

Meeting Transcript

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Michael Thomas: Good morning, everybody. Glad to have you all here with us for the 30th meeting.

Heather Harris Pagán: Yes, sir.

Michael: Oh, very auspicious. I guess that's why Heather brought snacks. No cookies for you, but there are cookies, I promise. No public funds were expended.

Well, welcome to the 30th meeting of the State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Policy Advisory Committee, and thank you for joining us. It's, I feel like we're already in July, we've already taken everything that a DC summer could possibly throw at us from heat domes to electrical storms, so I don't know about you, but I'm feeling a little more exhausted than I had expected to be at this stretch in our race, so I'm extra grateful for everyone who made time to be here in person, as well as for joining us online. With that, I won't belabor things. I will pass it to Heather to get us started.

Heather: Thank you, sir. Good morning, everyone. I'm Heather Harris Pagán, the Designated Federal Officer for the SLTPS-PAC. Please take a moment now to silence all mobile devices. Today's meeting is being recorded and will be available on the ISOO website within 90 days, along with the slides and meeting minutes. During my comments, anytime I mention emailing, please utilize SLTPS_PAC@nara.gov. For those in person, we have restrooms located outside the conference room. In the event of an emergency, please follow the members of the public and exit the building immediately. If you would like to connect to the public Wi-Fi, it is A1 Guest. Once you click "Sign In" through your device, click "Accept".

For those speaking and presenting, please ensure you speak loudly enough from where you are located to where the recording is. If you are virtual and your name is not visible through ZoomforGov, please email your name for our attendance records. Please note all audio connections should be muted when not speaking. For questions, if you are in the room, please raise your hand until called upon. For virtual attendees, we prefer questions to come through the Zoom for Gov chat or email. If you are on the computer, you can ask questions through the chat, email your questions and comments, and someone from our team will take care of you from there. Or, you can mute and unmute yourself and ask that way. If you are on the phone and cannot email, press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute. If you require technical assistance, please send an email.

A reminder to our government members, please ensure your financial disclosure is on file with the NARA's Office of General Counsel. This is an annual requirement for your service on this committee.

All available meeting materials, including today's agenda and slides, have been emailed to all registrants. Not all speakers have slides. This is a public meeting. Like previous SLTPS PAC meetings, this meeting will be recorded.

I will now take attendance for the federal government agencies. After I say the name of your agency, please state your name so that we can properly account for everyone. Once I have gone through the federal government agencies, I will then move over to the SLTPS-PAC members. Department of Homeland Security?

Richard Dejausserand: Rich Dejausserand and Juan Estrada.

Heather: Thank you. Department of War? Anyone from the Department of War? Office of the Director of National Intelligence?

Lisa Perez: Lisa Perez from ODNI.

Heather: Thank you, Lisa. Department of Energy? Nuclear Regulatory Commission? Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency? Central Intelligence Agency?

Don: Good morning, everyone, this is Don.

Heather: Thank you Don. Department of Transportation?

Sidonie Dunham: Good morning, everyone. This is Sidonie.

Heather: Thank you Sidonie. Federal Bureau of Investigation?

David Downer: David Downer.

Heather: Thank you, David. Department of Justice? Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency? We'll now move on to the SLTPS PAC members. Chris Palmer? Thomas Gilkeson Jr.? If anyone else is speaking during the SLTPS-PAC that we've not heard from, or we don't know about, please speak now.

As a reminder, we request that everyone identify themselves by name and agency, if applicable, before each time for the record.

We have had a few changes to the SLTPS-PAC membership. Scott Gerlach is no longer the FBI member. David Downer has replaced him. Tony Bowers replaced Tara Inverso at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, but he has also since departed. Mark MacDonald is still the alternate with the NRC. Abby with the CIA is no longer the alternate, but Don is still the primary. We do not yet have a vice chairman for the SLTPS-PAC entity members or a CISA member. We have 9 out of 11 SLTPS-PAC entity members vacant.

For those departed members, thank you for your contributions over the years. We look forward to continuing the work you have done with the new representatives.

The last SLTPS-PAC public meeting was held January 7, 2026. The minutes from that meeting were certified to be true and correct, and were finalized by Michael Thomas on January 23, 2026 and posted to the ISOO website on February 4, 2026. There were no items of interest from that meeting to carry over. Does anyone have any questions? Christine, next slide. Next slide. And, next slide.

Thank you, Michael. Back to you.

Michael: Thanks. Well, moving on to the next item on the agenda, we have made some administrative changes to the SLTPS PAC bylaws, and these revised bylaws were shared with members ahead of time via email from Heather on June 16th.

We also have some hard copies available to review here if anybody is interested.

But I'm requesting that at this committee, we'll all vote to update the bylaws.

Richard: I'll second.

Michael: For that, we're going to need two-thirds of present government members and two-thirds of present SLTPS entity members to approve bylaws changes.

Heather: Great, thank you, Michael. DHS?

Richard: Yes.

Heather: Thank you. Department of War? Office of the Director of National Intelligence?

Lisa: Approved.

Heather: Thank you. Department of Energy? Nuclear Regulatory Commission? Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency?

Derrick Broussard: This is Derrick Broussard. Approved.

Heather: Great, thank you, Derek. CIA?

Don: We approve.

Heather: Thank you. Department of Transportation?

Sidonie: Approved.

Heather: Thank you. Federal Bureau of Investigation?

David: Yes. Thank you.

Heather: Department of State? Department of Justice? Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency? Alright, we'll now move on to the SLTPS PAC members. Chris Palmer? Tom Gilkeson? Alright, as far as I'm concerned, sir, they are approved, since we had no one actually say they weren't approved, but I will confirm that with Bryan [Oklin, ISOO Attorney Advisor].

Michael: Okay. That sounded unanimous to me. Fantastic. Fantastic. All right, sounds like the bylaws will be in effect as of today. Now, at this time, we'll introduce DHS for their update. Richard Dejausserand, Director for the National Security Services Division, Office of the Chief Security Officer.

Richard: Thank you, Michael. Thank you, everyone, for coming today, I really appreciate it. My remarks and agenda items today are based on the meeting we held, I believe it was June 10th, right? Is that June 10th? So it was the first time we did an actual meeting, not in the cycle, to discuss agenda items. So, we had several items, I believe there were 10 to 15 items, and I worked with my team, and we came up with the top 3 to 4 items that we think should be addressed first, before we start moving into some of the

other items to come up with the agenda, but I think we can work with those. I plan on having another one or two additional agenda items coming off of this agenda...some working groups as well, and I'll get to those, so I'll stick with my agenda, and I'll stop after each item, and if there's any questions, I'll be happy to answer if I can.

First thing is enhancing the SLTPS PAC membership. Really would like to see more participation. I know we all have our day jobs, especially from the federal agencies. This is my third SLTPS-PAC here, and some of the same agencies are missing, so I'm going to work with Heather and Michael to see what we can do about getting some letters out or something to the agencies about enhancing the PAC membership. I'm getting more response from the public than I am from our federal agencies. So what I'd like to do is, we have also created a nomination package at DHS that we're gonna get to Heather. So we can send that out, not only to federal partners, but to public partners as well, if they'd like to be nominated. As you saw, the two public members were not here, so we are going to be looking for some... what are their titles? Are they chairs, or co-chairs, or for the public?

Heather: They're considered SLTPS entities.

Richard: Yes, SLTPS entities. So, from the public. I really appreciate those of you that have reached out to me, expressing your interest. So, we're gonna get these nomination packages to Heather, so we can get these in and approved here through my office.

With that, where do I go to get that? So, one of the agenda items that we really looked at is... Before we move on, any questions, comments, concerns about the PAC membership?

Kevin Klein: I'm wondering if I'm still a member.

Heather: You are not, Kevin. Your time lapsed, I can get with you the date that it ended.

Kevin: Okay. So, do we need to reappoint somebody from the GSAC?

Heather: That would be great.

Kevin: Alright. Let me know if, if you... I'll... I'll take care of it on my end, but we'll go from there.

Heather: Yes, sir. Thank you.

Richard: So, with that being said, where do we go? Where does the public go? Where does the government go to find out information about the SLTPS-PAC? So, my team, along working with Heather, is going to develop a community of interest page on the ISOO webpage. What we're gonna do is talk about outreach, engagement strategies, develop educational materials, and best practices for community education. In addition, what we'd like to add is points of contact. Lists of all federal members, list of all public members. So we can have that collaboration coordination. I think that's missing. So this community of interest will hopefully give you a reference point, one-page reference point, where you can go to address these topics, which is also what we discussed during the agenda item is visit request and perm certs. A lot of questions from the public on how we get to meetings, how we can get access to SCIFs and what we're looking to do is we're going to reach out to our federal partners to have them provide us an overview of their current processes. Whether you have to pass a perm cert for a federal agency to go to one. I think most of the federal partners know how to do that, but I think

the concern was with the private sector, how we do that. So, we're going to work with the federal agencies to provide an overview of their current processes. We want to identify challenges and opportunities for improvement, and then discuss the streamlined procedures, which will all be identified on the Community of Interest page. Any questions, comments about that? Okay.

So, the next item is working groups. So, what we'd like to do is establish a community of interest working group. We want to get members who will participate with Heather. She...we will, of course, head up, but we'll work with Heather to have these working groups to talk about what the public/private sector is experiencing, what our federal agencies are experiencing, and how we can tie these processes together to smooth the transition.

We didn't want to go into the clearance process, because we know that's a hot mess. We're going to be working on that. I think if we start small, establish a foundation, get some of these working groups going, that's going to help us move forward with this program. So what I'd like to do is, if we have any volunteers that would like to be part of this first working group for the community of interest, I'd appreciate that. You don't have to say that here if you want. You can email Heather. Heather and I talk quite often, so we will get everything set up if you get your names. It doesn't have to be in person, we can do it virtual, but establishing this community of interest, I think we're going to be able to put different topics, different tabs, as we move along. So we start with education, we talk with perm certs, visitor requests, then we can move into the clearance process, then we can work on policy.

And that's how I'm going to wrap this up, is policy, right? This SLTPS-PAC was designed to establish policy. I've been in the SLTPS community now for about 14 years, and to my knowledge, I cannot think of any policy that's been established by the SLTPS-PAC. We need to change that. Especially the federal partners.

So, I'll give you a quick brief of what DHS does for the SLTPS community. Our office is the program office where the senior executive, we're responsible for policy for the SLTPS program. In my office, we have a team that goes to the fusion centers. We certify and accredit HSDN, SIPR, secret collateral rooms for all fusion centers. Right now, I think we have 87 fusion centers where we have collateral rooms. So not only after we certify the rooms, we go out and we inspect these rooms approximately every 3 years to make sure that the individuals are following policy, they're adhering to all regulations. We also do what's called staff assist visits, where we usually go out and try 18 to 20 months to follow up how the inspections went, if they're having any troubles, any upgrades, any mods, we work with that team.

In addition, we have an SLTPS operations branch that works with all the fusion centers and the state's POCs for training. Our office is responsible for ensuring that the SLTPS community for the DHS Fusion Centers and for the states complete their required annual training. We just established this SLTPS operations branch. That's to make sure they've done their annual clearance training, insider threat. I think there's 4 of them, I can't think of the other 2 off the top of my head right now. But that's what our office does, but the main part of our office is to work and establish policy. Out of the 87 fusion centers, I believe 17 are certified by the FBI, and I think we have 5 or 6 that are certified by the Department of War. We need to enhance that collaboration between the FBI and DoW. And I'm gonna talk to David here right after this meeting, which this is a great opportunity for him and I to meet each other today. But that's what DHS's role is with the fusion centers. I have our branch chief, Juan Estrada. Juan, do you want to add anything to that before I turn it back over to Heather?

Juan Estrada: No, Rich, I'm out here in Wisconsin right now at a fusion center doing an inspection, so it's kind of relevant to what you're saying, so...I know, it's just, the more support that we get, and please include if any SLTPS-PAC members can identify anybody within the tribal sector, that'd be very helpful for us, too. That's one element that we have never really had representation to the PAC. So as you're going and you're looking for individuals that would be able to support us, if you have any connections, collaborations with the tribal, please let us know that as well. That's all. Thanks, Rich.

Richard: Yep. So, that's what our team does with the fusion centers. We also work hand-in-hand with our Intelligence and Analysis Division, which is DHS I&A. So, all our fusion centers have intelligence officers within the fusion centers that share that intelligence with the state, local, tribal, and private sector partners. So, just trying to explain the DHS mission with what we're responsible for, and we want to bring in our federal partners to see how you're supporting the state and local program. How can we collaborate? What are we missing? We understand the problem with the clearances. That is a big undertaking. DHS, The Office of the Chief Security Officer, is going through a major reorg right now. The clearance process is under the microscope, where we can kind of enhance this. Not trying to tell on ourselves, but I visited 5 fusion centers in Texas last month, and we found that there was an individual, a lieutenant, who was on a child exploitation task force, but his clearance had been sitting there for 8 months. Couldn't get into the game. So, this was just one of many items that we're finding. So, not only is it...so, if private sectors think you guys are having trouble, it's happening in the government with our partners as well. So I'll leave it there. If there are any questions, comments, or concerns, I again, I really would appreciate it if we could get some people in this community interest working group, because what that's going to do is potentially, hopefully, lead to more working groups where we can start to solve some real problems.

With that, Heather, I'll turn it over to you.

Heather: Thank you. I appreciate that.

Richard: You're welcome.

Heather: Does anyone have any questions for DHS? I saw a few of the comments in the chat. I look forward to chatting, and appreciate that. Alright, I'll turn it over to Michael. Christine, next slide, please.

Michael: Yeah, Rich, thanks so much, and thanks for all the effort that you put in since our last meeting to bring some sort of fun and organization around these kind of pain points we have for the SLTPS-PAC. I mean, obviously, we've had a challenge of having membership, and without membership, we can't have the impact that we'd like to, but I think the things that you highlighted both put some real thought and effort behind a coordinated process, developing members, talking about what we put on our website to sort of make the work of the organization visible, to sort of present the value proposition that can draw folks in, and then show that we are, over time, being responsive, giving the SLTPS-PAC sort of a renewed identity, which has been sort of lost since its original inception. But we all know and recognize that there's still more work to do in this space. It's just a matter of reconstituting this body to address the challenges of today, so I'm so grateful for your efforts.

Richard: Absolutely.

Michael: So having covered the items on our immediate agenda. This is the part of the meeting where we ask if anyone else has business before the committee. Any words? Questions?

Russ Porter: This is Russ Porter. I'm trying to find my hand-raising thing, but I can't find it.

Michael: Hey, Russ, how are you?

Russ: Good, thank you very much, Michael. This is just for general discussion and kind of reflects back to the first prioritization item that was discussed, the enhancing SLTPS-PAC membership. And I would just say, you know, one way to maybe bootstrap a few of these things together would be to take and it's kind of Kevin Klein's point earlier. These state and local associations can be very powerful, if you find people who are not only as individuals interested in this, but who can represent a large constituency, solicit ideas, and bring those ideas back, identify colleagues from those constituencies who will raise their hand and be a part of working groups, and just make it part of an obligation of their service to the associations. And by associations, I'm thinking of, for example, Kevin Klein's association, the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor's Council, the GSAC. I'm thinking of the National Fusion Center Association, not just reaching out to fusion centers, but really to the collective of people who are active and involved; the major law enforcement associations, that have groups, IACP, which I'm chairing their intelligence and information sharing section, which is brand new for them. IACP has another subset within it for tribal policing. There are these pathways to not only gain energized SLTPS-PAC members from the, at least in this case, state and local governments and tribal governments, but also, find the people from working groups more broadly, because those associations can push that out to their members and solicit that. So I would just say to add an emphasis to enhancing SLTPS PAC membership, that's a path that's well worth exploring, and in my opinion, worth pursuing. Thanks.

Richard: Thanks for that, Russ, I'll be reaching out to you.

David: Russ just said exactly what I was going to say. I would echo his comments wholeheartedly. We have inroads into all of those organizations that you mentioned from my division at the Bureau, so I'd be happy to be a conduit for that. You're going to get a whole lot more bang for your buck by going to association executive directors and presidents and talking to them and you were about trying to drum up any individual interest from persons here.

Richard: Gotcha.

Russ: David, thank you. I'm glad you're at the table, by the way. You're the right guy.

David: Nice to see you, Russ. The other thing I would mention is that the DOJ has a similar body to this called Global. It is an advisory committee. There is a council...Criminal Intelligence Coordination Council. We're waiting for the charter to be renewed from DOJ. It expired, so as soon as that happens, we'll be reconstituting Global. The membership for that is very similar to what you're envisioning for this, and so I think, you know, there's some likely overlap between those two entities that would be useful for us to explore once they reconstitute that organization. Many of the groups that Russ mentioned are already members of Global at DOJ, and so would be a good fit through here as well, and I think a lot of the issues that you're raising are already on their radar.

Richard: I would love to get that partnership. Yeah, for sure.

Russ: Agree, David.

Michael: Yeah, fantastic. I'm thinking about the meeting that Russ and I talked about Global and some of these things a couple months ago, but thinking about how what is the sort of, lay of the land and where is there beneficial double-tapping on things, but also things that are specifically contiguous to this body, so that you can add some value. Understanding one of the pressures put on the SLTPS-PAC over time is that other spaces over time kind of cannibalize some of what was earlier done. So, sort of rethinking what our boundaries are, and then we can be sort of collaborative with.

Any other, any other comments, concerns, questions? All right, then we will bring this meeting to a close. All SLTPS...I said it right so many times, SLTPS meeting minutes will be posted within 90 days to our website at nara.gov, and we expect the next meeting to be right here on January 20th, 2027. Details to follow. So, thank you all very much, and meeting adjourned.