

Secretary


U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland  
Security**

February 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Judge William Webster  
Chair  
Homeland Security Advisory Council

FROM: Chad F. Wolf   
Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

SUBJECT: **Four New Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC)  
Taskings**

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Pursuant to the February 24, 2020 meeting of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, I am requesting that you establish four new HSAC subcommittees to undertake reviews of critical homeland security issues. The new subcommittees will be: (1) Economic Security; (2) Information and Communications Technology Risk Reduction; (3) Building Youth-Focused Engagements; and (4) Biometrics. An explanation and proposed scope for each subcommittee is listed below in items A through D.

Recommendations are due to the full Council no later than 180 days from the date of each subcommittee's formation. I would like an update and provisional findings from each subcommittee or panel at our next public meeting, which we will hold in early May 2020.

Thank you for your work on these important matters, your service on the HSAC, and your dedication to securing our homeland.

**A. Economic Security Subcommittee**

Given the pace of rapidly emerging technologies, the multifaceted threat presented by nation-state competitors and non-state actors, as well as the multiple lines of effort underway to combat those threats, economic security has become a high-risk concern to a number of government stakeholders. The Department may be missing important opportunities and authorities implied by its mandate (e.g., to safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values with honor and integrity) or may not be optimally aligning and synchronizing our interagency efforts as they relate to economic security and emerging technology. The Economic Security Subcommittee will examine the Department's authorities to ensure it has effectively aligned its efforts to support its mission; and to provide recommendations regarding how we can better protect our nation's economic security. The Subcommittee's mandate will include, but is not necessarily restricted to, the following:

1. Identify and analyze DHS entities at the Headquarters and Component levels that currently or could have capabilities to ensure the nation's economic security.
2. Provide recommendations for how DHS can best use its resources and authorities to actively ensure our economic security, as well as enhance the nation's preparedness for and resilience to such dangers.
3. Provide recommendations to ensure that the Department is optimally positioned, resourced, and organized to safeguard this important component of the American market system and way of life.
4. What programs, services, and outreach should DHS prioritize that would provide the greatest benefit to its stakeholders in reducing economic security risks?
5. Identify how DHS could improve/establish an interagency effort in order to secure the nation's economic security.

**B. Information and Communications Technology Risk Reduction Subcommittee**

The Information and Communications Technology Risk Reduction Subcommittee will explore the evolving risk of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hardware and service threats against the United States and identify additional opportunities to counter them with DHS resources and authorities. The subcommittee should review the reports of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission and the Federal Acquisition Security Council prior to its final report and recommendations. The Subcommittee's mandate will include, but not limited to, the following:

1. What additional steps should the Department take to identify and mitigate its ICT supply chain risks?
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Department's procurement efforts and how it can increase security of its ICT products.
3. Examine whether DHS can better use its full suite of cybersecurity, law enforcement, trade, and its customs authorities to identify and reduce ICT risks.
4. What areas can the Department better collaborate with the private sector to increase its shared understanding of supply chain vulnerabilities and threats?



**C. Youth Engagement Subcommittee**

The Youth Engagement Subcommittee will provide findings and recommendations on best practices and to build youth-focused programming that can be implemented nationwide to prevent radicalization to violence. An aware society is the best foundation for preventing terrorism and targeted violence. The recommendations will align with the Department's day-one priority of civil rights, civil liberties, and individual privacy protections in these efforts. The Subcommittee's mandate will include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Study current Departmental youth focused programs and recommend any changes to these programs.
2. Recommend new youth-based initiatives that can be implemented nationwide to prevent radicalization to violence while identifying key national and local partners. These programs should be designed to reach our youth across various stages of development and adolescence.
3. Identify early prevention and intervention measures, such as youth-centered violence prevention programs and curricula. Provide recommendations on early prevention and intervention measures.
4. Identify best practices from federal, state, and local law enforcement regarding interactions with youth engagement focused on the prevention of radicalization to violence. How can the Department form partnerships that support locally-based prevention and intervention efforts?
5. Provide recommendations and best practices on how the Department can continue to build trust through our engagement and exercise efforts.
6. Identify initiatives and programs which the Department can implement that has been evaluated through roundtable-like discussions with educational professionals.

**D. Biometrics Subcommittee**

The Biometrics Subcommittee will provide findings and recommendations on how the Department can implement a single and reliable approach to biometric identity management, both internally and with external partners. The subcommittee should examine the authorities, governance structures, and programmatic activities of the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, (PLCY) and the Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM), with respect to developing and coordinating Department and government-wide policies, processes, and technical functions in support of DHS, Component, and the interagency. The subcommittee's mandate will include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. Provide recommendations on how the Department can establish a multi-year biometrics vision, strategy, and implementation plan with effective performance metrics and oversight.
2. Provide recommendations and best practices for the Department to establish clear roles and responsibilities within and between Departmental Components and Offices with respect to the collection and use of biometrics.
3. Provide recommendations and best practices for the Department to create a biometric enterprise governance and oversight process, while eliminating conflicting DHS biometric governance authorities and/or organizations.
4. Provide recommendations on how the Department can establish consistency in how it accesses and shares biometrics with non-Departmental entities (e.g., private sector, state and local law enforcement, and federal, state, local, and tribal partners)?
5. Provide recommendations and identify best practices so the Department can clearly communicate with the public about how it intends to use and protect their biometric information.
6. Provide recommendations and identify best practices on how the Department can improve its biometric collection, storage, matching, analysis, and sharing capabilities, including using new biometric modalities and emerging matching technologies that have proven effective.
7. Analyze and provide insight into how the Department could create a systematic and fully functioning Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution process for biometrics.