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- EU: European Commission Calls on the U.S. to Restore Trust in EU-U.S. Data Flows
- S&T Directorate Cyber Security Division Transition to Practice Demonstration Day

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Agency Management

CRADA Opportunity with HSARPA for Testing of Reusable Electronic Conveyance Security Device Solutions

Source: Federal Register, 11/29/13

The Borders and Maritime Security Division (BMD), Homeland Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA), is initiating a project to demonstrate that commercially available conveyance security solutions can be utilized with a common data management system in the following Government operations: Centralized Examination Station (CES); In-bond; National Capital Region Secure Delivery; and Cross-border Commerce.

The results of the project are intended to serve as a data point for the standard under development for reusable electronic conveyance security devices (RECONS). The RECONS Standard will support certification of partner solutions to be used by industry for their cross-border commerce shipments in addition to the Government in their aforementioned operations. The proposed term of the CRADA can be up to twenty-four months.


Source: DHS Inspector General, 12/2/13

DHS continues to improve and strengthen its information security program. However, OIG identified the following more significant exceptions to a strong and effective information security program: (1) systems are being operated without authority to operate; (2) plans of action and milestones are not being created for all known information security weaknesses or mitigated in a timely manner; and (3) baseline security configuration settings are not being implemented for all systems.
OIG makes five recommendations to the Chief Information Security Officer. The Department concurred with all recommendations and has begun to take actions to implement them.

See Also: Coburn Blasts Homeland Security IT Weaknesses (Roll Call): Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) on Monday criticized DHS after a new IG report showed significant IT vulnerabilities at the agency. “This report shows major gaps in DHS’ own cybersecurity, including some of the most basic protections that would be obvious to any 13-year-old with a laptop. DHS doesn’t use strong authentication,” Coburn said. “It relies on antiquated software that’s full of holes. Its components don’t report security incidents when they should. They don’t keep track of weaknesses when they’re found, and they don’t fix them in time to make a difference.”

DHS Meeting Notice: Homeland Security Information Network Advisory Committee
Source: Federal Register, 11/29/13

The Homeland Security Information Network Advisory Council (HSINAC) will meet Dec. 17, 2013, from 1 p.m.–3 p.m. EST virtually through HSIN Connect, an online web conferencing tool and via teleconference. The meeting will be open to the public. Items on the Agenda include:

- HSIN Program Update
- HSIN Optimization and Development Vision
- Portal Consolidation Update

Hearing: Coast Guard Mission Execution: How is the Coast Guard Meeting Its Mission Goals?
Source: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Date: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m.; Place: 2167 Rayburn Bldg.
- Witnesses TBA

CBRNE / WMD Threats & Countermeasures

Molecular Baskets and Claws Look to Detect and Grab Nerve Agents
Source: Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System, 11/30/13

Continuing work on molecular baskets could soon provide better protections against nerve agents for warfighters, first responders and civilians. The results of recent studies by DTRA CB/JSTO-funded researchers could aid in developing a novel methodology for the selective detection and acquisition that could lead to the ultimate goal of the rapid degradation of organophosphorus nerve agents (OPNA).
Researchers are designing amphiphilic concave molecular hosts, which they refer to as “baskets,” to bind and degrade OPNA. In particular, each concave host is being computationally designed to comprise a hydrophilic rim and hydrophobic cavity for accommodating a particular organophosphonate molecule, akin in size and shape to a nerve agent. In other work, the team discovered a way to produce “synthetic claws” that will selectively grab small chemical analytes in a claw-like motion.

Cybersecurity

**Improving Cyberthreat Info Sharing**
Source: Gov Info Security, 11/27/13

To improve cyberthreat and cybercrime information sharing, law enforcement officials and business leaders need to develop better working relationships, says federal prosecutor Erez Liebermann. Federal prosecutors are willing to assure businesses that law enforcement will limit the scope of discovery in gathering evidence and withhold victims' names, he notes.

In an interview, Liebermann discusses:
- Factors that impede collaboration between government and business on combatting cyber-attacks;
- Ways government can build trust to get businesses to share cyberthreat and cyber-attack information; and
- How the National Security Cyber Specialists program is combatting cyberthreats to national security.

**Invitation to Meet Cybersecurity Leaders at SINET Showcase 2013**
Source: Security Innovation Network, 12/2/13

Security Innovation Network (SINET) invites you to attend the SINET Showcase and Workshops 2013 on Dec. 4-5 at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. Cybersecurity experts and thought leaders participating in this event will identify and address emerging security threats, critical issues and innovative new approaches to Cybersecurity.

**DHS participants include:**
- Dr. Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity
- Douglas Maughan, Division Director, Cyber Security Division, S&T Directorate
- Mary Ellen Seale, Deputy Director, National Cyber Security Center
- Scott P. Cragg, Chief Information Officer, U.S. Secret Service
- Emery Csulak, DHS Deputy Chief Information Security Officer
- Jeffrey Eisensmith, Chief Information Security Officer
- Joe Jarzombek, Director, Software & Supply Chain Assurance Stakeholder Engagement & Cyber Infrastructure Resilience Cyber Security and Communications
- Suzanne Spaulding, Acting Under Secretary, NPPD
S&T Directorate Cyber Security Division Transition to Practice Demonstration Day
Source: DHS

The Transition to Practice (TTP) program works to identify emerging cybersecurity technologies that were developed with Federal funding and help them transition into products capable of broad utilization. This event will feature eight innovative cybersecurity technologies that have been developed at the DOE National laboratories and have the potential to strengthen an organization’s cybersecurity posture.

During this event cybersecurity professionals and technology investors from private industry will learn about these new technologies through presentations, demonstrations, and discussions with the research teams that produced these technologies.

- Date: Wednesday, Dec. 18; Place: Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- There is no fee to attend this event. This event is sponsored by DHS S&T.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

FEMA RFI: Contact Center Capability Modernization Program
Source: FedBizOpps, 12/3/13

FEMA is researching innovative solutions for modernizing its contact center environment. As part of the research, FEMA is issuing this RFI to gather vendor information pertaining to contact center services, product offerings, and workforce management capabilities.

FEMA is reaching out to industry to identify innovative solutions and service offerings and to identify vendor capabilities and offerings that may support the agency in achieving its modernization objective. These services and offerings can include contractor-hosted public cloud, FEMA-hosted private cloud, on-premise services, or hybrid combinations.

FEMA Sources Sought Notice: Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Program
Source: FedBizOpps, 11/29/13

The purpose of this sources sought synopsis is to determine if there are two or more capable Small Businesses that can perform the requirements of the planned contract (base and four option years).
FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute’s (EMI) Independent Study (IS) Program uses alternate delivery formats to provide emergency management training to State, tribal and local officials, Federal partners, and associated organizations in emergency management communities. There are currently approximately 100 accredited courses through the current contract. These courses result in a combined average annual number of course completions at approximately two-four million. An additional 50 courses are projected to be added to the program annually and will require review for accreditation. It is also projected that approximately 50 existing courses will be revised and will require review for accreditation.

Immigration, Border Security and Smuggling

EUROSUR Kicks Off: New Tools to Save Migrants’ Lives and Prevent Crime at EU Borders
Source: Europa, 11/29/13

On Dec. 2, 2013, the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) becomes operational. EUROSUR will be operational in 30 countries in total. In this first phase, it will become operational in 19 countries, the 18 EU Member States at the southern and eastern external borders and the Schengen associated country Norway.

The backbone of EUROSUR is formed by ‘national coordination centers’, via which all national authorities with a responsibility for border surveillance (e.g. border guard, police, coast guard, navy) are required to cooperate and to coordinate their activities. Information on incidents occurring at the external land and sea borders, the status and position of patrols as well as analytical reports and intelligence are being shared via ‘national situational pictures’ among these national authorities.

Sen. Schumer to Call for More Peace Bridge Border Agents
Source: Buffalo News, 12/2/13

Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) says that the backups, long wait times and lane closures are the result of a cutback in the number of CBP agents stationed at the Peace Bridge POE, and he’s calling on the agency to provide enough federal agents to break the “logjam.” A check of border wait times at around 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Peace Bridge revealed a wait time of 18 minutes for commercial vehicles with six lanes open and a wait time of one hour for passenger vehicles with eight lanes open.

Schumer, calling a reduction in border agents “counterproductive,” says long wait times to enter the U.S. hurt the local economy. **Every border agent provides a $2 million boost to a local economy and 33 new jobs,** Schumer said, citing CBP data.
**Texas: Border Patrol Adds EMTs to Regular Air Patrols**

Source: AP, 11/29/13

Faced with increased numbers of immigrants crossing the border illegally in South Texas and getting into trouble in the vast ranchlands north of the Rio Grande, the Border Patrol has begun adding emergency medical technicians to its regular helicopter patrols.

The Border Patrol has about 100 EMTs spread across its nine stations in the Rio Grande Valley sector. Agents trained as EMTs have been part of search and rescue teams since the late 1990s, but sector Deputy Chief Raul Ortiz said adding them to regular patrols by the Office of Air and Marine began in September.

**USCIS Sources Sought Notice: Card Personalization System Technology Refreshment System Equipment**

Source: FedBizOpps, 12/3/13

USCIS’ Document Management Division (DMD) manages the secure identification card personalization systems to personalize secure USCIS cards in a manner that assures efficiency and maximizes security. The current portfolio of secure cards produced within DMD includes the Permanent Resident Card (PRC) and Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Cards.

Card Personalization System Technology Refreshment (CPSTR) is a complex card identification system to receive data, personalize and issue cards, and provide systems feedback regarding completion and mailing of cards. The CPSTR system is made up of a combination of custom-developed machines, software and some COTS systems.

The contractor would provide additional workstations and associated tasks to create a second site in Lee’s Summit Production Facility (LPF) with the identical capabilities of the USCIS CPSTR system that is currently at the Corbin Production Facility (CPF); to upgrade the CPF as needed. The integrated CPSTR system and any associated equipment, software, installation and integration, and testing for the delivered CPSTR workstations to ensure system performance in accordance with specifications.

**Infrastructure Protection & Resilience**

**Axis Thermal and Network Cameras Protect Unmanned Power Substations from Copper Wire Theft**

Source: SourceSecurity.com, 11/27/13

Axis Communications announced a model project for National Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month by highlighting the City Utilities (CU) of Springfield Missouri’s use of thermal and pan/tilt/zoom (PTZ) Axis IP cameras to protect unmanned power substations from copper wire theft and improve staff safety to ensure continuous flow of electricity for customers.
With the scrap value of copper climbing to more than $3 per pound, each theft costs CU an average of $6,000 in labor and repairs. Within the first month of operation, the new IP camera system helped the utility company alert police to four separate incidents at one of the most highly targeted substations.

**Jamming Threats Explored in GPS World Webinar**
Source: GPS World

A system to detect and locate GPS jamming will be explored in a free *GPS World* webinar Thursday, Dec. 5. The webinar, “Detect and Locate GPS Jamming: Provide Actionable Intelligence,” focuses on the Signal Sentry 1000, an Exelis system. This webinar will discuss the threat and Signal Sentry, and will be of interest to anyone whose organization relies on GPS for information or commerce.

**EU: European Commission Calls on the U.S. to Restore Trust in EU-U.S. Data Flows**
Source: Europa, 11/27/13

The European Commission has set out the actions that need to be taken to restore trust in data flows between the EU and the U.S. The Commission's response takes the form of (1) a strategy paper (a Communication) on transatlantic data flows setting out the challenges and risks following the revelations of U.S. intelligence collection programs, as well as the steps that need to be taken to address these concerns; (2) an analysis of the functioning of 'Safe Harbor' which regulates data transfers for commercial purposes between the EU and U.S.; and (3) a report on the findings of the EU-US Working Group (see MEMO/13/1059) on Data Protection which was set up in July 2013.

In addition, the European Commission is also presenting its review of the existing agreements on Passenger Name Records (PNR) (see MEMO/13/1054) and the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program (TFTP) regulating data exchanges in these sectors for law enforcement purposes.

**PM-ISE Shepherds Secure Data Sharing Tool from Validation to Expansion**
Source: Federal News Radio, 11/29/13

DOJ's successful demonstration of identity management and access control is creating a thirst among other agencies. Other federal, state and local agencies are eyeing how they could use the
The concepts behind the back-end attribute exchange (BAE). The BAE is a standard or specification that provides a way for agencies to share information securely through the use of identity management and access control procedures.

Under the DOJ pilot, federal law enforcement officials shared data in the gang tattoo database with state and local police officers in Texas through the Regional Information Sharing System (RISSNet) program. Mike Kennedy, the executive for assured interoperability for the Program Manager of the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE), said GSA is working with other agencies and relying parties to build the infrastructure of the BAE.

Legislative

Shutdown Prevention: Back-Room Talks Start
Source: POLITICO, 11/30/13

A bipartisan group of senators may serve as a last-minute lifeline if the government faces another shutdown at the start of next year. Led by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) and launched during the government shutdown as a springboard for bipartisan negotiations, the “common sense caucus” may offer solutions on budget issues that have long plagued each party.

Members of the group — who say theirs isn’t one of the Senate’s famous gangs — believe their personal relationships and built-in communication infrastructure might offer Congress a way out. Led by Collins and Manchin, perhaps the least reliable party-line votes in either caucus, the group believes it has developed a positive chemistry among members who are unafraid to take risks.

Maritime & Transportation Security

Former Stanford Doctoral Student Fights "No Fly" Lists in Trial
Source: Contra Costa Times, 12/2/13

Rahinah Ibrahim will take on DHS in an unprecedented trial expected to peel back the curtain on how the government assembles the no-fly lists. For Ibrahim and civil liberties advocates, the trial also provides a chance to challenge how difficult it can be to get removed from the lists even when the government may have made a mistake in identifying someone as a national security threat.

Ibrahim will be fighting the U.S. government in absentia, denied the right since 2005 to return to this country from her native Malaysia and therefore unable to attend the trial in federal court in San Francisco. Several similar lawsuits are unfolding in other courts, including a major challenge to the lists pending in Oregon that is backed by the ACLU. But Ibrahim's claims, which center on allegations that she's been unfairly targeted based on religious beliefs, are the first to reach the public spotlight.
Glass Exit Portals Introduced at Airports
Source: South Jersey Courier-Post, 12/1/13

Futuristic unmanned portals have replaced officers at the security exits of two small Northeast airports, adding a few seconds in a bulletproof glass pod to the end of every passenger’s trip. The rounded exits at the Syracuse and Atlantic City airports prevent passengers from backtracking into secure areas once they exit the plane and keep outsiders from entering through the exits. Travelers step into the elevator-sized cylinders and wait as a door slides closed behind them. After a couple of seconds, another door opens in front with a female voice coolly instructing, “Please exit.”

They could be the wave of things to come as TSA prepares to shift exit-monitoring duties to local airports next year as a way to save $88.1 million. The doors’ manufacturer, New York City-based Eagle Security Group, Inc., said it is in talks with other airports.

People & Business

EU: Ralf Goebel Re-elected as Chair of Frontex Management Board
Source: Frontex, 11/28/13

The Frontex Management Board unanimously elected Mr. Ralf Göbel to continue as Chair at its 46th meeting yesterday. He has served as Chair since April 2012. His deputy, Marko Gasperlin of Slovenia, was also confirmed as Deputy Chair for another two-year term.

The Frontex Management Board is composed of representatives of the heads of the border authorities of the 27 EU Member States that are signatories of the Schengen acquis, plus two members of the European Commission. Representatives from the UK and Ireland are also invited to participate in Management Board meetings. The next meeting of the Management Board will be on 19-20 February 2014, in Warsaw.