



## President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee

### **President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) Member Conference Call (MCC) Summary October 6, 2020**

#### **Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Ms. Sandy Benevides, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and NSTAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO), called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. She informed attendees that the NSTAC is a federal advisory committee, governed by the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*. As such, the meeting was open to the public. She noted that no one had registered to provide comment, but that written comments would be accepted at any time following the procedures outlined in the meeting's Federal Register Notice. Following roll call, Ms. Benevides turned the meeting over to Mr. John Donovan, NSTAC Chair.

Mr. Donovan opened the meeting by welcoming the Government partners in attendance including Mr. Joshua Steinman, Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Cybersecurity, National Security Council (NSC); Mr. Brian Scott, Director for Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, NSC; and Mr. Christopher Krebs, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Director, DHS.

Mr. Donovan discussed the meeting agenda, noting that NSTAC members would: (1) hear remarks from Mr. Scott and Director Krebs regarding the Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen its national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) posture; and (2) deliberate and vote on the draft NSTAC Letter to the President on Communications Resiliency (CR letter).

Mr. Donovan provided a brief overview of the August 2020 NSTAC MCC. During the meeting, Mr. Steinman provided remarks on the Government's efforts to: (1) respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; (2) secure the upcoming election cycle; (3) promote information and communications technology (ICT) supply chain security; and (4) ensure the resilience of fifth generation (5G) network deployments by implementing the [National Strategy to Secure 5G of the United States of America](#).

Mr. Donovan informed participants that Mr. Brandon Wales, CISA Executive Director, DHS, provided remarks on the agency's priorities to secure the November 2020 election. Mr. Wales also thanked the NSTAC for calling out the need for a trusted ICT supply chain in the 2020 [NSTAC Report to the President on Software-Defined Networking](#) (SDN report). NSTAC members also deliberated, voted on, and approved the SDN report. Mr. Donovan noted that participants received a status update on the NSTAC Communications Resiliency (CR) Subcommittee and held a discussion on the need for an open and competitive 5G marketplace. Mr. Donovan turned the floor over to Mr. Scott for opening remarks.

Mr. Scott thanked Mr. Donovan for his leadership of the NSTAC, and the committee for its work on the SDN report. Mr. Scott noted that the Administration had begun reviewing the report's recommendations, which are both thorough and helpful to its ongoing work. Mr. Scott said the Administration continues its efforts to: (1) address the COVID-19 pandemic; (2)



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secure the upcoming election; and (3) finalize the implementation plan for the *National Strategy to Secure 5G of the United States of America*. Finally, he thanked Mr. Angel Ruiz and Mr. Jeffrey Storey, NSTAC Members and CR Subcommittee Co-Chairs, and the larger CR Subcommittee for developing the phase I letter so quickly.

Mr. Donovan thanked Mr. Scott for his comments and stated that the NSTAC appreciated working so closely with the NSC. Mr. Donovan then invited Director Krebs to provide his opening remarks.

Director Krebs thanked the NSTAC for quickly producing actionable recommendations, as it is very helpful for the Administration and CISA. Director Krebs said that CISA has put a premium on rapidly identifying and mitigating cybersecurity issues. Regarding the agency's priorities, Director Krebs stated that October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and that CISA is working with stakeholders to promote greater awareness of cybersecurity issues. He added that he and Mr. Bradford Willke, CISA Acting Assistant Director for Stakeholder Engagement, DHS, had recently participated in the National Cyber Moonshot Education Pillar Workshop to help fulfill the recommendations put forth in the 2018 [NSTAC Report to the President on a Cybersecurity Moonshot](#). Finally, Director Krebs stated that CISA would conclude its third annual [National Cybersecurity Summit](#) on October 7, 2020. To date, the Summit featured discussions on cybersecurity trends, improving diversity in the cyber workforce, and defending the Nation's democracy from cyber threats.

Mr. Donovan thanked Director Krebs for his remarks.

### **Deliberation and Vote on the NSTAC Letter to the President on Communications Resiliency**

Mr. Donovan introduced Mr. Ruiz and Mr. Storey and asked them to provide a summary of the findings and recommendations outlined in the NSTAC's CR letter.

Mr. Storey stated that the purpose of phase I of the CR study was to assess the resiliency of the ICT ecosystem during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to recommend steps that the Administration can take to ensure the resiliency of the United States' NS/EP communications networks. He said that the ICT ecosystem demonstrated a high level of resiliency and adaptability during the COVID-19 pandemic, which he attributed to prior capital investments, technology advancements, and practiced execution of business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

Mr. Storey noted that the Nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was different from other large-scale events as there was no physical destruction of infrastructure. Likewise, COVID-19 required whole-of-Nation messaging and tested incident management protocols at an unprecedented scale. Mr. Storey noted that the pandemic uncovered key challenges and opportunities for improvement, such as: (1) a lack of message coordination between Government and partners; (2) new cyber threats created by the transition of enterprise workloads to remote settings; and (3) a lack of access to broadband in underserved areas,



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limiting citizens' ability to fully leverage the digital economy. Mr. Storey then turned the call over to Mr. Ruiz.

Mr. Ruiz stated that, in the phase I letter, the NSTAC recommends that Government:

- Update its communication protocols for multi-region or large-scale events;
- Include a mechanism to bring a whole-of-Nation issues to the forefront;
- Continue to refine the definition of essential workers to ensure the continuation of critical services;
- Publicly communicate and reinforce the responsibilities of enterprise leaders to ensure that their employee home-points, enterprise networks, and cloud-based services are secure; and
- Leverage available resources to expedite delivery of future-ready broadband access to the Nation.

In addition, the NSTAC recommended that the Federal Communications Commission should provide greater financial support to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, increase the availability of broadband spectrum, and review the current broadband standards to ensure they support the needs of the digital economy.

Mr. Storey stated that the subcommittee is now beginning phase II of the CR study, which would focus on how to promote communications network resiliency eight-to-ten years in the future.

Mr. Donovan then opened the floor for questions from attendees. Hearing none, Mr. Donovan made a motion to vote on the NSTAC CR letter. Members voted unanimously to approve the CR letter for transmission to the President.

Mr. Donovan thanked Mr. Ruiz and Mr. Storey, the subcommittee members, and the team at CISA for their work, and said he looked forward to phase II of the study.

### **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Mr. Steinman thanked the NSTAC for approving the CR letter, adding that he looked forward to implementing its recommendations. Director Krebs thanked Mr. Ruiz and Mr. Storey for their leadership during phase I of the CR study, and the NSTAC member points of contact for their efforts. Director Krebs added that he looked forward to phase II of the CR study as well.

Mr. Donovan thanked Mr. Steinman, Mr. Krebs, Ms. Benevides, and the CISA support team. Mr. Donovan then stated that the next NSTAC meeting will be held on November 12, 2020, and additional information regarding this meeting is forthcoming.

Mr. Donovan then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon receiving a second, he thanked participants and officially adjourned the October 2020 NSTAC MCC.



**APPENDIX**  
**NSTAC Member Conference Call Participants List**

**NAME**

**ORGANIZATION**

**NSTAC Members**

Mr. Peter Altabef	Unisys Corp.
Mr. William Brown	L3Harris Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Scott Charney	Microsoft Corp.
Mr. Matthew Desch	Iridium Communications, Inc.
Mr. Raymond Dolan	Cohere Technologies, Inc.
Mr. John Donovan	Formerly of AT&T Communications, LLC
Mr. Patrick Gelsinger	VMware, Inc.
Ms. Lisa Hook	Neustar, Inc.
Mr. Jack Huffard	Tenable Network Security, Inc.
Ms. Renée James	Ampere Computing, LLC
Dr. Thomas Kennedy	Raytheon Technologies Corp.
Mr. Mark McLaughlin	Palo Alto Networks, Inc.
Mr. Angel Ruiz	MediaKind, Inc.
Mr. Stephen Schmidt	Amazon Web Services, Inc.
Ms. Kay Sears	Lockheed Martin Corp.
Mr. Gary Smith	Ciena Corp.
Mr. Jeffrey Storey	Lumen Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Hock Tan	Broadcom, Inc.
Mr. Christopher Young	TPG Capital, LLC

**NSTAC Points of Contact**

Mr. Christopher Anderson	Lumen Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Jason Boswell	Ericsson, Inc.
Mr. Jamie Brown	Tenable Network Security, Inc.
Mr. John Campbell	Iridium Communications, Inc.
Ms. Kathryn Condello	Lumen Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Michael Daly	Raytheon Technologies Corp.
Ms. Cheryl Davis	Oracle Corp.
Mr. John Emling	Broadcom, Inc.
Mr. Jonathan Gannon	AT&T, Inc.
Ms. Katherine Gronberg	Forescout Technologies, Inc.
Ms. Kathryn Ignaszewski	IBM Corp.
Ms. Ilana Johnson	Neustar, Inc.
Mr. Michael Kennedy	VMware, Inc.
Mr. Kent Landfield	McAfee, LLC
Mr. Sean Morgan	Palo Alto Networks, Inc.
Mr. Thomas Patterson	Unisys Corp.
Mr. Kevin Riley	Ribbon Communications, Inc.



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Mr. David Rothenstein  
Mr. Brett Scarborough  
Ms. Jordana Siegel  
Mr. Robert Spiger  
Ms. Patricia Stolnacker Koch  
Mr. Kent Varney

Ciena Corp.  
Raytheon Technologies Corp.  
Amazon Web Services, Inc.  
Microsoft Corp.  
VMware, Inc.  
Lockheed Martin Corp.

**Government Participants**

Mr. Dwayne Baker  
Ms. Sandy Benevides  
Ms. DeShelle Cleghorn  
Mr. Connor Fitzpatrick  
Ms. Elizabeth Gauthier  
Mr. Robert Greene  
Mr. Christopher Krebs  
Ms. Kayla Lord  
Ms. Valerie Mongello  
Ms. Renee Murphy  
Mr. Brian Peretti  
Mr. Brian Scott  
Ms. Traci Silas  
Mr. Joshua Steinman  
Mr. Brandon Wales  
Ms. Bridgette Walsh  
Mr. Bradford Willke

Department of Homeland Security  
National Security Council  
Department of Homeland Security  
National Security Council  
Department of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security

**Contractor Support**

Ms. Sheila Becherer  
Ms. Emily Berg  
Mr. Evan Caplan  
Ms. Stephanie Curry  
Mr. Matthew Mindnich  
Ms. Laura Penn  
Mr. Barry Skidmore

Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Insight Technology Solutions, LLC  
Insight Technology Solutions, LLC  
Insight Technology Solutions, LLC

**Public and Media Participants**

Ms. Ursula Arno  
Ms. Sharla Artz  
Ms. Christina Berger  
Mr. Calvin Biesecker  
Mr. Jason Boose  
Mr. Eric Geller  
Mr. Ryan Garnowski  
Mr. Philip Grant  
Ms. Anne Johnson

Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Utilities Technology Council  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Defense Daily  
Government of Canada  
Politico  
Insight Technology Solutions, LLC  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Insight Technology Solutions, LLC



*President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee*

Ms. Linda Johnson  
Ms. Laura Karnas  
Mr. Charlie Mitchell  
Ms. Casey Vincent  
Ms. Orly Yaniv

Lumen Technologies, Inc.  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
Inside Cybersecurity  
Insight Technology Solutions, LLC  
Gigamon, LLC



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**Certification**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Mr. John Donovan  
NSTAC Chair