

Transcript

State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Policy Advisory Committee

January 7, 2026

Adams Conference Room, National Archives, Washington DC and virtual

Michael Thomas: Well, good morning, everyone. Thank you so much for joining us today. Welcome to the 29th meeting of the State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Policy Advisory Committee, hosted here at the National Archives. Grateful for everyone who's able to participate, both virtually and in person. We have some members of the public joining us today, which is fantastic.

We've had some very good things happen, one of which is that our committee was renewed via executive order late last year, and subsequently the charter for our committee has been renewed as well. I think that speaks to confidence in the administration and the work that we're doing, and the recognition of the importance of the mission of this committee. So, both, great, sort of wins to have at our back, and a good endorsement of the work that we can do in the new year.

One of the most essential elements for being able to do good work over the course of this year is really to ensure that our membership is full and revitalized, and so that will continue to be a focus of the committee to make sure that membership is filled, that we have representation, so that we can draw the insights from across these various sectors of critical security relationships, and ensure that they're well served. I think the key to that, the key to drawing in the membership that we need, is setting a robust agenda that is responsive to the needs of those organizations, that speaks to the relationship that they have across the federal enterprise, and so we'll endeavor to do that as well with the inputs that we gather here today, and as well as, you know, many of the things that we know we have on our continuing agenda from the past year.

So I'm really looking forward to it, and I'm very grateful to Heather for helping to organize a meeting, and for all of our participants for joining us today. But with that, I'll pass it over to Heather to get us started. Thank you.

Heather Harris Pagán: Next slide, please, Randell. Thank you, Michael. Good morning, everyone. I'm Heather Harris Pagán, the designated federal officer for the SLTPS-PAC.

Before we move into the roll call, I'm going to go over a few reminders for everyone's situational awareness. Information related to the SLTPS-PAC and its public meeting is available on the ISOO website and Federal Register.

If you require technical assistance, please send an email to SLTPS_PAC@nara.gov. Please note, all audio connections should be muted when not speaking. For questions, and you are calling in on the telephone, please hit *6 to mute and unmute yourself. If you are on the computer, you can unmute yourself, ask questions through the chat, or email your questions and comments to SLTPS_PAC@nara.gov and someone from

our team will take care of you from there. If you are in the room, please raise your hand until called upon.

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. As with previous SLTPS-PAC meetings, this meeting will be recorded. This recording, along with the minutes, will be available within 90 days on the SLTPS PAC Reports on Committee Activities webpage.

I want to remind the government members of the committee of the requirement to file a financial disclosure report with the National Archives and Records Administration Office of General Counsel must be completed prior to officially serving on the SLTPS-PAC, and then updated and submitted on an annual basis. Members that are existing OGE450 or OGE 278 filers at their respective agencies may choose to submit an OGE 450 or OGE 278 filed within the last 12 months in lieu of the NA 11004. However, the NA 11004 form is tailored to service on NARA committees and boards and may simplify the process for members.

Now, I will 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, and then to our individual speakers.

DHS?

Richard Dejausserand: Good morning, Heather. I'm reporting for Rich Dejausserand, Robert McRae, J'son Tyson, and Mr. John Guy.

Heather: Department of Defense?

Devin Casey: Devin Casey?

Heather: Thank you. Office of the Director of National Intelligence? Department of Energy? Nuclear Regulatory Commission? Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency? Central Intelligence Agency?

Don: Hi, Heather, this is Don.

Heather: Thank you. Department of Transportation?

Sidonie Dunham: Hi Heather, this is Sidonie.

Heather: Thank you. Federal Bureau of Investigation? State Department?

Kate Connor: Connor on the line.

Heather: Thank you. Department of Justice?

Glenn Bensley: Yeah, hi, hi Heather, it's Glenn Bensley.

Heather: Hi, Glenn, thank you for calling in. CISA. Alright, thank you. We'll now move on to the SLTPS-PAC members. Chris Palmer?

Chris Palmer: Hi, good morning. Chris Palmer from Utah.

Heather: Thank you. Tom Gilkeson? If anyone else is speaking during the SLTPS-PAC that we have 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 speaking each time for the record.

We have had a few changes to the SLTPS PAC membership. Rich DeJausserand, who is no stranger to the SLTPS or DHS, is now serving as DHS's Alternate Vice Chair. Tara Inverso has left the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, but a formal replacement has not yet been provided. We also do not yet have a vice chairman for the SLTPS-PAC entities. 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 July 9th, 2025. SLTPS-PAC minutes from the last meeting were certified to be true and correct, and were finalized by Michael Thomas on August 13, 2025, and posted to the ISOO website on August 18, 2025.

There were no items of interest from the July 9th, 2025 SLTPS-PAC public meeting to carry over. Does anyone have any questions?

Abby: Hi, Heather.

Heather: Hi!

Abby: It's Abby, from CIA. I missed in the roll call. It went by too quickly. Just wanted to make sure you knew I was here. Thank you.

Heather: Great, thank you, Abby, I appreciate that. Michael, back to you.

Michael: Thanks, Heather. At this point, we'll move on to the next item on the agenda, and then we'll turn the mic over to DHS for their update. Mr. Rich DeJausserand will provide it. He's the Acting Director for the Compliance Standards and Training Division, Office of the Chief Security Officer. Rich, good morning, and thank you so much.

Rich: Good morning, Michael. Can you guys hear me?

Michael: Very well.

Rich: Excellent, thank you. Well, good morning, everyone. Thank you for your time today. I've been in this role for about 5 months now. I've been doing some review of the program. As Heather said, I'm familiar with this. I was the branch chief 6 years ago for this program, now I've moved into the director role. I got an opening statement that

I'd like to provide, and then give you a couple updates from DHS, and then my vision and goals for the SLTPS pack as we move forward in FY26.

So, first of all, my goal for the DHS SLTPS Management and Oversight Program is to strengthen the integrity and resilience of the SLTPS security environment by providing unified and risk-informed oversight of DHS-certified secure spaces and SLTPS clearances. And I'll go a little further into the clearance process here in a little bit.

The goal is to modernize the program and centralize the SLTPS clearance and support process to improve accuracy, transparency, and ensure consistent compliance with federal law and DHS policy. Additionally, we will deliver actionable insights and informed decision-making that protect personnel, facilities, systems, and national security information. Any questions on that before I move on? Okay, hearing none, so I'd like to first talk about a couple of the highlights for FY25 for the SLTPS program for DHS. Some of our accomplishments, we certified 4 rooms, infusion centers, we de-certified 3 rooms. We inspected 14 facilities with DHS secure rooms in the fusion centers, and conducted 6 staff assist visits. Those staff assist visits were at other facilities, whether they were FBI-owned or DoD-owned. Our goal for this year is to inspect 18 DHS-certified secure rooms throughout the U.S, and to conduct 4 staff assist visits. Any question on those? Okay, so what we'd like to do this year, first of all, is we are going to do a deep dive, comprehensive review of the Executive Order 13549 and the Executive Order Implementing Directive. These executive orders are several, several years old, and with the way that the program has progressed and the modernization of different programs and processes, we really need to start focusing on... I'm not saying a rewrite, but potentially an update to how we conduct business, not only in DHS, but across the entire government.

One of the things that I have noticed in my first 5 months is that there is a significant disconnect in the SLTPS clearance process. Department of Treasury, Department of Energy, with DHS... that is one of my biggest goals this year, is to implement a standard process for processing SLTPS clearances, not only across the federal government, but across Industry as needed for the federal government. I, again, don't want to get too deep dive into this, but where I'm going with this is that my goal is to set up some subcommittees and some working groups in coordination with ISU to start discussing some of these items. Not only the policy, SLTPS clearances, but to ensure that we have appropriate representation on the committee in this policy, that we can discuss these policies. An example is that there is a big disconnect between FBI and DHS secure rooms, how we operate our policies. The differences with PEDS into rooms and PEDS not in rooms. So that's what this SLTPS pack is for, is to discuss policy. And I think in the past, we've just been discussing highlights, how we're moving forward. So this year, especially with the upcoming meeting, it'll probably be in June or July, establishing these working groups before we meet with the PAC, so we can actually make some policy decisions for the SLTPS program. I'm happy to discuss, that's kind of the end of my... what I have to say, but happy to discuss. I'm going to work with Heather. She can distribute my email so we can talk to you

individuals. If you ever want to reach out to me to discuss policy issues, I'm happy to do that. Any questions, comments, concerns?

Don: Hey, this is Don from CIA. Just curious, when you say rooms, when you're talking about PEDs and also your certified rooms, are you talking about SCIFs, or am I...?

Rich: No, I'm talking secret level rooms, HSDN secure rooms, so secret level. So DHS is HSDN, and, you know, DoD is SIPRNet, so none of these are SCIFs.

Don: Copy. Okay, thank you.

Mary Deffenbaugh: Hi, this is Mary Deffenbaugh. I am not formally representing DOE, Department of Energy, but you did mention a disconnect with DOE, and I was curious if you could expand on that.

Rich: The problem has been that DOE has been submitting individuals for nomination, and there's how they're being nominated, who's eligible to nominate. It's the system is not broken, let's get that straight, but there's no clear, concise policy. Like Department of Treasury, they're asking us to pay for security clearances, but we don't have an MOA in place. And that's what I'm looking for. The disconnect is that we do not have MOAs, so DHS is the program manager of the SLTPS program. Even though the different federal agencies have their own policies and procedures, there still has to be an MOA in place with DHS. Does that make sense?

Mary: Yes, thank you. I will pass that along.

Rich: Okay, Heather, with no other questions, I'm done. Thank you.

Michael: Thank you. Any questions from our folks in the room? All right, Rich, thank you very much. It sounds like an exciting several months before we convene again, and I'm sure Heather will be in touch about the working groups and moving that forward. Absolutely. Much appreciated. So we're now at the point of the meeting where we'll ask if any of our participating SLTPS-PAC members have any new business to present, or other matters to discuss. Hearing none, we will go ahead and conclude. All SLTPS PAC minutes will be posted within 90 days to the SLTPS PAC website, and we expect the next public meeting to be right here in June or July, it sounds like, yeah. All right, thank you all. Meeting adjourned.