

Executive Order establishes cybersecurity commission

On February 9, the President signed an Executive Order establishing a Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity. In his remarks, President Obama said the new commission was created “in order to enhance cybersecurity awareness and protections at all levels of government, business, and society.”

The Commission is formed within the Department of Commerce, and will include no more than twelve members. These members may include individuals with knowledge and experience in cybersecurity, national security and law enforcement, corporate governance, risk management, information technology, privacy, government administration, communications, and other related areas.

The purpose of the Commission is to make detailed recommendations to strengthen cybersecurity in both the public and private sectors.

- The White House

DHS and NASA partner for security innovation

On April 13, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced their partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation (CoECI) to develop new technology solutions to advance homeland security.

DHS and NASA’s endeavor seeks innovation through publicly crowdsourced prize competitions. “We’re creating opportunities for everyone from companies to college students to bring their passion to bear in service of national security.” said DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Dr. Reginald Brothers.

The DHS Science and Technology prize program inspires the use of ground-breaking approaches and solutions to homeland security research and development by challenging entrepreneurs, innovators, students, and others in the private sector.

- Department of Homeland Security

Rice Speaks on whole-of-government approach against ISIL

The President’s National Security Advisor, Susan E. Rice, spoke on the whole-of-government strategy against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) while addressing cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on April 14.

In her remarks, Rice spoke of a comprehensive strategy to combat ISIL that includes all elements of U.S. power, saying “Ours is truly a whole-of-government campaign.” She went on to review the four facets of the ISIL strategy – attacking ISIL’s core in Syria and Iraq, targeting ISIL’s branches, disrupting ISIL’s global network, and protecting the homeland.

Rice also discussed interagency and international efforts to ending the civil war in Syria, which includes military and intelligence personnel, diplomats, and partners from Russia and other nations.

- Department of Defense