

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Science and Technology Directorate (S&T)
Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee (HSSTAC)**

February 22, 2018

Committee Meeting

Location: 1120 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005

Washington, D.C. 20005

Minutes

Summary: About 26 people attended the meeting via conference call (please see list below).

February 22, 2018

1. CONVENE AND OPENING

The Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee (HSSTAC) Designated Federal Officer, **Michel Kareis**, convened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. **Kareis** welcomed the committee members to the HSSTAC Quarterly meeting. She provided an overview of the agenda and notification that the meeting was public. **Dr. Vincent Chan, HSSTAC Chair**, made a few remarks to the committee and looked forward to discussing the whitepaper and new subcommittee on systems engineering.

Kareis introduced **Denis Gusty**, HSSTAC Alternate Designated Federal Official, to discuss the whitepaper that the committee will be voting on.

2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP FOR EMERGENCIES SERVICES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Denis Gusty introduced the whitepaper, “Countering False Information on Social Media in Disasters and Emergencies”, created by the Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management (SMWGESDM) Subcommittee. The paper looks at case studies, information on best practices, motivation for presenting false information during emergencies, how this information is spread throughout social media and how to quickly address and correct misinformation.

Gusty asked if there was any additional feedback from the committee or the public. There were two comments from **Dr. Chan**: 1) Suggests getting the paper out to the public soon because it has valuable information. 2) Would like to know if there is going to be follow up on the process because there are many subsets that could be explored and researched more. **Gerry Parker**, HSSTAC member, would like to see something similar for disease outbreaks such as bird flu and how social media responds. **Byron Collie**, HSSTAC member, recommended looking into having a classification grading system to support prioritization and authentication.

Kareis suggested making the topic a discussion session at the next HSSTAC meeting

Meeting Open for Questions or Comments from the public:

There were no questions or comments

3. COMMITTEE VOTE ON WHITEPAPER

Kareis called for a vote on the whitepaper. There were enough members in attendance to reach a quorum. All of the members were in favor for approving the paper and no dissenting votes were cast. The vote to approve the “Countering False Information on Social Media in Disasters and Emergencies” White Paper passed.

4. SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AUTHORITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Kareis announced that the HSSTAC would be forming a subcommittee on systems engineering. There will be a separate discussion at the April HSSTAC meeting.

ADJOURN: **Kareis** adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

<Signature on File>

Signed: Vincent Chan, HSSTAC Chair

Date March 18, 2017

MEETING ATTENDEES:

**Vincent Chan
Byron Collie
Mark Dean
Steven Flynn
Marian Greenspan
Yacov Haimen
James Hendler
Kathie Olsen
Gerry Parker
Harry Raduege
Jim Schwartz**

Brian Toohey

Others

Michel Kareis

Gretchen Cullenberg

Terri Saloy

Denis Gusty

Sarah Pearlstein

Tyeshia Roberson

Steve Peterson (SMWGSC member)

Steve Dahms (SoCalBiomedical Council)

Joseph Marks (NextGov)

Julian Bloom (Monument Policy Group)

Cameron Clemence (McAllister & Quinn)

David Olive (Catalyst)

Mark Rockwell (Federal Computer Week)

NOTE: All meeting materials are posted at <http://www.dhs.gov/st-hsstac>. The whitepaper, “Countering Misinformation, Rumors, and False Information on Social Media in Emergencies and Disasters”, is available upon request. Please email HSSTAC@HQ.DHS.GOV for a copy. The final draft will be posted on the website.