

**National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee
R&D Exchange
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Thank you Wayne [Clough] for that kind introduction. OSTP is pleased to co-sponsor this meeting along with the Georgia Institute of Technology. My function this morning is to provide some bureaucratic information. I am relying on this R&D Exchange to help me and my office give guidance to OMB and other White House policy organizations on the need for specific funding or programs to enhance the trustworthiness of the nation's National Security and Emergency Preparedness telecommunications.

Only a few short months ago I was Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory where I was asked to manage a "culture change" in attitudes toward safety and overall conduct of operations. This experience opened my eyes to the need for a holistic, integrated approach to the management of technical systems. This requires systematic input on a regular basis from the people close to the work, who have the experience needed to identify issues that were not taken into account when the systems were initially designed. NSTAC is one of the means for doing that for the nation's NSEP telecommunications systems, and I am grateful for your support.

Before we begin, I want to pause for a moment to reflect on the fact that we are gathering this week at a critical moment in our nation's history. America is preparing to disarm Saddam Hussein and destroy his weapons of mass destruction. More than three hundred thousand coalition forces and nearly a quarter million American troops stand ready in the Persian Gulf should force be necessary. As President Bush stated in his recent weekly radio address, however, "Across the world, and in every part of America, people of good will are hoping and praying for peace. Our goal is peace – for our own nation, for our friends, for our allies and for all the peoples of the Middle East."

Impact of the creation of the Department of Homeland Security

Here on the home front it is important that our efforts to defend our country are comprehensive and united. The recent creation of the Department of Homeland Security is an important step toward that goal. Earlier this month the new Department began operations in the biggest reorganization of the Federal Government in half a century. The new cabinet-level department ought to make it possible to unify the work of 22 programs and agencies with relevant responsibilities. It is a tool that can provide focus for all the substantial resources of the United States government on the challenging issues of homeland security.

On February 28th the President signed an omnibus of Executive Orders in connection with the transfer of certain function to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Two of the

Executive Orders and a new Homeland Security Directive (HSD) are particularly relevant to today's proceedings.

First is Executive Order 12472, "Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Telecommunications Functions." one major change introduced by this EO is the designation of the Secretary of Homeland Security as the Executive Agent for the National Communications System. By separate memorandum I have selected Bob Stephan, Special Assistant to Secretary Ridge for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, to be a member of the Joint Telecommunications Resources Board until the President announces a nominee for the Under Secretary position in the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate. Mr. Stephan has also taken on responsibility as Acting Manager for the National Communications System. The Joint Telecommunications Resources Board, for those of you who don't know, serves as a deliberative and recommending body for me, and ultimately for the President, for the provision of necessary telecommunications services, information, and advice.

One other significant change in 12472 is the addition of the Homeland Security Council to the list of those organizations that the National Communications System provides assistance to in the exercise of telecommunications functions and responsibilities. This change ensures coordination of homeland security-related activities. The Homeland Security Council is the new White House policy entity replacing the Office of Homeland Security, which no longer exists. Its role is redefined to accommodate the new Department.

The second Executive Order of particular relevance here is 12382 – the "President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC)." This Executive Order establishes a new reporting mechanism for the NSTAC through the Secretary of Homeland Security to the President. The Office of Science and Technology Policy did not prepare the text of this EO, but I understand that the intent was to ensure appropriate coordination with the Department of Homeland Security. I also understand that the Executive Order continues to show the Secretary of Defense as the Executive Agent for the National Communications System, which is not correct. I have been assured that this error will be corrected later.

Finally, Homeland Security Directive 5 – Management of Domestic Incidents – directs the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a National Response Plan that integrates Federal Government domestic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans into a single all-discipline, all-hazards plan. The Directive recognizes the criticality of national security and emergency preparedness by directing the Secretary to consult with me, and other officials within the Executive Office of the President, in developing and implementing the National Response Plan.

Collectively, the amended Executive Orders, the new Homeland Security Directive, along with the other existing Presidential Decision Directives ensure that national security and emergency preparedness telecommunication services will be available in times of crisis for the President, other national leaders, and the emergency preparedness and response community.

Organizing for Results

My confirmation hearing on October 9th, 2001, just a month after the terrorist attacks gave me the opportunity to declare that "the struggle against terrorism has many fronts, and science and technology pervade them all." I believe that, and the nations response since then has confirmed it. In a national security and emergency preparedness era, where voice and data networks are *merging* and the next Generation Network is *emerging*, it is ever more critical that our nation's research and development portfolio be responsive to Presidential and Congressional intent, that our programs are well-coordinated, and that our research and development funds are used efficiently.

Our nation's advantage in R&D must be harnessed to support our national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications functional requirements. Survivability/ endurability, reliability/availability, interoperability, and enhanced priority treatment are just a few of the requirements identified by the Convergence Working Group Report of January 2002 as needing special attention. Here, today and tomorrow at this Exchange, the focus will be on trustworthiness, another critical functional area of concern. Your input will be used to help formulate the President's research agenda and an agenda for action.

One tool we use for coordinating R&D among federal agencies and departments is the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). This is a cabinet level organization with representation by every federal department or agency engaged in R&D activities. Administered by OSTP, the NSTC has four standing committees on Science, Technology, Environment, and Homeland and National Security. Each committee is organized into subcommittees and working groups that are focused on a particular set of issues. We will use the NSTC mechanism for coordinating R&D related to critical infrastructure protection, and we will do it through a subcommittee with dual reporting to the Committee on Technology and the Committee on Homeland and National Security. Working groups will form under this subcommittee to focus on the physical or cyber aspects of infrastructure protection. The subcommittee will rely on NSTAC for the traditional support it has provided for National Security and Emergency Preparedness R&D issues.

Implementation of a comprehensive critical infrastructure protection R&D plan must include participation from and cooperation among multiple R&D communities: industry, academia, and government. The creation of a National Science and Technology Council subcommittee focused on infrastructure protection issues provides a mechanism for developing an integrated federal R&D agenda responsive to threats to the United States.

The President's FY 2004 Budget Proposal

In my testimony last month before the United States House of Representatives, Committee on Science, I noted that the President has a strong commitment to research and development in the national interest. The President's fiscal year 2004 budget focuses on winning the war on terrorism, securing the homeland, and strengthening the economy. Considering the context of an uncertain economic environment and growing federal deficit, any increase in discretionary spending is difficult to justify to the American people. However, the President's

budget requests another record high level of funding for R&D: \$123 billion or a 7% increase over the 2003 request. More than \$5.9 billion of the increase is in Department of Defense development activities, reflecting the President's commitment to bolster our national defense and homeland capabilities. The overall increase in R&D spending is evidence of the importance this Administration places on science and technology in addressing our country's present and future challenges.

In conclusion, these next two days provide a focused opportunity to explore the research and development issues associated with trustworthy national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications. We must focus because the concept of trustworthiness is very broad, but here the emphasis is on the context of national security and emergency preparedness of telecommunications. Please understand that your work will have a real impact on the President's research and action agendas. I look forward to hearing and reading your conclusions, and wish you an enjoyable and productive exchange.

Thank you.