

State, Local, Tribal, Public Sector Policy Advisory Committee (SLTPS-PAC) Transcript
September 20, 2023

Event Producer, Candice Evans: Welcome and thank you for joining today's State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Policy Advisory Committee meeting, also known as the SLTPS-PAC. To receive all pertinent information about upcoming SLTPS-PAC meetings, please subscribe to the Information Security Oversight Office's Overview Blog at <https://isoo-overview.blogs.archives.gov/>, or by going to the Federal Register. All available meeting materials have been emailed to all registrants. We ask committee members to please mute all audio connections when you are not speaking. If you are not a member of the SLTPS-PAC and would like to ask a question or make a comment, please press #2 on your phone to join the queue. This is a public meeting. Like previous SLTPS-PAC meetings, this will be recorded. This recording, along with the transcript and minutes, will be available within 90 days on the SLTPS-PAC Reports on Committee Activities webpage. Let me now turn things over to Mr. Bill Fischer, the Acting Director of ISOO, as well as the acting chairman of the SLTPS-PAC.

Bill Fischer: Good morning everyone. Welcome to the 25th meeting of the State, Local, Tribal and Private Sector Policy Advisory Committee. I'm Bill Fischer, the Acting Director of ISOO. I'm watching over ISOO until a permanent director is hired. Mark Bradley retired in June, and I've been in this position since July. For your awareness, a vacancy announcement for the ISOO Director position was posted this Monday, September 18th. I'm the Director of the National Declassification Center at the National Archives in my permanent position. My career has included archival functions, records management, FOIA, declassification, and overall federal information policy and operations. This is a new area for me and I'm glad to learn more about the vital work that you do concerning policies relating to access and safeguarding of classified national security information by state, local, tribal, and private sector entities. I will now turn it over to my Designated Federal Officer, Heather Harris Pagán.

Heather Harris Pagán: Thank you, sir. Welcome to ISOO. I look forward to continuing to work with you. I will now begin attendance. We've already heard from Bill Fischer, the Acting chairman of the SLTPS-PAC.

SLTPS-PAC Vice-Chairman, Rich McComb?

Department of Energy's alternate, Tracy Kindle? Tracy, are you on the call?

Tracy Kindle: Yes, I'm here. I'm here, Heather. Thank you. Sorry about that.

Heather: No problem. Nuclear Regulatory Commission member, Tara Inverso?

Tara Inverso: Hi, Heather. Thank you.

Heather: Thank you. NRC's alternate, Darryl Parsons?

Department of Transportation, Sidonie Dunham?

Sidonie Dunham: Present.

Heather: Thank you. Department of Defense member Michael Russo? Office of the Director of National Intelligence member Lisa Perez?

Lisa Perez: Thank you. I'm present.

Heather: Thank you. Federal Bureau of Investigation member Jake Zockert? What about FBI's alternate, Scott Gerlach? Department of State member Kate Connor?

Kate Connor: Good morning. I'm on the line.

Heather: Good morning, Kate. State's alternate, Durrell Hicks?

Durrell Hicks: Good morning. I'm here.

Heather: Good morning. Department of Justice member Glenn Bensley? Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency member Keith Minard? What about DCSA's alternate, Derrick Broussard?

Derrick Broussard. Good morning. I'm here, Heather.

Heather: Good morning Derrick. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency member, Nitin Natarajan? Local East member Meghann Teubner?

Meghann Teubner: I'm here.

Heather: Thank you. Megan. Local east member, Shelly Schechter? Private sector member, Jeffrey Imsdahl? State Mountain region member, Kevin Klein?

Kevin Klein: Present.

Heather: Thank you. Private sector member, Cam Burks?

Cam Burks: Good morning. I'm here.

Heather: Good morning Cam. State Midwest member, Jeremy Stroka?

Jeremy Stroka: Good morning Heather, and present.

Heather: Good morning. Thank you. DHS Speaker, Iwona Horyn?

Iwona Horyn: Yes, hi Heather.

Heather: Hi Iwona. CISA speaker, Ms. Alaina Clark?

Alaina Clark: Yes, I'm here. Thank you.

Heather: Thank you. And CISA speaker, Trent Frazier?

Alaina: It was going to be Trent or I, so I'm covering for both of us.

Heather: Got it. All right. Thank you so much. We request that everyone identify themselves by name and agency, if applicable, before speaking each time for the record. Is anyone else expected to speak during the SLTPS-PAC that we have not heard from?

Don: Heather? This is Don from CIA.

Heather: Oh, fantastic. Thank you. Sorry about that Don. Ms. Evans, is anyone raising their hand on the phone line?

Event Producer: Not at this time.

Heather Harris Pagán: Thank you. I want to remind government membership of the requirement to annually file a financial disclosure report with the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of General Counsel. The same form of financial disclosure that is used throughout the federal government, OGE Form 450, satisfies reporting requirements. If you have any questions, let me know.

The charter for the SLTPS-PAC is expected to be renewed on September 30th, 2023 and will be effective for two years.

We've had a few changes to the PAC membership since the last meeting. As Mr. Fischer mentioned, Mark Bradley, the former Director of ISOO and Chairman of the SLTPS-PAC, has retired, and Bill has stepped in to replace him until we have someone hired to permanently replace Mark. As Bill said, the job announcement just went out earlier this week, so please apply if you are interested. Additionally, Valerie Kerben, the primary member with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence is retired, and has been replaced by Lisa Perez, who was already the alternate. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's new primary member is Tara Inverso, replacing Sabrina Atack. Cam Burks, the Chief Security Officer of Roku, is a new member as of last month, as is Jeremy Stroka representing the Midwest in Iowa for state matters. As a reminder, we still have several slots that are open for membership. If you have any nominations, please bring them to our attention. For those departing members, thank you for all your contributions over the years. We look forward to continuing the work you have done with the new representatives.

The minutes from the last meeting were finalized and posted to the ISOO website on January 26th, 2023.

I will now address the items of interest from the January 4th, 2023 SLTPS-PAC public meeting.

The FBI is still working on providing its SLTPS security clearance status to DCSA to include, if possible, the effort to identify non-task force officers in their systems for inclusion in the data transfers. The SLTPS-PAC has been focusing on this issue for a few years. The FBI reported that they had been engaged in end-to-end testing of the data transfer process with DCSA. At this time, the clearance data held by the FBI pertaining to private sector personnel, has been passed to the FBI's Phoenix platform to the Central Verification System, also known as CVS. Because of that, this action is considered closed unless otherwise requested.

For the second outstanding action item, ISOO hosted a meeting in its SCIF March 2nd, 2023 with other entities to examine why that intelligence community is unable to determine the current number of SLTPS personnel that is cleared and to seek a means to obtain this information. This action item is considered closed unless otherwise requested, due to DHS having a firm handle on their numbers.

For the third action item, the DHS Vice chair and Executive Agent of the SLTPS program, provided the recommendations to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, also known as CISA. Due to this, action item is considered closed unless otherwise requested leaving no action items open. Does anyone have any questions? Ms. Evans? Is anyone in the queue?

Event Producer: If anyone would like to speak, please press #2 on your phones. There are no hands raised at this time.

Heather Harris Pagán: Thank you. At this time, we would like to now hear from the Executive Agent for the program, the Department of Homeland Security. Ms. Horyn?

Iwona: Can you hear me?

Heather Harris Pagán: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

Iwona: Perfect. Thank you so much. My name is Iwona Horyn. I'm with the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Chief Security Officer. I am standing in for Mr. McComb today due to his unavailability, and I just wanted to go over a couple of things as we wrap up FY23 and start moving towards FY24.

So I'll start with where we are number wise. DHS across the board has approximately 7800 SLTPS personnel with DHS sponsored clearances, 89% of that population holds a secret level clearance, and 11% of that population is at the TS level. As far as SLTPS compliance and governance, DHS has performed one room certification, and performed security performance assessments (which are routine) on 22 facilities nationwide that we've sponsored and accredited. The findings from both are about 55% of the security performance assessment findings fell under the category of information security discipline. The findings have all been mitigated on the spot or were within 30 days of the report being issued, so the vulnerabilities have been closed out. Those are kind of the big updates for 23. In FY24, we plan on assessing another 22 SLTPS facilities which were sponsored by DHS. The other piece that we started in FY23 that will continue into 24, is we are working with the components to validate the need to know and access levels of all federal and contractor personnel, but also as part of that, our SLTPS community, to

make sure that we have the right people in access, and for those individuals to have clearances. If they have departed or moved on and those have been identified and we were properly reading them out as well. So that reconciliation began in 23 and it's going to continue through 24 to ensure we are mitigating all risks, as well as closing out any vulnerabilities we have. I think that's a big update from DHS as we close out 23. Any questions for me?

Kevin: Kevin Klein here. Anything to address the tremendous backlog on new clearances? It's really become an issue for state and local.

Iwona: DHS does not have a backlog for ours because we do not use DCSA. We have a workload and I do not have the current numbers available, but DHS as a whole is not experiencing a backlog. I know DCSA is. I don't know if, and I can get back on that to provide numbers on where we are with the state and local, what's in our queue currently.

Kevin: Yeah, just when we met with our state partners and DHS and informally DHS sponsored clearances are way, way behind, so I am not sure where the disconnect is.

Iwona: Well, I guess the question I say when you say way, way behind, could you put a numerical figure on it or a timeline that will help me provide an answer on that?

Kevin: Well, going from a couple of months to get a secret clearance to a year.

Iwona: Okay. Okay. I will provide, as I give back our timeliness on those as well as the numbers that were processed for FY23. That may help at least.

Kevin: That'd be great. And it'll help us ground truth what the feelings versus the reality is, so I appreciate it.

Iwona: Of course. Thank you.

Meghann: Can you hear me?

Iwona: Yes.

Meghann: This is Meghann from New York City's NYPD, and I just wanted to second the backlog. We've had people that we submitted for secret level clearances back in January, February that haven't even received their SF86 yet. We are being told that it's because of a backlog.

Iwona: Okay. I will definitely get that as I get back to understand where we are, how many are in queue, or anywhere in the pipeline, to make sure we provide a clear update.

Meghann: Great. Thank you so much.

Iwona: Of course. Anybody else? If not, that's it for me. Heather?

Heather: Thank you, Ms. Horyn. Ms. Evans, is anyone waiting to ask a question?

Event Producer: Not at this time, but again, for those joining who are not on the committee, you can press #2 to raise your hands, but we have no raised hands at this time.

Heather: Okay. Thank you. At this time, we would now like to hear from CISA. Ms. Clark, over to you.

Alaina: Thank you, ma'am. I'm stepping in for our Deputy Director, Mr. Natarajan, who sends his regards. He is tied up with something and could not join. It's great actually to be back with this group. I, for many years participated in it when I was at DHS Headquarters, so great to be back here today. I know the deputy joined during the January meeting. The mission space is to understand, manage, and reduce the risk to our nation's critical infrastructure from both a cyber and physical perspective. We do this through a voluntary mechanism with the critical infrastructure partners. One of those key aspects is being able to ensure that within those 16 critical infrastructure sectors, that we have cleared personnel so that we can appropriately brief them as necessary at varying classification levels on the threat and what we are seeing so that they can make the appropriate adjustments and measures within their facilities to address that threat. This was extremely helpful for us during the past year and a half, or almost two years now, actually, as we were watching actions by Russia and leading up to and during the invasion of Ukraine. This was a vital mechanism that we as an agency used across the inter-agency on the federal side with our partners and with the critical infrastructure partners as well. We truly value our ability to share information at varying classification levels with these critical structure partners. And so with that, we'd just love to pause. I am newer, as I mentioned from the January meeting to this group. We'd be happy to address any questions that you might have about how CISA is partnering with the critical infrastructure sectors, how we are working to share information or clear these individuals. My team works very closely with our Chief Security Office to help get these individuals into the process to get cleared, so happy to address any questions that our inter-agency partners or other members of the SLTPS-PAC have for me. So with that, Heather, I'm happy to open it up for questions.

Heather: Thank you, ma'am. Any questions for Ms. Clark and CISA? Alright, Ms. Evans, anyone waiting to ask a question on the phone line?

Event Producer: Not at this time.

Heather: Okay, thank you. We are now at the point of the meeting where we ask for SLTPS-PAC members to present any new business they may have. Anyone? Cam, Jeremy, would either of you like to say anything as our new members?

Cam: Hi Heather, this is Cam. Just very happy to be part of the group and look forward to contributing. Thank you.

Heather: Thank you.

Jeremy: Yeah, this is Jeremy with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Appreciate the opportunity to participate with this group and I also have concerns as well with the backlog on clearances. Thank you.

Heather Harris Pagán: Thanks Jeremy. Yeah, we'll have that as an action item and we'll get that information out before the next meeting. As soon as we can get that disseminated, we will do so. Are there any other questions or remarks before we close out today's meeting? Okay. I'll go ahead and close out the meeting. Our next SLTPS-PAC is scheduled for February 7th, 2024. At that time, we'll hopefully have a new director on board who will make the determination on whether the next meeting will be fully in person, fully virtual, or a hybrid. As a reminder, all SLTPS-PAC meeting announcements are posted in the Federal Register approximately 30 days prior to the meeting, along with being posted to the ISOO blog. Meeting adjourned. Thank you very much.