

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Homeland Security

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3b. GSA

Committee

No.

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Homeland Security Science and Technology
Advisory Committee

20330

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

04/11/2024 04/11/2026

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Authorized by Law

12. Specific Establishment Authority

6 U.S.C. section 451

13. Effective Date

11/15/2021

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The HSSTAC provides independent, consensus scientific and technical advice and recommendations to the Under Secretary for Science and Technology who leads the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). Its activities focus on the S&T mission to strengthen America's security and resiliency by providing knowledge products and innovative technology solutions for the Homeland Security Enterprise. The committee addresses science and technology needs and trends, management processes and

organizational constructs, and other matters of special interest to the Under Secretary for S&T and will ensure the identification of new technologies in those areas that strengthen homeland security. It will support the priority needs of DHS S&T's Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency and First Responders Group. Upon request, the committee will provide scientifically- and technically-based advice to the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

To ensure both stimulating and pragmatic opinions, the committee includes public and private sector perspectives from industry, academe and government (including former members of Federal Government or former or current members of state or local government who can provide the perspective of government implementation of any recommendations). Members are eminent authorities in the fields of science and technology relevant to the homeland security enterprise, acquisition processes, first responder needs, strategy and management of research development organizations, government-industry partnerships, and operational experience in a homeland security context. To ensure both broad and deep expertise, membership will represent both technical expertise and management or operational experience. The technical experts will include research scholars who have published in peer-reviewed journals.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Committee meetings are held four times per year or at the request of the chair and the approval of

the DFO. The committee meeting agenda topics are in direct support of the strategic and tactical priorities of the Science and Technology Directorate. Based on input requested from the Under Secretary and senior leaders, the meetings are used to solicit active discussions and feedback on select mission areas.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

In the world of science, we rely on external perspectives and new research to stay in touch with both cutting edge and state-of-the-art solutions. This group of experts will help us to avoid stale outdated thinking. The committee permits S&T to be presented with newly evolving innovative research, real world deployment considerations and risk mitigation strategies by trusted advisors. Because members are working in private sector, academia and local governments, their access to cutting edge solutions, best practices and international advances expand the lens through which we view solutions and challenges us to be more aware of leading technologies, financing, management practices and solution development strategies. The members help us address both known and emerging threats more fully and coherently. The committee gives us ready access to other experts when needed through extensions to their rich network of colleagues who can bring additional expertise to bear on a particular topic. The expertise and broader context that this committee provides is not available within S&T or DHS as a whole, and there are no existing committees that provide or could provide the assistance that the HSSTAC provides.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or

partially closed committee meetings?

It is necessary to close and/or partially close committee meetings when they concern classified information, sensitive law enforcement information, Homeland Security sensitive information, and/or any other topic area related to national defense. Meetings will only be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Sec 552b, the Government in the Sunshine Act.

21. Remarks

The committee has provided valuable recommendations to the Under Secretary for Science and Technology. A majority of the HSSTAC work is completed through subcommittees that provide expert advice through the Committee to the USST. In past years, the subcommittees developed two whitepapers on topics vital to securing the homeland. The Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management Subcommittee created a report on Countering Misinformation, Rumors, and Fake News on Social Media in Emergencies and the Technology Scouting Partnerships Subcommittee provided a whitepaper covering Recommendations on Technology Scouting Partnerships. *Please note that the committee did not meet in FY23.

Designated Federal Officer

Stan Cunningham DFO

Committee Members	Start	End Occupation	Member Designation
Black, David [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Crisis Communications	Representative Member
Brantley, Dawn [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	VA DEPT Emergency Management	Representative Member

Doray, Ed [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	NORTHCOM	Representative Member
Flynn, Mary Jo [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services	Representative Member
Gamblin-Luig, Sarah [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	City of St. Louis Emergency Management Agency	Representative Member
Greber, Amy [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	American Red Cross	Representative Member
Greenberg, Brandon [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	the George Washington University	Representative Member
Griswold, Alisha [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	King County Office of Emergency Management	Representative Member
HAdi, Tamir [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	New York City Office of Health and Mental Hygiene	Representative Member
LeVeque, Tom [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Arcadia Police Department (ret.)	Representative Member
Liu, Sophia [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	U.S. Geological Survey	Representative Member
Mackinnon, Justine [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Standby Task Force	Representative Member
Perron, Zach [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	City of Palo Alto Police Department	Representative Member
Peterson, Steve [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	NIH	Representative Member
Purohit, Hemant [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	George Mason University	Representative Member

Ray, Chad [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Colorado Department of Transportation Office of Emergency Management	Representative Member
Reith, Rita [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Indianapolis Fire Department	Representative Member
Serino, Rich [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Harvard School of Public Health	Representative Member
Smith, Sarah [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Representative Member
Stewart, Becky [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Washington County Regional Ambulance Authority	Representative Member
Stowe, Luke [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	City of Evanston	Representative Member
Tubbs, Chris [Subcommittee on Social Media Working Group for Emergency Services and Disaster Management]	10/01/2017	Southern Marin Fire District	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 22

Narrative Description

This committee supports the DHS S&T Mission to “strengthen America’s security and resiliency by providing knowledge products and innovative technology solutions for the Homeland Security Enterprise (HSE),” with its specific emphasis on members who have expertise with technology innovations and knowledge products, and who have experience applying them to the HSE. More specifically, this committee addresses DHS S&T’s five goals, as follows: (1) “Screening at Speed: Security that Matches the Pace of Life” Noninvasive screening at speed will provide for comprehensive threat protection while adapting security to the pace of life rather than life to security. In this area the committee will help strengthen DHS security practices; (2) “Trusted Cyber Future: Protecting Privacy, Commerce, and Community” In a future of increasing cyber connections, underlying digital infrastructure will

be self-detecting, self-protecting, and self-healing. Users will trust that information is protected, illegal use is deterred, and privacy is not compromised. Security will operate seamlessly in the background. In this area, committee members will ensure the latest technology in cyber security is being used; (3) “Enable the Decision Maker: Actionable Information at the Speed of Thought” Predictive analytics, risk analysis, and modeling and simulation systems will enable critical and proactive decisions to be made based on the most relevant information, transforming data into actionable information. In this area, the committee will help increase awareness of cutting-edge research and developments by virtue of its role as expert external advisors, selected specifically for their knowledge in these areas; (4) “Responder of the Future: Protected, Connected, and Fully Aware” The responder of the future is threat-adaptive and cross-functional. In this area, the committee members will provide subject matter expertise on the needs of the responder of the future. (5) “Resilient Communities: Disaster-Proofing Society” Critical infrastructure of the future will be designed, built, and maintained to withstand naturally occurring and man-made disasters. Decision makers will know when a disaster is coming, anticipate the effects, and use already-in-place or rapidly deployed countermeasures to shield communities from negative consequences. Resilient communities struck by disasters will not only bounce back, but bounce forward. In this area, the committee members will help ensure constructive use of federal facilities and of resources within academia through their own networks and by specifically addressing the need to leverage other’s technology.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements

☐

Other

☐

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None

☐

Unable to Determine

☒

Under \$100,000

☐

\$100,000 - \$500,000

☐

\$500,001 - \$1,000,000

☐

\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000

☐

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

☐

Over \$10,000,000

☐

Cost Savings Other

☐

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

48

Number of Recommendations Comments

The committee did not meet in FY23. Recommendations were gathered and acted upon from previous years' work. The committee will solicit for new members upon re-establishment, and more meetings/recommendations will take place.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

50%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

45%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Not Applicable

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Under Secretary provides verbal feedback to members at meetings and informally to the committee chairman. The federal staff for the committee also provides feedback at meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

<http://www.dhs.gov/st-hsstac>