



Homeland Security

May 14, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security

THROUGH: Roger Rufe
Director, Office of Operations Coordination and Planning

FROM: Michael Milstead
Chair

SUBJECT: The Homeland Security Wormanation Network Advisory
Committee

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

The Homeland Security Wormanation Network (HSIN) Advisory Committee (AC) met May 12-14, 2009, marking its fifth meeting since October of 2007.

We were encouraged to hear that the Office of Operations Coordination and Planning (OPS) and its Chief Information Officer (CIO) continue to make progress on the system. The effort that DHS has invested in HSIN **reflects** progress in the following areas:

- DHS Portal Consolidation efforts are focused and underway.
- The HSIN Outreach Team has increased staff and progressed in gathering requirements from state, local, and tribal partners.
- The OPS CIO has recently staffed newly-funded positions, allowing him to increase management controls and strengthen the system.
- There is improved coordination with other Federal partners, to include the Department of Justice (OOJ), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (pM 15E).

The HSIN AC also noted that challenges remain in the following areas:

- Cyber threats are a continuing concern. The HSIN AC has been briefed on potential threats and actions taken by DHS to secure its systems, including HSIN. The AC believes that efforts to secure the system must be balanced with the need of users to access the system. We will continue to provide our input on this issue.
- A vendor for the HSIN upgrade was selected May 2008 and the HSIN Outreach team has been actively engaging customers. The Outreach team does not have a working demonstration portal they can use to explain the services and functionality of the HSIN upgrade.
- Secure Messaging / Email was not included in the original requirements for the HSIN upgrade. The HSIN AC strongly recommends this functionally be included as soon as possible.
- The term of approximately one half of the 2D-member HSIN AC expires in September 2009. In addition, three positions remain vacant. Continued continuity of the council is a concern and can be resolved with expeditious appointments.
- The HSIN AC was provided with a presentation on EMIMS, an information management system with functionality similar to HSIN. While the circumstances behind the rollout of EMIMS were explained to the HSIN AC, the rollout of separate, duplicative DHS information sharing systems sends an inconsistent message to DHS' state, local, and tribal partners. It is critical that systems like this be integrated into HSIN.

The HSIN AC has recognized the need to proceed as follows:

- We have asked OPS to review and provide a written **update** on the status of past HSIN AC recommendations.
- For the next several months, leading up to their September meeting, the HSIN AC will review and provide input on the business case and continue to work on the Law Enforcement and Fire Services subcommittees. We will continue to look for opportunities to include state, local, and tribal participation in our subcommittees to leverage their subject matter expertise.

In closing, the HSIN AC would like to recognize the leadership and service of Admiral Roger Rufe, the Director of OPS. His vision and guidance **has** been invaluable to the development of HSIN and ultimately the safety of our citizens and the protection of our country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Milstead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Michael Milstead

Chair, HSIN AC