

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Advisory Council Meeting
Conference Call
Thursday, May 7, 2020
Meeting Minutes
9:00 am – 12:45 pm ET

The open session of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) meeting was convened on May 7, 2020 from 11:40 am to 12:45 pm. The meeting was open to members of the public under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), P.L. 92-463 and 5 U.S.C. § 552b.

The following individuals attended the meeting:

HSAC Members:

William H. Webster (Chair)
Steve Adegbite
Jayson Ahern
Stewart Baker
Frank Cilluffo
Paul Goldenberg
Donald P. Dunbar
Leon Fresco
Jim Jones
Carie A. Lemack
John Magaw
Jeffrey Miller
Jeff Moss
Wendy Smith-Reeve
Robert Rose
Chad Sweet
Karen Tandy
William Bratton, Vice Chair (by conference call)
John R. Allen (by conference call)
Thad W. Allen
Robert Bonner
Cathy Lanier

DHS Participants

Chad F. Wolf, Acting Secretary DHS
John H. Hill, Assistant Secretary, Office of Partnership and Engagement
Mike Miron, Acting Executive Director, Homeland Security Advisory Council
Garret Conover, Director, Homeland Security Advisory Council
Evan Hughes, Associate Director, Homeland Security Advisory Council

Operator:

Greetings and welcome. As a reminder this conference call is being recorded, today's date is Thursday, May 7, 2020. I would now like to turn the conference call over to Mike Miron, please go-ahead sir.

Mike Miron:

Thank you. Good morning everyone and thank you for joining us today. My name is Mike Miron. I'm the acting Executive Director of the Homeland Security Advisory Council. This is a public meeting of the Homeland Security Advisory Council and we appreciate those members of the public and media who have joined us. For the record, we have 33 members of the council participating in today's meeting.

The Homeland Security Advisory Council, also known as the HSAC, operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, or FACA, and these meetings are open to the public. The executive summary and meeting minutes will be posted on the DHS website and the public FACA database within 90 days of today's meeting. Today's meeting is also being recorded for the public record. At this time, I'd like to turn it over to the chair of the HSAC, Judge William Webster. Sir, the floor is yours.

Judge Webster:

Thank you, Mike. My name is Judge William Webster and I am the chair of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, or HSAC for short. I welcome you to the open session of today's meeting where we will receive progress reports from our four subcommittees. Those are, Economics, Security, Biometrics, and Information Communications Technology Risk Reduction.

I'd like to welcome our HSAC members and those of the public we have in attendance today. A special thank you to the HSAC staff for their continuous support of the council's hard work. And lastly, I'd like to thank all the members who are serving on these important subcommittees. Frank, Stewart, Bob, Leon, Rob, Carie, Paul and Mark, I look forward to hearing your presentations today.

I'd also like to thank the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Honorable Chad F. Wolf, for joining us today. The Secretary is doing a great job leading the department, especially in these unprecedented times during this COVID-19 national emergency. With that, I'll turn it over to the HSAC's vice chair, Bill Bratton, for remarks.

Bill Bratton:

Thank you, Judge. It's a pleasure to be on this call with you and the 33 members of the committee. We have seven new members that have come on board. We are pleased that they are with us this morning and I'd like to publicly welcome them.

I also share your comments about the hard work of the committee members who are going to give their presentations. This is a committee that doesn't just get their name on a list, they go out into the field and they work hard. These reports are going to be reflective of that hard work. And I would reinforce for the members of the public that are on this call, these are all volunteer members. They are not compensated, they are here only because of their willingness and desire to serve their country. So, I'd want to remind the public of that and that their efforts will be reflected in the reports that we will hear this morning. Thank you.

Mike Miron:

Thank you, Bill. At this time, I'd like to introduce the Department of Homeland Security acting Secretary, Chad F. Wolf. Mr. Secretary, the floor is yours, sir.

Chad F. Wolf:

Thank you, Mike. I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee, as well as members of the public. I also want to thank our council chair, Judge Webster, and Vice Chair Bill Bratton for hosting us today. And good afternoon to everyone, I appreciate all your continued dedication to this advisory council.

As I indicated this morning when I had a chance to talk with the committee members, your input and advice have never been more critical or more important for the department. And I continue to be incredibly grateful for your support to the department's mission during this time.

Let me start off by giving just very brief remarks on the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and then I'll get into the topic of today's call.

The department is performing a wide variety of efforts in responding to the pandemic, led by FEMA, who is coordinating the US government's response to this. And they're doing that in a very critical way, making sure that the overall approach by the administration is locally executed, state managed and federally support, which is very important. FEMA, along with other US government agencies and departments are federally supporting what is being managed by states and locally executed. I think we all know that intuitively, but I think it's critically important to underscore it.

FEMA continues to manage 56 major disaster declarations, including all 50 states, 5 territories and of course the District of Columbia. 5.8 billion dollars have been spent by FEMA in support of COVID-19 efforts. And as of May 5, FEMA and HHS combined have obligated 6.2 billion dollars in support of COVID-19 response efforts.

There's a wide variety of priorities that FEMA and the White House Coronavirus Task Force continue to prioritize. Those include making sure we get critical supplies and PPE to the right areas of the country at the right time. That we continue, along with our DOD partners, to expand capabilities including the deployment of medical personnel, and again PPE reutilization systems. That we continue to expand our testing capabilities, and then that we continue to look at certain hot spots that pop up in the country regarding the virus.

What we've seen of late is that those hot spots are occurring outside of traditional large metropolitan areas, whether it's a nursing home outbreak, or a food distribution plant outbreak, and we are seeing some outbreaks in our tribal areas as well.

But, CDC, HHS, FEMA and other elements of the government are on top of that, recognizing it, evaluating it, surging testing, surging supplies and have been very successful in addressing those as they pop up.

We have several different task forces that FEMA is leading, along with HHS, and others. One that I would like to highlight is the Supply Chain Taskforce, because I think it's critically important to the response that's occurring day in and day out. There's a couple of different lines of effort that I often talk about.

One is the preservation of PPE equipment, which means making sure that our hospitals and long-term healthcare facilities are properly preserving PPE. By this, I mean gloves, gowns, respirators and masks, making sure that, if they can reuse those in a safe and effective way, that they do that. That will continue to prolong their life and provide more resources.

A line of effort is accelerating PPE from, mainly Asia, into the US in what I call, energizing the supply chain. This means taking supplies that were going to reach the US, through maritime cargo ships, in anywhere from 30 to 37 days, and making sure they get here in hours. We have had over, approximately, 119 of those flights to date. Many more are scheduled, and we will continue to surge PPE into those hotspot areas as well.

Accelerating the supply chain, making sure that we have domestic capability. We've seen that the President and the Vice President have been very vocal regarding several companies that are retooling their production lines to produce critical supplies so that we have that capability here in the US, and we'll continue to do that. Sometimes we're able to utilize DPA authorities, but most of the time these companies are willing to do that on their own. And then, of course, making sure we get all of that to the right place at the right time in the right quantities, is critically important. Outside of FEMA, CDC is continuing to make sure that we look at our borders regarding COVID. So, we put in a few travel restrictions that are staying in place. We have restrictions with Mexico and Canada regarding nonessential travel. And they continue to look at imports and exports for fraudulent activity as well.

CISA, that's our Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, is doing a lot of hard work regarding identifying critical infrastructure workers, making sure that they are linked up with states as they operate under different requirements, both when closing and now as we're reopening, and that they are given some guidance regarding those critical industries that need to

keep running. They're also looking at malicious cyber activity and taking steps, with our UK counterparts as well as others here in the US government, to address any fraudulent activities seen there as well.

Let me transition a little bit from what the department's been doing on COVID-19, that's not the purpose of this call today, I just wanted to highlight it, to our seven new HSAC members. Let me just briefly run through who those are because I think it's important.

We have James Carafano joining HSAC. He's the vice president of the Davis Institute for National Security and Forum Policy and the EW Richardson Fellow Heritage Foundation. Dr. Carafano has previously served on HSAC and has been very involved in the department over the years, both with departmental leadership but also from a congressional standpoint advising members of congress on certain policy actions and organizational issues. So, we are lucky and very glad to have him back.

We have James Fuller, Executive Vice President with Hill and Knowlton Strategies. James is also a former DHS alum executive and brings a wealth of knowledge. He advises a number of executives on a broad range of public policy issues, and we are lucky to have in on the committee.

Hans Miller, CEO of Airside Mobile. Hans is an early member of TSA, back in 2002, and helped stand up the agency. He is an expert and pioneer in the field of digital identity and biometrics. We'll talk about biometrics a little bit later in the call, also very important to what the department's doing.

Chris Nocco, Sheriff of Pasco County, Florida, and a 9-11 first responder. So, we thank him for his service again as he brings a wealth of knowledge in both law enforcement and policy from his career.

Cynthia Renaud, Chief of Police for the City of Santa Monica, California and First Vice President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. She has several decades of law

enforcement experience having worked with multiple agencies inside California. As many of you may know, DHS is the largest law enforcement agency in the country, so it's always good to make sure that we have a robust leadership as part of this committee. So, we welcome the chief. Mark Weatherford, Global Information Security Strategist with Booking Holdings. Mark served as the first deputy under the secretary for cybersecurity of DHS. So again, a DHS alum and a noted leader in his field. Happy to have him back.

And Brian White, who is a partner at DBO Partners and leads their global security practice. Again, another cybersecurity leader that has led numerous initiatives in numerous companies. So again, we continue to look at CISA and what they're doing regarding protecting the homeland and the number of initiatives. We are very grateful to have both Brian and Mark on the committee.

As was said at the outset by, I believe our vice chair, these folks volunteer. Not only the new members, but the existing members, volunteer their time. And so, the department is very grateful that we have their talents and their insights providing expert advice and, in many cases, recommendations.

And those recommendations are very important to the department. I take those very seriously. We act on those. We implement those. They become policy of the department. So, everything the committee is doing, and the subcommittees are doing, are critically important.

I look forward to welcoming each of our new members in person very soon. And we'll see how that goes over the long-term.

We've got four subcommittees that are going to be presenting throughout the call. Back in February, I tasked the HSAC with these new subcommittees. I know a lot of work has been done to date. And look forward to hearing about that work.

A special thanks goes to our economic security chair, Frank Cilluffo, vice chair, Stewart Baker, our information communications technology risk reduction chair, Bob Rose, and vice chair,

Steve Adegbite, biometrics chair, Rob Bonner, vice chair Leon Fresco, and then our youth engagement co-chairs, Carie Lemack and Paul Goldenberg, and vice chair Mark Dannels. They're all doing great work. These are just the chair and vice chairs, but we've got all elements of the HSAC involved in these and really looking forward to hearing how they're doing. The role of the HSAC and what you provide to the department is absolutely critical in normal times, but even more so now as we continue to face the challenges of COVID.

Let me just briefly touch on each of those. Economic Security is homeland security and I've been saying that for some time now. I think the department has had a role in that, really, from the outset. But I'm not sure that the department really talks about it in a way that makes sense for most members of the public.

So, as we look at everything the department is doing from TSA, making sure the airline industry is up and running, screening passengers, making sure the travelers can get from point A to point B. Whether we're talking about CBP facilitating lawful trade and travel. Whether we're talking about CISA supporting critical infrastructure and supply chains or the United States Coast Guard protecting our waterways and ports. As we know, about 90% of all goods and cargo coming into the US, do so via the maritime environment. So, it's the Coast Guard there providing that protection.

Economic security is absolutely critical to what we do, and the department has been involved in that in a variety of different ways, some of which I just talked about. We also run a process, looking at foreign investment and risk, here in the US from a national security perspective, and we'll continue to do that.

So, looking forward to this subcommittee really digging its teeth in and looking at the department's wide range of authorities and making sure that we are rightly positioned, resourced and organized to respond to those threats. And I think in an environment like COVID it's even more important.

The ICT risk subcommittee will again help increase a shared understanding of our supply chain vulnerabilities and threats, as well as the effectiveness of current government procurement, looking to see if we can't increase the security of those products. And, again, I just want to underscore, in an environment like COVID-19, we've seen some vulnerabilities of that supply chain. And, again, having the expertise of these individuals will be critically valuable.

Switching over to biometrics, really looking forward to having this subcommittee review the department's authorities and current government structure around biometrics, making sure that we have a reliable straightforward approach to biometric identity management, both internally and externally with partners. The subcommittee will review the department's multi-year biometric vision and strategy implementation plan, making sure we are on the right track. I think there's a lot of progress the department can make and there is a lot in this that the department can grow into and provide a lot of value. So again, critically important to do that.

And lastly, building our youth focused engagement subcommittee is very important. When we look at the threat here domestically, to individuals radicalizing to violence, we need to make sure that we have targeted programs and engagements with our most vulnerable population, which is our youth. So, we need to make sure that the subcommittee is looking at early prevention and intervention measures. And that ties on to some work the HSAC did previously regarding targeted violence against our faith-based community. So, a lot of work has been done there. Looking forward to the work that will continue.

Let me just close by giving you a brief update on that preventing targeted violence against faith-based communities subcommittee. They were tasked with addressing this issue; they talked to many, many subject matter experts, state and local law enforcement leaders, and made sight visits; I think seven different sight visits, held i- person meetings and just did a great job. Back in April I approved the implementation that operationalized many of those recommendations. I'll just highlight two of those.

One is the creation of a central DHS Security Coordinator for faith-based organizations. That's going to be John Hill, who is our Assistant Secretary for the Office of Partnership and Engagement. He is the go-to point-person resource for the faith-based community as a plug into

the department. He's going to be supported by several individuals across the department and across our components to help him do that job.

And second is an establishment of a standing interfaith advisory council, which again, will provide resources and support to not only John, but to myself as well, to help us address the variety of security needs of those faith-based organizations.

So, I'm really excited, really proud, about that work and looking forward to continuing that. And again, a thank you goes out to the HSAC subcommittee that pulled those together. It was a big effort but one that we're proud of.

So again, let me just close by saying, as I said at the beginning, your involvement, HSAC's involvement, with the department is critically important. And it's even more so as we continue to respond to, and recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic.

I do understand that each of you have day jobs that require your time and attention. So again, thank you for the dedicated time, not only today but in the future that you'll spend on some of these issues as well as others. Your counsel, expertise and advice are absolutely critical in supporting what the 240,000 men and women of DHS do every day in securing the homeland. We can't do it alone, we need our private sector partners too. And so, really grateful for the role that HSAC provides. So, thank you. I'll stop there and turn it back over to Mike.

Mike Miron:

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. It's been an honor having you join us today. I think we can all agree; we hope that our next meeting will be in person with you. So, with that, I'd like to turn it over to the economic subcommittee leadership of Frank Cilluffo, Stewart Baker, and Robert Rose. They're going to provide updates on the economic subcommittee. Gentlemen, the floor is yours.

Frank Cilluffo:

Thank you. And thank you Mike, and thank you Secretary Wolf, Judge Webster and Commissioner Bratton. I'll be brief. And as anyone who knows me can attest, that's not really my strong suit since I rarely have an unspoken thought.

But we're only a couple months in to our scoping of the particular tasks that the secretary laid out. I might note that, due to a lot of foresight, this issue was being grappled with well before the pandemic hit. But obviously, because of COVID-19, this has taken on greater urgency.

By and large, we're looking at the relative components across departments, and when you look at economic security it really does transcend all the different components, as Secretary Wolf laid out earlier. But we're looking at ways to enhance the authorities; looking at ways to ensure that the alignment is greater than the sum of its parts. And then ensuring that the Department of Homeland Security can play its role in an appropriate fashion.

So, by way of very brief fast rap, DHS stood up a new economic security portfolio. This was part of a realignment within the office of strategy, policy and plans, again, where Secretary Wolf was before he assumed his new role.

We've had great support from the department itself, obviously the HSAC staff, but also through Scott Glade and notably Scott Friedman for playing significant roles in that particular office. We've established a small subcommittee. It's a small, but prolific team. Thus far, we've received seven briefings, ranging from CISA to outside intelligence analysis around threat actors, notably China and Russia in this particular case, and others.

Where we're trying to go, and I'm going to make sure we provide some time for Stewart Baker and Bob Rose to jump in here, is to find a roadmap to genuinely chart a path forward for this particular office. But we're doing so in a way that is identifying short term priorities that we need to get on top of ASAP as well as building the pathway and institutionalizing some of the long-term priorities to address issues such as supply chain and the like. Here, I think, we are spending a bunch of time aligning some of the regulatory authorities. As Secretary Wolf mentioned, DHS does have very significant equities in this place, which again I think has taken on even more significance in today's environment of COVID-19.

We plan to have our report wrapped up by the fall and want to make sure that when we do so, we're not just coming up with great ideas from afar but are grounded in the real world needs and requirements of the department.

So, rather than me continue, I thought I'd provide an opportunity for Stewart to share some of his thoughts as well as Bob Rose and make sure that we yield back some of the time.

Stewart Baker:

Thanks, Frank. I'll also be brief. I think the lesson of COVID-19 is that the global supply chain is great for efficiency. But when something unexpected and very bad happens, you can't always count on a global supply chain to work in your national interest. And so you have to ask the question, "Where am I getting the things that I will depend on in an emergency?" And if there's any cabinet department that understands what at least a civilian emergency is going to require, it's DHS. It's through FEMA, which is always involved whenever really bad things happen in the United States, and which has responsibilities for the security of our civilian information technology infrastructure along with several other topics.

So, DHS is clearly a central player in asking the question, "What do we need from our supply chain in an emergency and how do we make sure that we truly have economic security even in a crisis?"

And what I think the policy effort can bring to that, both within the department and across the government, is an ability to look at that problem with a bit of perspective, to not ask what do I need tomorrow but what are going to need over the next decade? What should our system and industrial data look like to make sure that we are not as surprised as we were in this emergency. Our sense is this is the right time, and an urgent time, to be asking those questions and laying out a set of ways in which policy can provide strategic guidance for them. This is a pressing question that we are enthusiastic about.

Frank Cilluffo:

Bob anything that you'd like to add as well?

Bob Rose:

Thank you, Frank and thank you Stewart. In addition to being a co-chair on your subcommittee, Frank, I'm also chairing the information communication and technology risk reduction tasking, which has us looking very closely at the ability to identify and mitigate ICT and supply chain risks, which very much compliment what we're working on in your group, Frank. And we'll discuss this a little bit more when I speak in a few minutes. But we're spending a lot of time on supply chain issues, and we will share that information with your committee because our taskings are very complimentary regarding looking at how to increase the security of ICT products and using the full suite of cybersecurity tools with law enforcement, trade and customs authorities to identify and reduce supply chain and ICT risks. So, Mr. Secretary, thank you for the opportunity. Frank and Stewart, thank you for your leadership.

Stewart Baker:

I just want to add a couple of points, because there are recent executive orders promulgated around bulk power and grid security. And obviously there have been previous executive orders promulgated around supply chains.

I think this is providing some visibility into DHS' important role around critical infrastructure sectors, the Section 9 entities and beyond, as well as the national critical functions. And I think that we've also seen quite a bit of activity regarding supply chain concerns in terms of state-owned enterprises.

One of the things that this subcommittee is looking at carefully, including some of the composition of this membership, is building on analogies where the Department of Defense has looked at some of their industrial base, and obviously some of the analogies that are there for our critical infrastructure sectors. Bottom line is, it's a broad mission set. We're not trying to boil the ocean here. We're trying to zero in on a handful of tangible outcomes that I think are: a) achievable in the short term and then, b) set us up for success in the long term. I'll leave it at that and turn it back over to you, Mike.

Mike Miron:

Thank you very much, Frank, Stewart and Bob for that presentation and update. I'd like to turn it over to Rob Bonner and Leon Fresco who's going to give us an update on the biometrics subcommittee. So, gentlemen the floor is yours.

Rob Bonner:

Thanks, Mike. This is Rob Bonner chairing the biometrics subcommittee and Leon Fresco is the vice chair. I'll be brief but let me give you a report on where the biometrics subcommittee stands. Notwithstanding the COVID-19 situation, we have managed to hold two meetings, both a telephonic kick-off meeting to discuss the tasking and organize our approach. But also last week, an all-day video conference meeting was held by the biometrics subcommittee and we received five presentations from Department of Homeland Security component agencies with respect to their uses and sharing of biometric data, to include CBP's two operational divisions, the Office of Field Operations and the Office of Border Patrol. We also received briefings from ICE's two operational divisions, ERO and HSI as well as a briefing from USCIS regarding how these various component agencies with the department of Homeland Security use and collect biometrics, what type of biometrics they're using and for what purposes, how they store and protect and how they share biometric information both internally within the Department of Homeland Security and externally with other component agencies within the US Government and state and local law enforcement.

The subcommittee is preparing to have a second round of presentations that will include other components of the Department of Homeland Security to include TSA, US Coast Guard, and the Secret Service. And we also plan presentations from departmental headquarters offices, which would include S&T, OBIM, which is the Office of Biometric Identity Management, and also the headquarters policy and planning for the Department of Homeland Security and perhaps some other offices and agencies. In any event, we do plan to have a second meeting of the subcommittee toward the end of this month - the end of May. I imagine that there are going to be at least another one or two, perhaps even three more days where we'll receive briefings to ensure we're fully informed and have the knowledge base we need to hopefully make some very meaningful and important recommendations to Secretary Wolf and to the HSAC, broadly.

That is to say, we will be looking for recommendations regarding how the Department of Homeland Security, on a department-wide basis, can better coordinate the use of biometrics, how they're protected and how they're shared, both externally and internally within the department, among other things.

We hope to have recommendations that will clarify roles and responsibilities within the department, and recommendations to improve the department's oversight and governance structure with respect to the uses, storage and purposes for which biometrics are used within the department and its component agencies. All of that also involves looking at what kind of longer-term strategies and policies the department may need in this area.

Right now, we're in the fact-finding phase of this, the jury is out. I don't think we've reached any conclusions or even tentative recommendations yet, but certainly we will as we go forward. We think we're on track to have a report and recommendations to the full HSAC probably around - this is always risky to make these predictions, particularly where we have the COVID-19 lockdown - but we're optimistic that we will have a report and recommendations by the end of September of this year or perhaps early October. I want to just say we've had great participation so far and expect we will in the future from all the members of the biometrics subcommittee. That's very gratifying to me and I know to Leon as the vice chair of this subcommittee. That concludes our report, but let me before I turn it over for any questions, ask Leon, anything you want to add or amplify on what I just said, Leon?

Leon Fresco:

Only just to thank Garret Conover for helping to set this up and for all the nice folks at DHS who participated in the briefings. Everyone with which we've engaged in the agency has been very forthcoming and very eager to talk about all of this, and that's been great to see.

Rob Bonner:

Yes. Thanks, Leon, and at this point I would turn it over for any questions there might be or however you want to handle that, Mike.

Mike Miron:

Thanks, Rob. We're actually going to go right into the next subcommittee update for the HSAC. But I really appreciate the thorough report that you and Leon provided HSAC today. Thank you so much. At this time, I'd like to welcome subcommittee leadership for the information communication technology Risk Reduction subcommittee. That would be Bob Rose, who is the chair and Steve Adegbite who is the co-chair. So, gentlemen, I turn it over to you.

Bob Rose:

Thanks very much, Mike and Mr. Secretary. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be of service to the department and to the county. You quite graciously gave us an incredible group of people to work with on this problem. We have an outstanding group with especially my vice chair Steve Adegbite as well as Jeff Moss, Paul Stockton and General Keith Alexander. We have taken this responsibility that you've given to us seriously and have embraced it, I would say, in an aggressive matter. We've probably had six meetings already including with Frank Cilluffo, Sonriah Correa, Chris Ingris, Bill Wisinski of GSA, David Lidner, James Bird, Bob Colasky and Sam Caplin. We are moving ahead, as I said, aggressively, in addressing four specific questions. I've asked each of those members of the committee that are taking a lead on those questions to speak briefly of what we are doing. The other comment that I would make is that we are not looking at this as an academic exercise, nor did I think you wanted us to. We are looking at something that we can actually be transactional, that can make a difference and be something that could be really worked on. We've also started putting together a library of documents that we are collecting that we can include as an addendum to our report for further work. So, let's go down the list of the questions. Steve, as vice chair of this committee do you want to speak to the question that you're addressing?

Steve Adegbite:

Absolutely. Thank you, Bob. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, members of the committee, members of the subcommittee as well as members of the public. As Bob has stated, we've taken a very hard look at the tasking that was provided to us by the secretary. And, as Bob said, we are not approaching this as an academic exercise. The particular area on which I'm focused is looking at the present authorities that we have right now within DHS and the Cybersecurity space, law enforcement as well as customs to be able to reduce ICT risks. We've had several briefings

where we've collected a lot of information on the relevant authorities. The great thing about this is that, on this subject, there's already been a large focus. So, there's a fairly comprehensive set of authorities out there. What we're focused on is to understand places where they may be misaligned or places that are due some minor additions so they may provide some other guidance so they can be used more effectively. As Bob said, we're still in the gathering stage, collecting a lot of data, and formulating our opinions. We're looking, hopefully, to be able to wrap this up shortly, as we get more and more informative briefs that enable us to better understand the direction in which we want to go to provide the recommendations.

Bob Rose:

Jeff then, do you want to go on next?

Jeff Moss:

Sure. In the interest of time, I'll try to be brief. To mirror what has been said before me, we are in the beginning of the process of understanding all the interviews we've had, call notes, and documents. The question that I'm specifically working toward is, what additional steps should the department take to identify and mitigate ICT supply chain risks? This is pretty closely aligned with what Paul will talk about, and so as we get closer to drafting recommendations, I have a feeling there will be natural groupings of some of our topics. Based on the briefings we've had, I think there's probably a few strategies to do this. One is to review and recommend improvements to the ICT procurement process in order to identify and simplify risks, and to make sure that the products and services the department is purchasing reflect best practices. What is purchased today is going to be in use for possibly the next decade or more. So, any incremental improvements we can make in purchasing decisions will pay dividends for the department for many years.

Another strategy is for the department to support the current initiative used to identify trusted vendors and purchase from them. We see this a little bit in the federal initiative to try to exclude possible nation-state proxy companies, and we're currently seeing this play out federally with the US 5G strategy. We think there's probably lessons to be learned there.

Finally, this is really a complex issue that has many subject matter experts involved, layers of different kinds of procurement regulations and laws. We're not trying to reinvent the wheel here, but I think what we are going to try to do is highlight the most promising efforts and suggest high level improvements. For example, one emerging recommendation will be to enable the unclassified procurement process to learn from law enforcement, the IC, and others about untrustworthy vendors, vulnerabilities in products or pending legal actions. It would allow the procurement officers to make better informed purchasing decisions. This already happens in classified environments. And we think lessons learned there will be able to be applied to unclassified areas. Thank you.

Bob Rose:

Paul Stockton, you're up.

Paul Stockton:

Thank you. First, Mr. Secretary, thank you for the opportunity to support you. My subcommittee is focused on DHS procurement, and it's clear there are some very specific authorities that we think might be helpful. But the biggest area for progress lies in establishing a risk management framework that's better suited to deal with the incredible challenge of making sure that modernized ICT tools and technologies get to your workforce as fast as possible, yet still provide the adequate levels of security that are going to be needed. So, clarifying that risk management framework, borrowing from the NRNC and other components of DHS that are making progress in that regard, and establishing clearer triggers and thresholds for making decisions in a risk managed way, those are all opportunities for progress, and we look forward to providing you with some very concrete and actionable recommendations going forward.

Bob Rose:

Thank you, Paul. The last question concerned the collaboration and better utilization of the private sector, of which Keith Alexander is leading, but had a conflict today with a board meeting of his, so, he had to drop off the call a little while ago. But that's the report of our group, Mr. Secretary. We again thank you very much for the opportunity to be of service. And we're looking forward to presenting you the report shortly. Thank you. Mike?

Mike Miron:

Thank you, Bob, Steve, Paul and Jeff. I appreciate those excellent presentations. At this time, I'd like to turn it over to the co-chairs of the youth engagement subcommittee. That will be Carie Lemack and Paul Goldenberg. Carie the floor is yours.

Carie Lemack:

Thank you so much, Mike. And thank you, Mr. Secretary, all the members of the committee and all the members of the public, for taking time today to look at these important announcements. I really appreciate your time and energy. I'm very honored to be co-chair, along with Paul, of the Youth Engagement subcommittee. As has been discussed a bit, the Youth Engagement subcommittee is going to provide findings and recommendations on best practices to build youth focused programming that can be implemented nationwide to prevent radicalization to violence. As we all know, an aware society is the best foundation for preventing terrorism and targeted violence. The recommendations of this subcommittee will align with the department's day one priority of civil rights, civil liberties, and individual privacy protection. The subcommittees mandate will include, but definitely is not limited to, the following six areas that I will quickly go over and then turn it over to Paul to talk about what we've done so far.

One, we're going to be looking at the department's current youth focused programs and will recommend any changes we think need to be made.

Two, we will recommend new youth-based initiatives that can be implemented nationwide to prevent radicalization to violence while identifying key national and local partners. These programs will be designed to reach our youth across various stages of development and adolescence.

Three, we will identify early prevention and intervention measures, such as youth centered violence prevention programs and curricula. We will provide recommendations on early prevention and intervention measures.

Four, we will identify best practices from federal, state, travel and local law enforcement regarding interactions with youth engagement, focused on the prevention of radicalization to violence. And we'll look into how the department can form partnerships that support locally based prevention and intervention efforts.

Five, we will provide recommendations and best practices on how the department can continue to build trust throughout our engagement and exercise efforts.

And finally, we will identify initiatives and programs which the department can implement that has been evaluated through roundtable-like discussions with education and health professionals as well.

Paul, I thought you might want to talk a little bit about why, in particular, the timing is so apt for this subcommittee and potentially discuss some of the meetings we've had.

Paul Goldenberg:

Yes. Thanks, Carie. And, again thanks to Secretary Wolf, Chair Webster, Co-chair Bratton, and Mike Miron. And I did want to follow up on the announcement by the secretary regarding the new initiatives that are addressing the more recent attacks on faith-based institutions. And, you know, we on the subcommittee could not have been happier with the selection of John Hill. We are looking forward to working very closely with him in that regard, and this definitely ties in. Right now, for the first time in American history, we have millions and millions and millions of American youth sitting in homes, bored rigid, scrolling through social media sites for hours a day. I mean, I know parents and grandparents that are concerned even on a good day.

Unfortunately, the timing for the subcommittee could not have been better. It is ground breaking in many ways. I have been working closely with the department for nearly a decade and this is the first time that we're really focusing on issues that are impacting our youth. The first thing that we did is an inventory of existing programs inside the department. What does the department already have? Are we sharing information with each other as it relates to these disparate programs? Some of which are excellent programs, I mean, I learned recently that CBP has a series of programs.

Also, how are we reaching out to youth? This is one of the things that Carie, me and co-chair Mark Dannels, had a deep discussion about. One of the conclusions we made is that we really need to include our audience, the young people themselves. So, we are going to be ensuring that we hear from these young folks. Even, if we can, including them in the subcommittee meetings themselves. We're going to be working very closely with the organizations across the country that are doing good work in this area, as well as identifying those that are doing tremendous works but, at this time, have an unheralded voice. So, the timing for this could not have been better. Our children, our homes, in some cases, are being radicalized. There is verbiage that I've heard in the past three or four weeks that I've never heard before. There are social media sites that our young people are unfortunately reaching into, and there are some really bad players reaching out to our youth. So, the timing, again, could not have been better. And we really need to think about what programs will reach these young people. And that's likely going to include building resiliency within the community to work more closely with our young people. We'll be looking at the models out there to see what is working. Our police chiefs across the country have been building out youth counsels for years, and we want to take a close look at how those youth counsels work, what they've solicited from young people, and how they've used that information.

In any case, that's where we're going. We need to first look inside the department, which is what we've been doing, and include the young people in the process. And we're going to be speaking to a lot of, what I'll call, our subject matter experts, out there. It's not just going to be the academics. It's going to be the people that have been on the ground working with these young people. We are deeply concerned at this time because there are some real bad players that are leveraging some very savvy technologies and methodologies to reach out to these youth while they're sitting at home. If there are any questions, we'd look forward to answering them for you.

Carie Lemack:

Thank you, Paul. Again, I just want to say none of this would be possible without the amazing work of Mike Miron and Evan Hughes and the entire team on the HSAC staff. We really appreciate all your support.

Mike Miron:

Thank you, Carie and Paul for that excellent update. I'd like to thank all the subcommittee leaders and members for those updates. Before I turn it back over to Judge Webster to close today's meeting, I'd like to remind the members of the public, including the media, that they can provide any questions or additional comments via email to, HSAC@hq.dhs.gov and we will also post the HSAC meeting minutes on the HSAC website, which is, www.dhs.gov/hsac. And I should also let you know that on that website, you can find the Secretary's February tasking of these four subcommittees and their membership lists.

With that, thank you. I now turn it over to Judge Webster for closing remarks. Judge, the floor is yours, sir.

Judge Webster:

Thank you very much. I would like to thank Frank, Stewart, Bob, Steve, Leon, Rob, Carie, Paul, Mark, and all the subcommittee members for their excellent work on these taskings. We do look forward to the final reports published by the subcommittees. The recommendations provided in these reports will be real time, real world, actionable policy that further our collective goal of securing the homeland. I want to thank the HSAC members, members of the public, for attending today's call and give a special thank you to the HSAC team of Mike Miron, Evan Hughes, Garret Conover, Colleen Silva, Bridget Murphy, and Kenny Vo, for organizing today's meeting.

Commissioner Bratton, I turn the call over to you, sir.

Bill Bratton:

Thank you, Judge. It's been a very interesting series of presentations today. I want to thank all of our colleagues, both on the committee as well as the staff that supports us, for their excellent work, and once again remind the public that's listening, and the media, that these are all volunteers who spend an extraordinary amount of time committed to their country and to the issues on which they've been asked to report. All the best to all of you.

Judge Webster:

Bill, thank you very much. This meeting is now adjourned.

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Advisory Council Meeting**

May 7, 2020 Closed Meeting
Closed Meeting Minutes

Closed Session: 9:15 am to 11:35 am

HSAC Chairman Judge William Webster called to order the closed morning session at 9:15 a.m.

Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security provided an update on the Department.

Brian Murphy, Principle Deputy Under Secretary for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis provided an intelligence update.

Scott Glabe, Assistant Secretary for Trade & Economic Security Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans provided an economic security update.

Matthew T. Albence, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement provided an immigration security update.

Mark A. Morgan, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection provided a border security update.

David P. Pekoske, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration provided a transportation security update.

Christopher C. Krebs, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security provided a cybersecurity update.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Judge Webster signed document on May 7, 2020



Signed and Dated

Judge William H. Webster, Chairman, Homeland Security Advisory Council