

2015 (NCPAA, H.R. 1731 as passed by the House), and the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (CISA, S. 754).

According to the CRS report, all three bills focus on information sharing among private entities and between those entities and the federal government. The bills also address the structure of the information-sharing process, liability risks for private-sector sharing, and privacy concerns related to information sharing.

The bills limit the use of shared information to purposes of cybersecurity and law enforcement. The bills also limit other government use, and potential misuse, of shared information, and include provisions to shield information shared with the federal government from public disclosure. **IAJ**

White House Establishes Interagency Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell

President Obama announced the completion of the review of U.S. hostage policy on June 24. The review has been under way for over a year, and was originally announced in November 2014.

The U.S. hostage policy has been heavily criticized by government officials, members of the U.S. military, and the families of American hostages. Among the complaints are dissatisfaction with a “dysfunctional” bureaucracy and a lack of interagency cooperation. Families of the U.S. hostages also reported feeling threatened by the agencies that had been tasked with the safe return of their loved ones.

The President announced that he had issued a new Presidential Policy Directive aimed at returning American hostages and supporting their families, signed a new Executive Order that would ensure better coordinated hostage recovery, and that the full report on the hostage policy review would be released. The President also announced that a senior diplomat will be designated as a Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs and the creation of an interagency Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell.

The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell will include the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, and Justice, as well as the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Representatives from other agencies may be added as needed. The fusion cell is currently “up and running” at the FBI, and aims to improve how the government develops hostage recovery plans, tracks developments in specific cases, shares information with families, and provides information to Congress and the media. **IAJ**

USAID Updates Civilian-Military Cooperation Policy

In early June, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) released their updated Civilian-Military Cooperation Policy. The new policy builds on the previous policy, which was issued in 2008.

The 2008 Civilian-Military Cooperation Policy established the foundation for cooperation between the USAID and the Department of Defense (DoD). The 2008 policy also established civilian-military cooperation as fundamental to a whole-of-government approach to contemporary national security challenges.

The updated policy builds on the 2008 policy’s foundation, and incorporates what USAID has learned from working with DoD, including lessons learned from experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan,

and other countries where USAID and DoD personnel have shared the same operating space.

The USAID policy was created with input from military leaders, diplomats, and development professionals, and focuses on how collaboration with the military has the potential to “save lives faster than ever before” and addresses persistent challenges that plaque fragile communities. **IAJ**

Simons Center Hosts Cybersecurity Roundtable

On May 14 the Simons Center hosted the CEO Cybersecurity Roundtable at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center in Kansas City. The event was presented in partnership with the Kansas City chapter of Business Executives for National Security (BENS) and the CGSC Foundation, the Simons Center’s parent organization.

The roundtable provided a forum for discussing cybersecurity threats, challenges, and resources for senior business executives, and was attended by leaders representing 32 companies and organizations from the Kansas City area, including UMB, Sprint, AMC Theaters, H&R Block, Commerce Bank, and KU Medical Center. Interagency organizations including the Kansas City offices of the FBI and Secret Service were represented along with the U.S. Attorney’s office.

A highlight of the roundtable was a case study presented by Mike Brown, Chairman/CEO of Euronet Worldwide, in which Brown discussed his company’s experience with a criminal security breach of its computer systems in 2011. Brown’s presentation was followed by remarks from Rick Harris, from the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, and by three panels which focused on cybersecurity threats, protection, and attack response.

The Simons Center plans to follow up the roundtable with an after action review that can serve as a “CEO Cybersecurity Handbook” for planning and response in the event of a security breach. **IAJ**

State, USAID Release 2015 QDDR

The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have released the 2015 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR), *Enduring Leadership in a Dynamic World*. The review was launched in April 2014.

The 2015 QDDR builds on the previous edition, focusing on priority reforms that are crucial to enhancing the effectiveness, agility, and innovative spirit of U.S. diplomacy and development. The QDDR is meant to be the “blueprint for the next generation of American diplomacy,” and centers around four global policy priorities for State and USAID:

1. Preventing and mitigating conflict and violent extremism;
2. Promoting open, resilient, and democratic societies;
3. Advancing inclusive economic growth; and
4. Mitigating and adapting to climate change.

In his executive summary, Secretary of State John Kerry said that State and USAID are mobilizing dynamic partnerships, building broad coalitions, and leading interagency and international teams in confronting current global challenges and fulfilling the missions of both State and USAID.

The QDDR also sets out priorities to support State and USAID staff. **IAJ**