



**Conference Call Summary: *Homeland Security Information Network
Advisory Committee Conference Call, January 26, 2009***

February 23, 2009



Summary of the Homeland Security Information Network Advisory Committee Conference Call

The Homeland Security Information Network Advisory Committee (HSINAC) conducted a conference call from 2:00 – 3:00 EST, on January, 26 2009. The purpose of this conference call was for the HSINAC to receive an update on the HSIN Business Case, discuss the development of subcommittees and to discuss the draft agenda for the upcoming February meeting.

Opening Remarks

**Niklaus Welter, Office of Operations Coordination and Planning
U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

Niklaus Welter, in his role as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the HSINAC, formally convened the conference call, relayed the rules and procedures for the call, reviewed the conference call agenda and conducted roll call of the committee members. The following members did not participate: Edward Anderson, Jeanette Phillips, and Michael Puzziferri.

Introductory Remarks

**VADM Roger Rufe, (Retired)
Director, Operations Coordination and Planning
U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

Admiral Rufe congratulated the new HSINAC Chair (Michael Milstead) and Vice Chair (Jeff Burkett), and thanked them for taking leadership positions with the Committee and their continued commitment to the Committee. Admiral Rufe offered thanks to the previous Chair (Joe Rozek) and Vice Chair (Barry Lindquist) for their actions in leading the Committee through the first year.

Admiral Rufe then provided an update on the Presidential Administration transition. Admiral Rufe commented that the Department was well prepared for the transition and this has been a smooth transition of leadership. Admiral Rufe provided warm remarks about the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, and stated that information sharing and integration with state, local, and tribal partners are major initiatives of Secretary Napolitano. Admiral Rufe stated that he was optimistic about HSIN's future. Admiral Rufe stated that the Office of Operations Coordination and Planning (OPS) is aggressively pursuing the HSIN Outreach Plan. Budget briefings are beginning in the Department and that HSIN and its future would likely be a part of the discussion with incoming leadership. Admiral Rufe stated that that Fiscal Year 2010 budget has not yet been announced by the new administration.

Providing remarks about the upcoming February meeting, Admiral Rufe stated that the introduction of subcommittees to the HSINAC would be terrific. In addition, Admiral Rufe reiterated the importance of state, local, and tribal integration to the new administration and stated that he would like to invite Secretary Napolitano to the February meeting.

Admiral Rufe stated that OPS continues to need the Committee's service and active support. Because of HSIN's important need and current upgrade efforts, Admiral Rufe stated that input from the Committee is needed early on. Admiral Rufe apologized for not providing the business case to the Committee for input earlier, but the Business Case will be a living document and that the Committee will have a chance to provide input.

The Chair solicited questions and comments from the Committee.



Ronald Leavell requested more information about the impact of the Secretary's recent Action Directives. Admiral Rufe stated that the Secretary is requesting more information from Department officials so that she can determine what actions to take on a variety of issues. Admiral Rufe stated that two of the seven action directives are focused on state, local, and tribal partner involvement.

The Committee asked if they would be able to provide specific feedback. Admiral Rufe stated that he would be very happy to provide the Committee's written feedback to Secretary Napolitano.

The Committee suggested that the development of recommendations that address the Secretary's action priorities should be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Rolando Rivero questioned if outreach was proceeding in accordance with the recommendations provided by the HSINAC Harry McDavid, OPS Chief Information Officer, responded that funds are being redirected to outreach and that a statement of work is being developed to allow for approximately 20 additional individuals for outreach, supplementing the current outreach personnel. Mr. McDavid stated that he plans to have a presence in specific regions and that the increase in personnel will allow for more palatable regions for HSIN Mission Advocates. Mr. McDavid stated that they also plan to have a training team.

Mr. McDavid stated that HSIN is being used more and more, and that he expected this growth to continue over the course of HSIN's improvements. Mr. McDavid stated that the Integrated Planning System, based off of the National Planning Scenarios, will require access to collective and collegial plans by partners, and that HSIN will be used for this process.

HSIN Business Case
Harry F. McDavid
Chief Information Officer, Operations Coordination and Planning
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr. McDavid began his remarks with the genesis of the HSIN Business Case. In addition to addressing the Federal Government's shared segment architecture, the Office of Management and Budget also wanted OPS to demonstrate good management controls. Mr. McDavid stated that there has been a common misconception that the HSIN upgrade is an effort to build a replacement system for HSIN. The HSIN contractor proposed a significant upgrade to software. All current hardware is being used today and will be refreshed in the future as it reached end of life.

DHS will have one primary portal for Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU) information sharing and collaboration. The HSIN Business Case states that HSIN is this portal and that the DHS Chief Information Officer will be responsible for portal consolidation actions. The FBI's Law Enforcement Online (LEO) and the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) program will interoperate with HSIN. The PM-ISE concurs with this approach. Mr. McDavid stated that he wants to provide an environment that is secure and robust enough for every DHS component, the Executive for RISS, the Special Agent In-Charge for LEO, the Director of National Intelligence, and state, local, tribal, and private sector partners. Mr. McDavid stated that HSIN will be aligned with the National Strategy for Information Sharing. Mr. McDavid stated that the DHS CIO approves this approach and the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE) is aware of the plans.



Mr. McDavid stated that the HSIN Mission Operators Committee (MOC), composed operators from DHS components will be responsible for the governance of HSIN. The MOC will report to the DHS Information Sharing Governance Board (ISGB). The current plan is for the Director of the State and Local Program Office, DHS Intelligence and Analysis to be the Federal official voting on the MOC on behalf of state, local, and tribal representatives. HSIN Mission Advocates, the HSINAC, and the MOC will all provide input into the HSIN Program Manager.

Mr. McDavid reiterated that technology is not driving where HSIN is going, rather mission operators are the driver. Poor technology was an inhibitor to user involvement, especially for the Critical Sectors. These technology needs, which impacted mission performance, were the main focus of Phase 1 of the HSIN upgrade.

Michael Milstead stated that he provided individual comments and suggestions, but that the HSINAC was not tasked to approve or disapprove the HSIN Business Case. Mr. McDavid stated that his understanding was that many of Michael Milstead's comments were included and that some significant changes were made as a result. Mr. McDavid stated that he was very appreciative for receiving Michael Milstead's comments.

Jason Henry asked if it was conveyed to the Office of Management and Budget that the HSINAC approved the HSIN Business Case. Mr. McDavid stated no.

Proposed Agenda for February HSINAC Meeting

The Chair presented the proposed February meeting agenda and asked the committee members if any items required more or less time, or did not have to be included as part of the agenda. The committee provided no comments.

The Chair asked if any items should be added to the agenda.

Ronald Leavell proposed adding time to develop recommendations for Secretary Napolitano regarding the recent action directives. The Chair was supportive of this proposal and would like to see it added to the meeting agenda.

The Chair requested a short presentation on the use of HSIN during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration. The Committee did not provide any objections to this proposal.

Joe Rozek requested specific updates on the status of each HSINAC recommendations.

The Committee recommended reducing subcommittee time. Admiral Rufe directed the DFO to work with the Chair and Vice Chair in reallocating meeting time to allow for these topics.

Proposed Development of HSINAC Subcommittees

The DFO provided a short explanation on the requirements for subcommittees under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the HSINAC Charter, and the HSINAC Bylaws. The DFO stated that actions should be taken to ensure openness and transparency above FACA requirements. The development of subcommittees requires approval of the OPS Director.

The Chair introduced the concept of subcommittees and stated that specific subcommittees will allow Committee members to be involved in deeper discussions about subjects of personal or



professional interest. The Chair proposed a subcommittee to examine the law enforcement community's use of HSIN. Multiple members concurred with this topic.

The Chair also proposed a subcommittee to examine state, local, and tribal governance of HSIN.

Admiral Rufe questioned if subcommittees would be established for a limited time period or if they would continually meet. The Chair stated that it would depend on the subcommittee; the governance subcommittee would likely exist for the short term while the law enforcement subcommittee might be continuous.

Shelly Schechter voiced concern about turning the subcommittees into silos by discipline. Committee members responded that good perspectives from the communities can be brought into full committee sessions. Shelly Schechter stated that a broader interdisciplinary approach is necessary.

The DFO stated that HSIN is continuously progressing and that recommendations and issues are needed on a variety of topics.

The Chair stated that the U.S. Department of Justice is making incredible actions in moving forward. The HSINAC meeting time is valuable and the HSINAC needs to produce results.

Admiral Rufe recommended the development of a limited number of subcommittees and directed the Committee to ensure that they remain multi-disciplinary in membership.

Joe Rozek stated that the Chair and Vice Chair will have to ensure that stovepipes do not develop within the Committee.

The next conference call and meeting will be coordinated between the DFO and the HSINAC members.

There were no other additional questions or comments and the conference call was formally closed by the DFO.