulf Coast. FEMA and Coast Guard crews are on the ground in Louisiana in close coordination with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Louisiana National Guard.

Residents in potentially affected areas should follow the instructions of state and local officials and monitor local radio or television stations for updated emergency information.

In times of severe weather, the first responders are local emergency and public works personnel, volunteers, humanitarian organizations, and numerous private interest groups. The individuals within these organizations provide emergency assistance to protect the public's health and safety and services to meet immediate needs.

Q: How did FEMA assist in relief efforts?

- FEMA established an Incident Support Base in Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Louisiana, to pre-position supplies including water, meals, cots, and blankets closer to affected areas should they be needed and requested.
 - FEMA has made more than 726,000 liters of water and more than 812,000 meals available to the state for distribution. Over 20,000 cots and 42,000 blankets have also been made available to the state for distribution.
- As of Monday morning, more than 110,000 individuals and households have registered with FEMA for assistance, and more than \$74 million has been approved to help survivors with temporary rental assistance, essential home repairs, and other serious disaster-related needs.

Q: How can the public access FEMA resources?

- Residents and business owners in declared counties who sustained losses can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
- People can also download the FEMA application on their smart phone to locate and get directions to open shelters across the state, and receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

DHS Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative

Protecting the Nation from cyber-attacks will require a trained and mentally-agile workforce. One of the Department's highest priorities is to acquire, grow, and sustain the most talented people in cybersecurity.

Through the DHS Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative, the Department is hiring a diverse group of cybersecurity professionals to secure the Nation's digital assets and critical infrastructure. That includes computer engineers, scientists, analysts, and Information Technology (IT) specialists.

DHS is also building strong cybersecurity career paths within the Department and in partnership with other government agencies. To accomplish this critical task, we have created a number of very competitive scholarship, fellowship, and internship programs to attract top talent.

Q: How is DHS's effort to hire cyber professionals progressing?

- We are focused on attracting, training, and retaining quality IT professionals to DHS. We do this in part by supporting the CyberSkills Management Support Initiative (CMSI) to develop and execute programs that will create, enhance, and support a top-notch cyber workforce.
- We have also developed and leveraged the National Workforce Framework to identify the critical skills needed to create an agile cyber workforce.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's Countering Violent Extremism efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is, in my judgement, as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

In our efforts to build these bridges, what I consistently hear that ISIL has hijacked their religion and they do not represent Islam. They are a terrorist organization claiming the banner of Islam and to refer to the Islamic State or al-Qaeda as "Islamic extremism," suggests the notion that they occupy an aspect of their religion.

Moving forward, building bridges with Muslim communities and integrating them into the fabric of our society is crucial to our homeland security efforts.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the Homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by, may never have trained with the organization, may never have been to Iraq or Syria, may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader, but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.
- The Countering Violent Extremism Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by

FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.

- The Department has also recently announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 CVE Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the Homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families, and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.
- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

Syrian Refugee Vetting and Resettlement

The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other.

The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, all refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of a comprehensive and stringent security screening.

Q: How many Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States?

- The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe that these goals are mutually exclusive.
- As of August 19, 2016, we have resettled 9,098 Syrian refugees, while another 7,265 have been approved for resettlement, and 1,929 have been conditionally approved pending security checks. The State Department estimates that at least 10,000 Syrian refugees will be admitted by the end of FY 2016.
- We have prioritized the most vulnerable of Syrian refugees for resettlement, which include the victims of the violence perpetrated by both the Assad regime and ISIL in Syria.

Q: Does DHS feel comfortable that existing refugee security screening practices are sufficient to identify Syria-based extremists?

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for applicants of all nationalities. The refugee vetting process in place today employs the highest security measures of any immigrant or non-immigrant travel program to protect against risks to our national security and USCIS continues to engage with law enforcement agencies to ensure that refugee vetting for Syrian applicants is as robust as possible.

Q: Do intelligence and vetting gaps in the refugee process still exist? If so, what is being done to fix them?

- Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. Screening procedures have been expanded over time to include a broader range of checks and applicants. Screening partners include the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the FBI, DHS, DOD, and other Intelligence Community and law enforcement members.

- We are deeply committed to safeguarding the American public, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other. We have admitted three million refugees since 1975, and have a great deal of experience in safely admitting vulnerable refugees from around the world.

Q: Has DHS identified any opportunities for enhancing current security screening practices?

- DHS and USCIS have been working with Intelligence Community members to identify additional screening opportunities leveraging unique holdings and capabilities. Security screening continuously evolves, and new enhancements to security screening practices have come on line and been refined as recently as this fiscal year. USCIS has operationalized manual Facebook checks for Syrian refugee enhanced review cases.

Q: Where in the United States have Syrian refugees been resettled?

- DOS works with a network of domestic resettlement agencies to make initial placement decisions for newly arriving refugees. In some instances, this is driven by the location of relatives already residing in the United States or by particularized medical needs.
- In FY 2015, the largest placement states were Texas, California, and Illinois.

Q: There have been varying data reports on the ratio of men to women and children coming into our borders. Most of the statistics I have come across indicate that the majority of Syrian refugees are predominately males while a small percentage remains women and children. Is this true? And if so, what is the correct ratio of Syrian refugee men to women and children?

- The overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees we have accepted and will accept are families, children, and other especially vulnerable refugees, such as victims of torture and those with medical needs or disabilities.

Q: As we welcome an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees in FY 2016 alone, how are you and your partner agencies planning to monitor admitted refugees to ensure violent extremists have not infiltrated their ranks?

- Refugees undergo a rigorous screening process prior to their admission into the United States. The process is the most robust for any category of individuals seeking admission into the United States. The process is multi-layered and intensive. It involves multiple law enforcement, national security, and intelligence agencies across the Federal Government. Only those satisfying these rigorous requirements are admitted into the United States as refugees.

Southwest Border Security

The Department of Homeland Security and its interagency partners continue to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Central America and current migration trends.

We are working aggressively to address the underlying causes of this migration, to deter future increases and support broader regional efforts to provide avenues for protection of vulnerable populations in Central America.

While CBP has registered an increase in the number of apprehensions of unaccompanied children (UAC) and families over the past several months, this upward rise is not incongruous with seasonal trends. Furthermore, the number of FY 2016 apprehensions are significantly less than the number of apprehensions in FY 2014. Total apprehensions across our entire Southwest border remain at near-historic lows.

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala make up the majority of unaccompanied children and family unit apprehensions, and general conditions related to the economy and violence in those countries continue to serve as push factors leading to migration northward.

As I have said repeatedly, our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values. At the same time, we will work to protect vulnerable populations in Central America, in accordance with our legal and humanitarian obligations.

Q: Can you comment on the latest apprehension numbers?

- In July 2016, apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border—an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally—decreased from May and June 2016.
- Of the overall 33,737 total Border Patrol apprehensions on the southwest border reported in July 2016, 5,068 were unaccompanied children and 7,574 were members of family units traveling together.

Q: What are the criteria for migrants targeted for removal?

- Our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values.
- Recent enforcement actions, which focus on those apprehended at the border on or after January 1, 2014, continue.

- With respect to family units, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are adults and their children who:
 - Were apprehended after January 1, 2014;
 - Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court; and
 - Have exhausted appropriate legal remedies, and have no outstanding appeal or claim for asylum or other humanitarian relief under our laws.
- With respect to unaccompanied children, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are unaccompanied children who:
 - Entered the United States illegally as unaccompanied children after January 1, 2014;
 - Are now over 18 year of age;
 - Have been ordered removed by an immigration court, and;
 - Have no pending appeal or claim of asylum or other relief.

Q: How will the Department continue to strategize on this issue?

- We recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. More border security and removals, by themselves, will not overcome the underlying conditions that currently exist in Central America.
- In the meantime, DHS and DOS are accelerating the development of new mechanisms to process and screen Central American refugees in the region.
- We are expanding access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the region and developing more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.
- With DOJ, we are also doubling down on our efforts to apprehend and prosecute smugglers through initiatives like Operation Coyote.
- We support DOJ's efforts to ensure that as many unaccompanied children as possible have appropriate representation.
 - To support improving the process for all those in immigration proceedings, the Administration has requested over \$17 million as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request to support long-standing critical initiatives that provide legal assistance services and information to vulnerable immigrants.
 - This includes over \$1 million for Justice AmeriCorps—a program that specifically provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors.

Q: The President of the National Border Patrol Council said that agents are being told to “stand down” and let immigrants go. Is that true?

- The assertion that there exists some Department policy requiring U.S. Border Patrol agents to release undocumented immigrants apprehended at the border and not provide an effective response to an attempted illegal entry simply has no basis in fact. This assertion is also wholly inconsistent with the actual direction and training agents have received.

- The U.S. Border Patrol continues to enforce immigration laws consistent with the Department's enforcement priorities, which are focused on border security, national security, and public safety. As I have said many times, our border is not open to illegal migration, and those cross the border illegally will be sent back.
- The Border Patrol's resources are most effectively focused on the border—prioritizing the apprehension and removal of individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. Our removal numbers reflect this prioritization. Border Patrol Agents are issuing Notices to Appear, consistent with law, regulation, and the Department's enforcement priorities.

Need for Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency

Cybersecurity has emerged as one of our country's most important national security priorities, as a range of range of traditional crimes are now perpetrated through cyberspace including threats to the Nation's critical infrastructure.

Over the last few years, our cyber operations have become more unified, agile and effective in the face of a growing and evolving threat environment. Now we believe we need an agency focused on cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, and so our vision is to reform, rebuild the National Protection and Programs Directorate, which is a directorate, into a Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency.

These efforts are being closely coordinated with internal and external stakeholders. The proposed structure would realign the Component's programs and functions, allowing for enhanced operations and performance of its critical mission while implementing efficiencies.

Q: What is the status of the transition from NPPD to CIP?

- We continue to work with our partners in Congress, as completing these transition efforts will require congressional action.
- We provided a report to Congress with specifics regarding the organization and additional capabilities of the new CIP structure. We continue to listen to feedback from internal and external stakeholders, as well as members of Congress.

Staff Responsible: Todd Breasscale, Assistant Secretary, OPA,

(b)(6)

**ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
53RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
September 3, 2016**

Overview:

- You will address the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) at the 53rd annual convention. You will be the first sitting Cabinet Secretary to represent the President by addressing the annual convention.
- The convention will take place in Rosemont, just west of downtown Chicago and near the Chicago O'Hare Airport.
- You will be introduced by Islamic Society of North America Vice President Dr. Altaf Husain and will recognize Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Keith Ellison (DFL-MN), and Andre Carson (D-IN).
- You will be staffed by Director George Selim. A full list of participants is below.

Event Demographics/Venue Information

- The theme of the 53rd annual convention at the Rosemont Convention Center is, *"Turning Points: Navigating Challenges, Seizing Opportunities."*
- About 10,000 people are expected to attend the convention, which is the largest annual faith gathering in the United States. The audience will primarily be American Muslims.
- Featured speakers at the 2016 convention include: Khizr and Ghazala Khan, parents of a deceased Muslim U.S. soldier; Linda Sarsour, community activist in New York; Imam Majid, ADAMS mosque; and Mehdi Hassan, a British political journalist.
- One of the main activities at the convention will be the "Islamic Society of North America Bazaar" with more than 500 booths with 300 vendors.
- The convention represents a broad spectrum of the Muslim community in America, so the Bazaar provides an opportunity for businesses to understand the unique needs of their customers.
- The event will be **OPEN PRESS**.

Background:

- The Islamic Society of North America has served American Muslims for over 40 years to build bridges of understanding and cooperation. The Islamic Society of North America aims to be an exemplary and unifying Islamic organization that contributes to the betterment of the Muslim community and society at large.
- On Wednesday September 24, 2016, you met with leaders from the Islamic Society of North America to discuss the 53rd annual convention, key themes, and your remarks.
- You specifically spoke to the Islamic Society of North America's President Azhar Azeez, Vice President Perviz Nasim, National Director Dr. Sayyid Syeed, and Member Rizwan Jaka.

- Islamic Society of North America members around the Nation continue to provide a critical network of stakeholders and partners for CRCL since the onset of the CRCL Community Engagement program. The CRCL Community Engagement program is designed to address grievances and explore community-based solutions toward protecting civil rights, building trust between law enforcement agencies and communities, and supporting community resilience programs and initiatives
- CRCL coordinated engagements for you with a number of the featured speakers at the Islamic Society of North America, including: The ADAMS Mosque community engagement with Imam Majid and the Brennan Center for Justice meeting on countering violent extremism in New York City with Linda Sarsour. Both of these engagements occurred in 2015.
- A substantive element of the conference is the extensive roundtable discussions. For two days, at least four concurrent roundtable discussions will take place to address relevant social justice issues including race matters, refugee challenges, and hate crimes. This year, CRCL was an invited panelist on the “Drugs, Gangs, Human Trafficking, and the Muslim American Youth” roundtable.

Participants:

Secretary Johnson
George Selim, Director, OCP
Haroon Azar, Regional Director, OCP
Nabeela Barbari, Policy Adviser, CRCL
Pedro Ribeiro, Deputy Assistant Secretary, OPA
Neema Hakim, Assistant Press Secretary, OPA

Attachments:

- A. Remarks
- B. Topline Messaging
- C. Invitation

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Nate Snyder, Principal Senior Adviser, OCP,

(b)(6)

**ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA 53RD CONVENTION
TOPLINE MESSAGING**

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's Countering Violent Extremism efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is, in my judgement, as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

In our efforts to build these bridges, what I consistently hear is that ISIL has hijacked their religion and they do not represent Islam. They are a terrorist organization claiming the banner of Islam, and to refer to the Islamic State or al-Qaeda as "Islamic extremism," wrongly suggests the notion that they occupy an aspect of the religion.

Moving forward, building bridges with Muslim communities and integrating them into the fabric of our society is crucial to our homeland security efforts.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the Homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by, may never have trained with the organization, may never have been to Iraq or Syria, may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader, but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.

- The Countering Violent Extremism Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.
- The Department has also recently announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 CVE Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the Homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families, and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.
- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

Staff Responsible: Todd Brasseale, Assistant Secretary, OPA, (b)(6)

**Middle Eastern Law Enforcement Officers Association
Inaugural Conference
August 10, 2016**

Overview:

- You will participate in the first annual National Diversity Conference of the Middle Eastern Law Enforcement Officers Association (MELOA). Representatives Debbie Dingell and John Conyers will be in attendance but have no planned speaking roles.
- You will deliver brief remarks as a part of the opening ceremony and presentation of the colors. You will speak after Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske and Director Sarah Saldaña present. MELOA President Steve Francis will emcee the event.
- Your participation at this conference is an opportunity to acknowledge and support MELOA's mission as a DHS-recognized association. This conference also presents an opening to encourage further expansion of outreach efforts in Chicago, San Diego, and New York.
- You will be staffed by Director George Selim. A full list of participants is attached.
- This event is **CLOSED PRESS**.
 - There will be an opportunity to take photographs following the opening ceremony.

Event Demographics/Venue Information

- There will be approximately 180 people in attendance.
- The audience will be composed of MELOA members such as federal and local law enforcement, as well as students from the greater Detroit area, and community leaders from civil society.
- You will be in a large conference room on a stage with panel seating and a podium. The audience will be seated at reception-style tables.

Discussion Points:

- Acknowledge how engagement with the Middle Eastern communities across the Nation has become a central focus of DHS and how MELOA advances this important initiative at a grassroots level.
- Recognize that MELOA is a self-initiated association started by DHS employees who are giving back to their communities by building trust through community engagement and focus on youth programs.
- Emphasize how a diverse work force brings different strengths and talents to DHS.

Background:

- You met with MELOA members for their launch event in Dearborn, Michigan, on January 13, 2016, and you challenged the organization to expand and organize—this conference is in part an answer to that call.
- MELOA has three key initiatives they are going to highlight during the discussion:
 - Building trust in Middle Eastern communities by having special agents and officers partner with local law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations, schools, and community-based groups.

- Creating a platform for DHS personnel of Middle Eastern descent to engage in mentoring and professional development.
- Countering violent extremism by developing trusting partnerships, and sustained charitable and humanitarian activities in the community.
- The association was established in April 2015 and incorporated in the State of Michigan in May 2015. The Department recognized the association in October 2015. MELO was recognized as a nonprofit 501(c)3 association in November 2015.
- Since its creation, MELOA has conducted numerous community engagements and volunteer activities in the Detroit metropolitan area.
- With a focus on supporting local law enforcement agencies with community engagement efforts, language assistance, and cultural awareness training, CRCL's Community Engagement Section will work closely with MELOA. CRCL will leverage existing resources and expertise, including its standing regular community engagement process for the Detroit metropolitan area.
- The organization is reflective of the surrounding community, representative of but not limited to, American Muslim, Arab American, Chaldean American, East African American, Jewish American, and Albanian American communities. MELOA is a multicultural grassroots law enforcement organization.
- MELOA has recently established a student engagement initiative, hoping to involve college students in the Detroit metropolitan area to further build trust in surrounding communities. Their first student intern is a young local Muslim woman and is scheduled to participate at the conference.

Participants: (see attached for full list)

Secretary Johnson
R. Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner, CBP
Sarah Saldaña, Director, ICE
George Selim, Director, OCP
Nate Snyder, Principal Senior Adviser, OCP
Megan Mack, Officer, CRCL
Nabeela Barbari, Senior Policy Advisor, CRCL

Attachments:

- A. Remarks
- B. Agenda
- C. Full attendee list
- D. Participant handout
- E. Biographies

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Nate Snyder, Principal Senior Adviser, OCP,

(b)(6)

**DUKE UNIVERSITY SANFORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM
Topline Messaging**

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

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OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is in my judgement as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

In our efforts to build these bridges, what I consistently hear that ISIL has hijacked their religion and they do not represent Islam. They are a terrorist organization claiming the banner of Islam and to refer to the Islamic State or al-Qaeda as "Islamic extremism," suggests the notion that they occupy an aspect of their religion.

Moving forward, building bridges with Muslim communities and integrating them into the fabric of our society is crucial to our homeland security efforts.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the Homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by; may never have trained with the organization; may never have been to Iraq or Syria; may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

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- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

Syrian Refugee Vetting and Resettlement

The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other.

The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, all refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of a comprehensive and stringent security screening.

Q: How many Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States?

- The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe that these goals are mutually exclusive.
- As of August 19, 2016, we have resettled 9,098 Syrian refugees, while another 7,265 have been approved for resettlement, and 1,929 have been conditionally approved pending security checks. The State Department estimates that at least 10,000 Syrian refugees will be admitted by the end of FY 2016.
- We have prioritized the most vulnerable of Syrian refugees for resettlement, which include the victims of the violence perpetrated by both the Assad regime and ISIL in Syria.

Q: Does DHS feel comfortable that existing refugee security screening practices are sufficient to identify Syria-based extremists?

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for applicants of all nationalities. The refugee vetting process in place today employs the highest security measures of any immigrant or non-immigrant travel program to protect against risks to our national security and USCIS continues to engage with law enforcement agencies to ensure that refugee vetting for Syrian applicants is as robust as possible.

Q: Do intelligence and vetting gaps in the refugee process still exist? If so, what is being done to fix them?

- Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. Screening procedures have been expanded over time to include a broader range of checks and applicants. Screening partners include the National Counterterrorism Center, FBI, DHS, DOD, and other Intelligence Community and law enforcement members.

- We are deeply committed to safeguarding the American public, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other. We have admitted three million refugees since 1975, and have a great deal of experience in safely admitting vulnerable refugees from around the world.

Q: Has DHS identified any opportunities for enhancing current security screening practices?

- DHS and USCIS have been working with Intelligence Community members to identify additional screening opportunities leveraging unique holdings and capabilities. Security screening continuously evolves, and new enhancements to security screening practices have come on line and been refined as recently as this fiscal year. USCIS has operationalized manual Facebook checks for Syrian refugee enhanced review cases.

Q: Where in the United States have Syrian refugees been resettled?

- DOS works with a network of domestic resettlement agencies to make initial placement decisions for newly arriving refugees. In some instances, this is driven by the location of relatives already residing in the United States or by particularized medical needs.
- In FY 2015, the largest placement states were Texas, California, and Illinois.

Q: There have been varying data reports on the ratio of men to women and children coming into our borders. Most of the statistics I have come across indicate that the majority of Syrian refugees are predominately males while a small percentage remains women and children. Is this true? And if so, what is the correct ratio of Syrian refugee men to women and children?

- The overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees we have accepted and will accept are families, children, and other especially vulnerable refugees, such as victims of torture and those with medical needs or disabilities.

Q: As we welcome an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees in FY 2016 alone, how are you and your partner agencies planning to monitor admitted refugees to ensure violent extremists have not infiltrated their ranks?

- Refugees undergo a rigorous screening process prior to their admission into the United States. The process is the most robust for any category of individuals seeking admission into the United States. The process is multi-layered and intensive. It involves multiple law enforcement, national security, and intelligence agencies across the Federal Government. Only those satisfying these rigorous requirements are admitted into the United States as refugees.

Southwest Border Security

The Department of Homeland Security and its interagency partners continue to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Central America and current migration trends.

We are working aggressively to address the underlying causes of this migration, to deter future increases and support broader regional efforts to provide avenues for protection of vulnerable populations in Central America.

While CBP has registered an increase in the number of apprehensions of unaccompanied children (UAC) and families over the past several months, this upward rise is not incongruous with seasonal trends. Furthermore, the number of FY 2016 apprehensions are significantly less than the number of apprehensions in FY 2014. Total apprehensions across our entire Southwest border remain at near-historic lows.

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala make up the majority of unaccompanied children and family unit apprehensions, and general conditions related to the economy and violence in those countries continue to serve as push factors leading to migration northward.

As I have said repeatedly, our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values. At the same time, we will work to protect vulnerable populations in Central America, in accordance with our legal and humanitarian obligations.

Q: Can you comment on the latest apprehension numbers?

- In July 2016, apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border—an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally—decreased from May and June 2016.
- Of the overall 33,737 total Border Patrol apprehensions on the southwest border reported in July 2016, 5,068 were unaccompanied children and 7,574 were members of family units traveling together.

Q: What are the criteria for migrants targeted for removal?

- Our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values.
- Recent enforcement actions, which focus on those apprehended at the border on or after January 1, 2014, continue.

- With respect to family units, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are adults and their children who:
 - Were apprehended after January 1, 2014;
 - Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court; and
 - Have exhausted appropriate legal remedies, and have no outstanding appeal or claim for asylum or other humanitarian relief under our laws.
- With respect to unaccompanied children, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are unaccompanied children who:
 - Entered the United States illegally as unaccompanied children after January 1, 2014;
 - Are now over 18 year of age;
 - Have been ordered removed by an immigration court, and;
 - Have no pending appeal or claim of asylum or other relief.

Q: How will the Department continue to strategize on this issue?

- We recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. More border security and removals, by themselves, will not overcome the underlying conditions that currently exist in Central America.
- In the meantime, DHS and DOS are accelerating the development of new mechanisms to process and screen Central American refugees in the region.
- We are expanding access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the region and developing more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.
- With DOJ, we are also doubling down on our efforts to apprehend and prosecute smugglers through initiatives like Operation Coyote.
- We support DOJ's efforts to ensure that as many unaccompanied children as possible have appropriate representation.
 - To support improving the process for all those in immigration proceedings, the Administration has requested over \$17 million as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request to support long-standing critical initiatives that provide legal assistance services and information to vulnerable immigrants.
 - This includes over \$1 million for Justice AmeriCorps—a program that specifically provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors.

Q: The President of the National Border Patrol Council said that agents are being told to “stand down” and let immigrants go. Is that true?

- The assertion that there exists some Department policy requiring U.S. Border Patrol agents to release undocumented immigrants apprehended at the border and not provide an effective response to an attempted illegal entry simply has no basis in fact. This assertion is also wholly inconsistent with the actual direction and training agents have received.

- The U.S. Border Patrol continues to enforce immigration laws consistent with the Department's enforcement priorities, which are focused on border security, national security, and public safety. As I have said many times, our border is not open to illegal migration, and those cross the border illegally will be sent back.
- The Border Patrol's resources are most effectively focused on the border—prioritizing the apprehension and removal of individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. Our removal numbers reflect that. Border Patrol Agents are issuing Notices to Appear, consistent with law, regulation, and the Department's enforcement priorities.

Need for Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency

Cybersecurity has emerged as one of our country's most important national security priorities, as a range of range of traditional crimes are now perpetrated through cyberspace including threats to the Nation's critical infrastructure.

Over the last few years, our cyber operations have become more unified, agile and effective in the face of a growing and evolving threat environment. Now we believe we need an agency focused on cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, and so our vision is to reform, rebuild the National Protection and Programs Directorate, which is a directorate, into a Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency.

These efforts are being closely coordinated with internal and external stakeholders. The proposed structure would realign the Component's programs and functions, allowing for enhanced operations and performance of its critical mission while implementing efficiencies.

Q: What is the status of the transition from NPPD to CIP?

- We continue to work with our partners in Congress, as completing these transition efforts will require congressional action.
- We provided a report to Congress with specifics regarding the organization and additional capabilities of the new CIP structure. We continue to listen to feedback from internal and external stakeholders, as well as members of Congress.

DHS Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative

Protecting the Nation from cyber-attacks will require a trained and mentally-agile workforce. One of the Department's highest priorities is to acquire, grow and sustain the most talented people in cybersecurity.

Through the DHS Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative, the Department is hiring a diverse group of cybersecurity professionals to secure the Nation's digital assets and critical infrastructure. That includes computer engineers, scientists, analysts, and Information Technology (IT) specialists.

DHS is also building strong cybersecurity career paths within the Department and in partnership with other government agencies. To accomplish this critical task, we have created a number of very competitive scholarship, fellowship, and internship programs to attract top talent.

Q: How is DHS's effort to hire cyber professionals progressing?

- We are focused on attracting, training, and retaining quality IT professionals to DHS. We do this in part by supporting the CyberSkills Management Support Initiative (CMSI) to develop and execute programs that will create, enhance, and support a top-notch cyber workforce.
- We have also developed and leverage the National Workforce Framework to identify the critical skills needed to create an agile cyber workforce.

Staff Responsible: Todd Breasscale, Assistant Secretary, OPA, (b)(6)

**Remarks for Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh C. Johnson
ASIS 2016
Orlando, Florida
September 12, 2016**

Thank you. It's good to see so many familiar faces. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you at ASIS 2016. It's a privilege to be here among the greatest security minds in the world.

I'd especially like to commend you on your inaugural Security Week. I'd like to recognize my Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, Caitlin Durkovich. The Office of Infrastructure Protection has been hard at work to help ASIS stand up Security Week, ultimately with the goal to make our communities more secure and resilient.

I have been very fortunate to serve as your Secretary of Homeland Security for nearly three years. I am proud of what we have accomplished in that time. With Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas as my partner, we've pursued an aggressive agenda.

We've issued executive actions on immigration, to do what we could when a do-nothing Congress refused to fix a broken system. We've eliminated stovepipes and streamlined management processes at the third-largest department in the government. We've used grant programs to give cops and communities the resources they need to make their hometowns safer. We've managed immigration flows and improved our border security. We revised the NTAS to better explain and communicate threats to the American public. We launched our automated information sharing system to improve cybersecurity. And just last month, we helped President Obama accomplish our national goal of accepting 10,000 Syrian refugees.

And we're not through yet. There are 130 days left in this Administration—yes, I'm counting, and I assure you the President is, too—and there is still a great deal we want to accomplish. I don't do a lot of camping, but I want to obey the campsite rule—leave a place better than you found it.

One way is by asking Congress to give me the authority to stand up a new Operational Component within DHS, the Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency. The headquarters directorate that currently has this mission is the National Protection and Programs Directorate, or NPPD. They have a very big job, protecting government and private sector networks, systems, and assets from cyber and physical threats. The Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Agency would build capacity in both government and the private sector to manage these risks in a way that reflects the convergence of the cyber and physical worlds. Standing up a Cyber and Infrastructure Agency is a logical and much-needed step to ensure we're positioned to execute this vital mission. I hope you will join me in urging Congress to make this possible.

As some of you may know, I'm an avid student of history. This week marks a significant anniversary in the history of homeland security. In fact, this week marks three significant attacks on our Nation and its people.

I was in New York yesterday, commemorating the most recent one—the fifteenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Like many Americans, I have vivid recollections of that day, which happens to be my birthday. I was in my office in Manhattan that morning. As the smoke rose and the towers fell, it was the one moment in my life that I literally could not believe my eyes. As the Secretary of Homeland Security, it's a sobering reminder of my Department's origins.

The terrorists who attacked us struck at what they believed were symbols of American power. In New York, they attacked our economic strength; in Arlington, they attacked our military strength. But they were mistaken. The true strength of this Nation lies not in the steel and cement of an office building, but in the determination and resilience of the American people themselves.

On the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11, we remember the lives lost on that tragic day, but we also celebrate our country's strength and optimism. What terrorists reduced to rubble fifteen years ago is now a gleaming tower, the tallest in the Western Hemisphere. It is—not coincidentally—1,776 feet tall. As President Obama inscribed on a beam that is now placed at the top of the tower, “We remember, we rebuild, we come back stronger!”

But September 11, 2001, was not the first devastating attack to target the financial centers of New York City. This week marks the 96th anniversary of the Wall Street bombing of September 16, 1920. Terrorists—who were never identified, but are suspected of being Italian anarchists—killed 38 people and injured hundreds of others in a lunchtime attacks. They didn't use box cutters or hijacked airplanes. They didn't use anthrax or high powered rifles. They used a horse-drawn wagon, loaded with explosives, and abandoned on the Financial District's busiest corner.

At the time, it was the deadliest terrorist attack in American history. But as I have said many times, terrorism cannot prevail among a Nation of people who refuse to be terrorized. It is true today, and it was true in 1920. Within a minute of the bombing, the president of the New York Stock Exchange suspended trading, so the markets wouldn't panic. Civilians rushed to help complete strangers. One seventeen year-old messenger commandeered a car and took 30 survivors to the hospital. And the next day, which happened to be Constitution Day, thousands of people rallied in defiance of the attack and stood united in support of their city.

The third attack, which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. described as “one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetuated against humanity” took place this week 53 years ago. On September 15, 1965, in an act of homegrown terrorism, four members of the Ku Klux Klan bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

The church was a place of peace, a place where civil rights activists would gather to fight segregation. The morning of the bombing, the congregants were preparing for a sermon entitled “A Love That Forgives.” In the basement of the church, children were changing into their choir robes. Suddenly, an explosion rocked the church. The blast was so severe a passing motorist was blown out of his car. Four young girls were dead, and 22 other people were wounded, some severely.

But again, even in the face of murder, hate, and warped ideology, people came together. There was collective national outrage at this heinous attack, and the toxic culture of segregation. The people demanded change. Less than a year after the horrific bombing, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As history shows, there have always been people who threaten and carry out unspeakable attacks against our American values and our American way of life. The threats look different, *are* different. But history also shows that the people of our Nation are stronger than those who seek to terrorize us. And we are strongest when we all work together.

It's why we value our relationships with the ASIS community. People from all ranks, at organizations of all sizes, in locations all across the globe, coming together with a single purpose: advancing security worldwide.

Public-private partnerships are key to this collective strength. Keeping our country secure is too big for any one company, agency, or even Department to take on alone. We have to pool our talents and our resources, working together to solve our greatest security challenges.

I emphasize public-private partnerships because homeland security is everyone's responsibility. As I have said many times before, we are in a new phase in the global terrorist threat. We have moved from a world of terrorist-directed attacks to a world that includes the threat of terrorist-inspired attacks. We need look no farther than our host city of Orlando to know this is tragic and true.

The deadly shooting at the Pulse nightclub was the worst in U.S. history. It was an act of terror and an act of hate. And unfortunately, by their nature, terrorist-inspired attacks are difficult to detect. They occur with little or no notice, and this generally makes for a more complex homeland security challenge.

And it's not just nightclubs in Orlando. It's subway systems in London. Concerts in Paris. Airports in Brussels. Churches in Charleston.

But we are not powerless. There is a role for each of us to play in securing our communities, and the things we hold dear.

At the heart of it, homeland security starts with *hometown* security. I would again like to commend ASIS for making Security Week part of this year's conference, because nothing is more important than the place we call home.

Communities are the first line of defense in keeping the public safe and secure. So we're working closely with private sector and community partners to help them protect themselves through DHS's Hometown Security initiative.

Hometown Security is designed for small- and medium-sized businesses, and people who organize public gatherings that extremists might consider soft targets. We want to protect our restaurants, clubs, grocery stores, places of worship, and other places where people gather, places where a community thrives.

The Hometown Security portal on DHS.gov makes it easier and more efficient for the public to find free, useful information to enhance their security. It includes existing tools and resources, like Ready.gov, as well as new resources like a fact sheet that gives small- and mid-sized businesses a security road map.

We encourage community partners to take four proactive steps to prepare for active shooter or terrorist incidents. They are Connect, Plan, Train, and Report.

First—Connect. Reach out and develop relationships in your community, including local law enforcement. Having these relationships established before a crisis can help speed up the response if something happens and there's no time to waste.

Second—Plan. Think about how you would handle different emergency events. How would you handle an active shooter situation? Or a suspicious package? Or a superstorm? Learn from other events, and let that inform your planning. Hoping that nothing ever goes wrong is *not* a plan.

Third—Train. Once you've made a plan, practice it. Know who to call. Know where to go. Know what to do. And make sure your employees, colleagues, and family members know what to do, too.

And finally—Report. If You Something, Say Something™ is more than just a slogan. It's a practical action anyone can do that has the power to save lives.

On our Hometown Security portal, we have links to help local businesses and organizers take each of these steps. One of the most valuable resources we offer—which you can find on the portal—is the DHS Protective Security Advisor program.

Our Protective Security Advisors, or PSAs, work with critical infrastructure owners and operators, as well as with government partners in every state, sharing information about Hometown Security actions. They also conduct vulnerability assessments, coordinate training, and support event security operations. I strongly encourage businesses and organizations to reach out to the PSA in your community.

Further, our Cyber Security Advisors, or CSAs, provide that regional and national cyber security presence, which serves to bolster cyber security preparedness, risk mitigation, and incident response capabilities with you, our private and government sector partners. These CSAs are designed to provide a front line approach and to promote resilience of key cyber infrastructures across the Nation.

We know that terrorists will use any weapon at their disposal to accomplish their vile mission. They have used bombs, box cutters, even trucks driven into unsuspecting crowds. But here in the United States, they often use guns. An FBI study released in June noted that there were 20 active shooter incidents in 2014 and 2015. That's six times as many as in of 2000 and 2001, the start of the FBI's review.

Given this alarming increase in the frequency of active shooter events, we need to be prepared. Across DHS, we provide training, tools, and resources on active shooter awareness, incident response, and workplace violence to a broad range of public and private stakeholders. The training includes both in-person and online options that focus on behavioral indicators, potential attack methods, how to develop emergency action plans, and actions to take during an incident that can help save lives.

We're getting the message out. We've hosted more than 150 in-person workshops with more than 14,000 participants. More than 626,000 people have taken our one-hour, online course called *Active Shooter: What You Can Do*. In Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016, the Federal Protective Service provided Active Shooter Tenant Awareness Training to more than 60,000 federal employees all across the Nation.

In addition, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's or FLETC's Law Enforcement First Responder Training Program helps build critical skills that law enforcement officers acting as first responders need to effectively respond to large-scale emergencies, like active shooter incidents. In Fiscal Year 2015, FLETC trained more than 7,300 state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers nationwide. Many of these officers also attended train-the-trainer programs, multiplying the effects of this critical effort all across the United States.

Through these roundtable discussions, webinars, exercises, and workshops, we're helping communities protect themselves from the active shooter threat.

But the most successful way to respond to an active shooter event, or any terrorist act, is to prevent radicalization in the first place. In almost every case, when someone self-radicalizes and starts to acquire weapons of mass violence, someone close to them sees the warning signs.

Well-informed families and communities are the best defense against terrorist ideologies. We know that Al Qaeda and the Islamic State are targeting Muslim communities in this country. We must respond. In my view, this is as important as any of our other homeland security missions.

Through the Office of Community Partnerships, we're reaching out to communities that have the ability to reach individuals before they turn to violence.

Since becoming Secretary, I have met with community leaders all over the country, from Los Angeles to Boston, from Chicago to Houston. These roundtables, meetings, and other events are meant to increase the participation of faith-based organizations, mental health providers, social service providers, and youth-affiliated groups in local efforts to counter violent extremism.

Here in Central Florida, the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties has conducted a Quarterly Community Engagement Roundtable since 2013. It gets a lot of participation from diverse community stakeholders, and state, local, and federal law enforcement.

The Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties has also conducted three separate Community Awareness Briefings in Orlando in 2014 and 2015, and coordinated a countering violent extremism-specific town hall hosted by the Council on American Islamic Relations of Florida in 2015.

Having these relationships in place made it easier for DHS to talk with trusted community partners in the aftermath of the Pulse nightclub shooting, so they could take action.

We may not be able to prevent an attack from a determined extremist every time. But establishing relationships with diverse communities enhances our resilience, and makes our Nation stronger.

Ultimately, homeland security is a balance. It is a balance between basic physical security and our American values. We cherish our civil liberties. We cherish our right to peaceably assemble. We cherish our right to worship as we choose. We cherish our diversity. We cherish our immigrant heritage.

I like to tell audiences that I could build you a perfectly safe country. We could build higher walls, interrogate more people, set up more scanning devices. But it would not be a country we cherish. It would be a prison. So homeland security *must* be a balance between the security of our citizens and the preservation of the values as Americans. It is our greatest challenge, and our greatest responsibility. And we must undertake this responsibility together.

At this moment in the life of our Nation, there is nothing I would rather be than the Secretary of Homeland Security. I am proud of my team—the men and women of DHS who work tirelessly to make our country safer. I am proud of our partnerships across all sectors and across all communities. I am proud to serve the people of this country we call home.

Thank you.

Staff Responsible:

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**REMARKS: WASHINGTON IDEAS FORUM
Topline Messaging**

Interagency Cooperation and the Evolving State of Counterterrorism

The full weight of the U.S. Government—including our military, intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security communities, along with our partners in state and local law enforcement—is currently dedicated to detecting and defeating terrorism and protecting the Homeland.

This is our number one priority. In this current threat environment, which includes the prospect of homegrown violent extremism, the public has a role to play too.

As directed by President Obama, our government, along with our coalition partners, continues to take the fight militarily to terrorist organizations overseas.

ISIL is the terrorist organization most prominent on the world stage.

We have moved from a world of terrorist-directed attacks, to a world that also includes the threat of terrorist-inspired attacks—attacks by those who live among us in the Homeland and self-radicalize, inspired by terrorist propaganda on the internet.

By their nature, terrorist-inspired attacks are often difficult to detect by our intelligence and law enforcement communities, could occur with little or no notice, and in general, make for a more complex homeland security challenge.

Q: Are we safe? What is the current threat picture, and what keeps you up at night?

- In December 2015, we described a new phase in the global threat environment in the first issued NTAS Bulletin. This basic assessment has not changed. The bulletin was updated in June 2016, with a five-month duration that will expire just before the holiday season. We will reassess the threat at that time.
- In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice. The tragic events of Orlando, Florida, reinforce this. Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance.
- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization that he is inspired by; may never have trained with the organization; may never have been to Iraq or Syria; may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

Recent OIG Report: “Potentially Ineligible Individuals Have Been Granted U.S. Citizenship Because of Incomplete Fingerprint Records”

As noted in the OIG report, ICE identified a number of decades-old fingerprints—in legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) paper files—that were not digitized and therefore not available as part of the immigration adjudication process.

While the vast majority of these fingerprints date back to the 1990's, DHS is and has been taking steps to address this issue.

DHS and its Components have taken and continue to take actions to address the challenges posed by the existence of legacy paper-based fingerprint records.

Today, all DHS fingerprints are digitally uploaded into IDENT, a data system accessible across all DHS Components and interoperable with other federal agencies.

OIG made two recommendations, which the Department is expeditiously, and in large part already had been, implementing.

It is important to note that the fact that fingerprint records in these cases may have been incomplete at the time of the naturalization interview does not necessarily mean that the applicant was in fact granted naturalization, or that the applicant obtained naturalization fraudulently.

Preliminary results from the file reviews show that in a significant number of these cases naturalization had been denied and that, in some, naturalization was not improperly granted.

Other cases are subject to ongoing criminal investigation or to denaturalization proceedings that are pending or completed.

Where the DHS review process finds that naturalization was obtained fraudulently, DHS will appropriately refer the case to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for civil or criminal proceedings, including for denaturalization.

Q: How is DHS implementing OIG's recommendations?

- First, ICE will continue digitizing all available paper-based fingerprint records for the files identified in the OIG report. Before the report was issued, ICE had already digitized the majority of the 315,000 records which it had previously identified as having potentially missing paper fingerprint records. The remaining number will be reviewed and digitized.

- Second, the Department has established a USCIS-led review team, which is working closely with ICE and DHS headquarters personnel to review every file identified in the OIG report as being a case of possible fraud and where digital fingerprint records were not or may not have been available at the time of the naturalization adjudication.
 - This team has begun its review of the cases identified in the OIG report to determine whether naturalization was in fact fraudulently or otherwise improperly obtained.
 - This review builds on the prior and ongoing collaboration between DHS and DOJ to seek denaturalization when citizenship has been obtained unlawfully.
- As the OIG report notes, the Department had already identified and prioritized for potential criminal prosecution approximately 120 naturalized citizens who appear to have committed fraud and who avoided detection because their fingerprint records were not digitally available at the time of naturalization.
 - Individuals involved in fraudulent applications represent a very small number of all those naturalizing.

Southwest Border Security

The Department of Homeland Security and its interagency partners continue to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Central America and current migration trends.

We are working aggressively to address the underlying causes of this migration, to deter future increases and support broader regional efforts to provide avenues for protection of vulnerable populations in Central America.

While CBP has registered an increase in the number of apprehensions of unaccompanied children (UAC) and families over the past several months, this upward rise is not incongruous with seasonal trends. Furthermore, the number of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 apprehensions are significantly less than the number of apprehensions in FY 2014. Total apprehensions across our entire Southwest border remain at near-historic lows.

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala make up the majority of unaccompanied children and family unit apprehensions, and general conditions related to the economy and violence in those countries continue to serve as push factors leading to migration northward.

As I have said repeatedly, our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values. At the same time, we will work to protect vulnerable populations in Central America, in accordance with our legal and humanitarian obligations.

Q: Can you comment on the latest apprehension numbers?

- In August 2016, apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border—an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally—increased from June and July 2016.
- Of the overall 37,057 total Border Patrol apprehensions on the Southwest Border reported in August 2016, 5,804 were unaccompanied children and 9,359 were members of family units traveling together.

Q: What are the criteria for migrants targeted for removal?

- Our borders are not open to illegal migration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities and values.
- Recent enforcement actions, which focus on those apprehended at the border on or after January 1, 2014, continue.
- With respect to family units, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are adults and their children who:

- Were apprehended after January 1, 2014;
- Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court; and
- Have exhausted appropriate legal remedies, and have no outstanding appeal or claim for asylum or other humanitarian relief under our laws.
- With respect to unaccompanied children, the focus of our current enforcement and removal priorities are unaccompanied children who:
 - Entered the United States illegally as unaccompanied children after January 1, 2014;
 - Are now over 18 year of age;
 - Have been ordered removed by an immigration court, and;
 - Have no pending appeal or claim of asylum or other relief.

Q: How will the Department continue to strategize on this issue?

- We recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. More border security and removals, by themselves, will not overcome the underlying conditions that currently exist in Central America.
- In the meantime, DHS and DOS are accelerating the development of new mechanisms to process and screen Central American refugees in the region.
- We are expanding access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in the region and developing more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.
- With DOJ, we are also doubling down on our efforts to apprehend and prosecute smugglers through initiatives like Operation Coyote.
- We support DOJ's efforts to ensure that as many unaccompanied children as possible have appropriate representation.
 - To support improving the process for all those in immigration proceedings, the Administration has requested over \$17 million as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request to support long-standing critical initiatives that provide legal assistance services and information to vulnerable immigrants.
 - This includes over \$1 million for Justice AmeriCorps—a program that specifically provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors.

Q: The President of the National Border Patrol Council said that agents are being told to “stand down” and let immigrants go. Is that true?

- The assertion that there exists some Department policy requiring U.S. Border Patrol agents to release undocumented immigrants apprehended at the border and not provide an effective response to an attempted illegal entry simply has no basis in fact. This assertion is also wholly inconsistent with the actual direction and training agents have received.
- The U.S. Border Patrol continues to enforce immigration laws consistent with the Department's enforcement priorities, which are focused on border security, national security, and public safety. As I have said many times, our border is not open to illegal migration, and those cross the border illegally will be sent back.

- The Border Patrol's resources are most effectively focused on the border—prioritizing the apprehension and removal of individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. Our removal numbers reflect that. Border Patrol Agents are issuing Notices to Appear, consistent with law, regulation, and the Department's enforcement priorities.

Syrian Refugee Vetting and Resettlement

The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other.

The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, all refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of a comprehensive and stringent security screening.

Q: How many Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States?

- The United States remains deeply committed to safeguarding the American public from terrorists, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe that these goals are mutually exclusive.
- The Administration's emphasis is on admitting the most vulnerable refugees from around the world. In the case of Syrians, we focus on admitting survivors of violence and torture, those with severe medical conditions, and women and children in a manner that is consistent with U.S. national security.
- Thanks to concerted and careful coordination between the DOS, DHS, and HHS, we have met and exceeded the President's goal of welcoming 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this fiscal year.
- As of September 7, 2016, 11,277 refugees have been resettled in the United States.
- We have prioritized the most vulnerable of Syrian refugees for resettlement, which include the victims of the violence perpetrated by both the Assad regime and ISIL in Syria.

Q: Given the recent bombings in New York and the attacks in Minneapolis, both carried out by people reported to have been admitted through the U.S. Refugee Program, why should the United States continue to admit any refugees given concerns over security screening

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for applicants of all nationalities. The refugee vetting process in place today employs the highest security measures of any immigrant or non-immigrant travel program to protect against risks to our national security, and USCIS continues to engage with law enforcement agencies to ensure that refugee vetting for Syrian applicants is as thorough as possible.
- Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. Screening procedures have been expanded over time to include a broader range of checks and applicants. Screening partners include the National

Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), FBI, DHS, DOD, and other Intelligence Community (IC) and law enforcement members.

- We are deeply committed to safeguarding the American public, just as we are committed to providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, or that either has to be pursued at the expense of the other. We have admitted three million refugees since 1975, and have a great deal of experience in safely admitting vulnerable refugees from around the world.

Q: But OIG just reported that there are serious gaps in the naturalization process, and that individuals were mistakenly provided naturalization. How can you say there is confidence in this system, when these gaps are clearly present?

- These two systems are separate and individuals who are screened through the refugee program go through the most rigorous screening of any traveler to the United States.
- We are taking the report from the Inspector General very seriously, and already have begun implementing the recommendations. DHS is taking the following actions:
 - First, ICE will continue digitizing all available paper-based fingerprint records for the files identified in the OIG report. Before the report was issued, ICE had already digitized the majority of the 315,000 records which it had previously identified as having potentially missing paper fingerprint records. Due to a lack of funding, that effort did not complete the digitization process. The remaining number is actively being reviewed and digitized.
 - Second, the Department has established a USCIS-led review team, which is working closely with ICE and DHS headquarters personnel to review every file identified in the OIG report as being a case of possible fraud and where digital fingerprint records were not or may not have been available at the time of the naturalization adjudication. This team has begun its review of the cases identified in the OIG report to determine whether naturalization was in fact fraudulently or otherwise improperly obtained.
 - This review builds on the prior and ongoing collaboration between DHS and DOJ to seek denaturalization when citizenship has been obtained unlawfully. As the OIG report notes, the Department had already identified and prioritized for potential criminal prosecution approximately 120 naturalized citizens who appear to have committed fraud and who avoided detection because their fingerprint records were not digitally available at the time of naturalization. Individuals involved in fraudulent applications represent a very small number of all those naturalizing.

Q: Has DHS identified any opportunities for enhancing current refugee security screening practices?

- DHS and USCIS have been working with Intelligence Community members to identify additional screening opportunities leveraging unique holdings and capabilities. Security screening continuously evolves, and new enhancements to

security screening practices have come on line and been refined as recently as this fiscal year. USCIS has operationalized manual Facebook checks for Syrian refugee enhanced review cases.

Q: How is it possible that you have admitted so many Syrians in so short a time, but claim that security screening has not been compromised?

- Refugees are the most thoroughly screened category of traveler to the United States. Syrian refugees are subject to even more scrutiny.
- The increased processing capacity that enabled us to meet these goals does not represent a curtailment, in any way, of our comprehensive and robust security screening.
- We were able to increase the rate of processing through a collaborative interagency process:
 - We worked with our intelligence community and other relevant agencies, to increase our capacity to conduct security screening overall;
 - DHS deployed more officers to interview applicants, thus conducting equally exhaustive and rigorous security screening reviews for more applicants, resulting in more refugees being approved for travel; and
 - By co-locating staff for a time in Jordan, we cut down the wait times between steps in the process.
- These efforts resulted in the steep reduction or elimination of wait times between stages, without curtailing in any way our health screening or our comprehensive and robust security screening.

Q: Where in the United States have Syrian refugees been resettled?

- DOS works with a network of domestic resettlement agencies to make initial placement decisions for newly arriving refugees. In some instances, this is driven by the location of relatives already residing in the United States or by particularized medical needs.
- In FY 2015, the largest placement states were Texas, California, and Illinois.

Q: There have been varying data reports on the ratio of men to women and children coming into our borders. Most of the statistics I have come across indicate that the majority of Syrian refugees are predominately males while a small percentage remains women and children. Is this true? And if so, what is the correct ratio of Syrian refugee men to women and children?

- The overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees we have accepted and will accept are families, children, and other especially vulnerable refugees, such as victims of torture and those with medical needs or disabilities.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Review of Detention Operations

The Department of Justice (DOJ) recently directed the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to move towards ultimately ending the use of privately-operated prisons.

I recently announced the formation of a Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) subcommittee to evaluate whether the immigration detention operations conducted by ICE should move away from the use of private detention facilities.

Q: How does the DOJ decision on private prisons affect DHS detention centers?

- On August 26, 2016, I directed our Homeland Security Advisory Council, chaired by Judge William Webster, to evaluate whether the immigration detention operations conducted by ICE should mirror DOJ's announcement to reduce and ultimately end its use of private facilities.
- Furthermore, Judge Webster will establish a Subcommittee of the Council to review our current policy and practices concerning the use of private immigration detention and evaluate whether this practice should be eliminated. The subcommittee will consider all factors concerning ICE's detention policy and practice, including fiscal considerations.
- The subcommittee will return a written report by November 30, 2016.
- In considering the DOJ directive regarding private prisons in relation to ICE's use of privatized immigration detention, it is important to understand how the BOP system compares to the ICE detention system.

Q: How does the BOP system compare to the ICE detention system?

- Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Model
 - BOP incarcerates people who have already been sentenced to a term of imprisonment. This means that BOP can predict the length of stay for population and construct facilities to address this.
- U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)
 - The U.S. Marshals Service is also under DOJ. It is not subject to the same directive from DOJ regarding ending the use of private prisons.
 - The U.S. Marshals Service's mission includes detaining people who are pre-trial. This means that the population under control is subject to varying lengths of stay that are generally not knowable ahead of time.
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - ICE detains people who are awaiting adjudications. This means that the population of people in ICE detention is subject to varying lengths of stay that are not knowable ahead of time.
 - The average length of stay for individuals in ICE facilities is 34.4 days.
 - ICE detainees are housed in a variety of facilities across the United States, including but not limited to ICE-owned-and-operated facilities; local, county or state facilities contracted through Intergovernmental Service Agreements, and

contractor-owned-and-operated facilities. ICE uses these various models to meet the agency's detention needs while protecting taxpayer resources.

- ICE provides several levels of oversight in order to ensure that detainees in ICE custody reside in safe, secure and humane environments and under appropriate conditions of confinement. Oversight is provided by on-site Detention Service Managers employed by ICE, ICE/ERO's Detention Standards Compliance Unit, ICE/Office of Detention Oversight (ODO), and the CRCL, all of whom have open access to ICE detention facilities.
- ICE/ODO is responsible for conducting independent reviews of ICE detention facilities to assess their compliance with the Component's national detention standards. ICE/ODO's compliance inspection reports have been publicly available on ICE.gov since the start of Fiscal Year 2012. ICE/ODO's findings, coupled with regular onsite inspections, enable ICE to isolate and quickly address any operating deficiencies identified at its detention facilities.

Q: What is the Department's stance on the 9th Circuit Courts ruling on the Flores settlement Agreement?

- The case remains in litigation following the Ninth Circuit's remand order dated July 6, 2016, which affirmed in part and reversed in part the July and August 2015 orders issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California. ICE continues to comply with the Flores Settlement Agreement as interpreted by the courts.

Election Systems and Cybersecurity

We live in a world in which we must protect against increasingly sophisticated and creative cyber-attacks, from a range of bad actors—criminal, nation-state, hackactivists, and others. In an environment in which there has been a lot of chatter about attempts to influence the election, we must be concerned about copycats or those who are inspired by this chatter.

The prospect of a cyber-attack on systems critical to our national interest—such as financial and government—is real. This includes our Nation’s election system. We must do our best to stay one step ahead of these bad actors.

The system of elections in this country is decentralized; there are some 9,000 state and local jurisdictions that administer it, in many different ways with many different practices.

We recognize that state and local officials administer and oversee the election process, and we know also that the cybersecurity of election systems is one of the top priorities for these officials.

DHS, in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or NIST), and DOJ are offering support and assistance.

Q: What is DHS’s role and involvement then in ensuring the security of the U.S. voting process?

- It is critically important to continue to work to ensure the security and resilience of our electoral infrastructure, particularly as the risk environment evolves.
- On August 15, 2016, I hosted a call with State Election Officials regarding cybersecurity and offered Department support alongside the Election Assistance Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or NIST), and DOJ.
- We are working to raise awareness of best cybersecurity practices. The states have long been doing important work to ensure the integrity and security of the Nation’s elections, and we are inviting representatives of the National Association of Secretaries of State to join this group.

Q: What specifically can the Federal Government provide in support the states?

- DHS stands ready to provide assistance, through our National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), including vulnerability scans, sharing timely and actionable information, and access to other tools and resources for improving cybersecurity.

- We have been in discussions with states and some have taken us up on our offer of assistance.
- We are exploring all other ways to deliver more support to the sector in a collaborative and non-prescriptive manner, including examining whether designating certain electoral systems as critical infrastructure would be an effective way to offer this support.

Q: What does DHS recommend in preparation for the election?

- States are encouraged to now focus on implementing existing recommendations from NIST and the EAC on securing election infrastructure, such as ensuring that electronic voting machines are not connected to the internet.
- We have also offered the states points of contact who can provide assistance, and are encouraging state officials to sign up for the NCCIC's cybersecurity alerts.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Last year, I announced the creation of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships to take the Department's Countering Violent Extremism efforts to the next level.

OCP's focus is to support and enhance efforts by communities to counter violent extremism and promote community resilience.

There is definitely a role for the public to play in this environment. It is almost always the case, if not always the case, that when someone self-radicalizes and acquires weapons of mass violence, somebody sees the warning signs. And so building bridges, encouraging people to, if they see something, say something, is, in my judgement, as important as any other homeland security mission in this existing environment.

As we engage in these vital efforts to secure the Homeland, we remain committed to protecting civil rights and civil liberties.

Q: In this evolving threat environment, how can we look to prevent future attacks?

- In this evolving threat environment, we have to anticipate the next terrorist attack, not the last one. We see not only the rise of ISIL but the rise of the terrorist-inspired attacks where the operative may not have met a single other member of the terrorist organization, may never have trained with the organization, may never have been to Iraq or Syria, may not have ever received a direct order from a terrorist leader, but is inspired by something in social media, on the internet to go commit an attack.

Q: What has DHS done in the past year to further and maintain its role and responsibility in the interagency countering violent extremism effort?

- In January 2016, the CVE Task Force was formed to integrate and harmonize domestic efforts to counter violent extremism.
- The CVE Task Force is a permanent, interagency task force hosted by DHS and led by DHS and DOJ. Additional staffing is provided by the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies.
- The Department has also recently announced the FY 2016 CVE Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the Homeland.
 - These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families, and peers who may know someone in the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law

enforcement.

- The Department's efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission.

Q: What is DHS doing to counter violent extremism online?

- OCP is actively exploring how to best support efforts to challenge violent extremists' influence online and counter narratives used to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize individuals to violence.
- OCP is working closely with DOS and other interagency partners to support the Peer-to-Peer Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition. The competition aims to engage university students at home and abroad to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups online.
- DHS is also working with the technology and marketing sectors to amplify non-violent, credible voices. Facebook, for example, is a key sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer program. In Los Angeles, YouTube has helped the Department start a similar high-school content creation contest.

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