

REMARKS BY

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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8:00 – 8:10 AM

2010 Chemical Sector Security Summit

Hilton Baltimore
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Welcome and Thank You

Good morning and welcome to Day 2 of the Chemical Sector Security Summit. This conference is a model for the type and level of engagement we need if we are going to safeguard the Nation's critical infrastructure, and I want to thank you for your participation, which makes this annual conference possible.

I would also like to thank the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council and, in particular, Bill Allmond, the Summit Working Group Chair. Our community is a community of partners, but amongst those partners are leaders like Dan Walters, Rick Kane, and Clyde Miller. Each provides the essential momentum we need to tackle increasingly complex protection and resilience matters.

We need the support of the Sector Coordinating Council, those of you in this room, and the community you represent, because we face a dynamic threat environment, and an open dialogue is a prerequisite as we work together and leverage our collective capabilities to ensure the safety and security of the Nation's chemical facilities.

Since I was appointed to this position about six months ago, I have worked hard to assess how we can do better, and I believe that our partnership must be energized. So, today, I stand before you and ask for more than just a call for partnership; I am asking you to help us develop partnerships with purpose – partnerships that leverage the collective capabilities of the public and private sectors to advance the goals of safety and security for the Nation's critical infrastructure.

Together, we have the tools we need to confront the complex landscape of natural and manmade threats that we face. None of us can afford to face that landscape alone, and nobody needs to with this community available to help. I believe that what we have done in partnership with you, the Chemical Sector, is an example for all of our other partners.

We, in the Office of Infrastructure Protection, are listening to you and developing the tools and mechanisms that you need to secure our Nation's chemical facilities. At this important conference, there are a number of sessions on CFATS, for example, and I want to thank you for the comments that you have provided on the program. I can assure you that we will always be open to your ideas on how we can improve our interactions with you in the regulatory environment.

Before I turn the floor over, however, I want to reinforce that we are here to work with you in the equally important non-regulatory environment as well.

We have a number of voluntary and free initiatives designed to help public and private sector partners alike. We worked with industry representatives – many of whom are here today – to ensure the tools incorporate industry best practices. We need your help getting the word out so that every partner in the chemical sector knows to add these resources to their security strategies.

For example, we have a Web-based Security Awareness Training Program that is designed to raise facility employee awareness. To date, over 3,500 people have taken the training, and if you are not one of them, I urge you to be one, and to spread the word about the training to others. We need to make the time to train all of our employees so that we are more aware of our surroundings, fight complacency, and know who to inform about suspicious activity.

Another example is our free voluntary chemical assessment tool that allows owners and operators to identify their facility's current risk level using an all hazards approach. What is special about the tool is that it includes a cost-benefit analysis component, which as you well know, is a major factor in the decision making process, particularly for our private sector partners. We also have a Chemical Sector Security Awareness Guide that provides information on the risks presented by explosive devices and cyber vulnerabilities. To complement these efforts, we are also pushing our support out to our partners in the field through vulnerability assessments and the work of our Protective Security Advisors.

To date, we have conducted close to 300 vulnerability assessments at the request of owners and operators, provided over \$66 million in Buffer Zone Protection Program grant funding, and supported countless facilities and State and local partners through the work of our over 90 Protective Security Advisors deployed nationwide. These men and women work side-by-side with owners and operators on security issues, and if you do not know the Protective Security Advisor for your state, please let us know so that we can help make those connections.

And if you have not already, I urge you to sign up for the Homeland Security Information Network. In addition to viewing alerts and warnings, you can access the TRIPwire Community Gateway, where you will find terrorist improvised explosive device tactics, techniques, and procedures that you can use when developing your security strategies and approaches.

I could continue, but I hope my message has been clear. We believe partnership is the answer to the Nation's critical infrastructure security challenges. We believe those partnerships should have a purpose, and specifically that they should be a conduit for leveraging the collective capabilities of the critical infrastructure community. We want to be a contributing member to these partnerships, and we want your input.

I would ask that everyone from the Office of Infrastructure Protection raise their hand. Look around and remember the faces that you see. These are your partners in our office. Reach out to them. Give them your ideas. Help us understand how we can better serve you, and I can promise you that we will do our part.

Thank you.