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2016 AFCEA Homeland Security Conference Summary
Securing the Nation - Solving Technology and Human Capital Challenges:
People, Partners, Priorities
June 21 – June 22, 2016

The [2016 AFCEA Homeland Security Conference](#) encouraged dialogue between industry and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) around [Unity of Effort](#), the importance of being agile, and the need for innovation on several topic areas. With **engaging and inspiring speakers**, the presentations and panels offered insight and guidance to the needs of DHS. The **small business matchmaking** and **industry roundtables** provided an opportunity for direct dialogue between federal leadership and industry experts in these critical areas. An **awards ceremony** at the end of Day 1 recognized outstanding achievements by DHS employees on behalf of AFCEA and DHS leadership. In addition to educating industry, DHS executives also shared **new information and made connections** among themselves, as well as and took questions and comments from the audience.

AT A GLANCE – 2016 Conference Stats

250+ Government Attendees

300+ Exhibitors

500+ Industry and Small Business Attendees

Catch up on the conference! See photos and tweets at:

[#AFCEAHomeland](#)



Areas of Interest: [Border Security](#), [Critical Infrastructure](#), [Cybersecurity](#), [DHS CIO Council Outlook](#), [Insider Threat/Homegrown Terrorism](#), [Human Capital Initiatives](#), [IT Security Challenges](#), [Procurement at DHS](#), [Small Business Engagement](#)

Overall themes reflected throughout the conference:

- **Agility supports rapid response and innovation.** DHS is implementing programs and procurement methods to support innovative technology and simplify the process to work with DHS. Flexibility around the acquisition process will accommodate and enable rapid response and innovation.
- **In our era of multiple data sources, Big Data helps DHS visualize the environment to make decisions quickly.** Given the Internet of Things (IOT) and increased information-sharing, components receive data from multiple sources. The analyzing and sorting of information help

DHS see patterns and identify threats to pinpoint our adversarial threats and make smart decisions.

- **Inter-dependencies in critical infrastructure can lead to cascading effects. Collaboration at the regional level can help resiliency efforts.** Cooperation and additional outreach are essential to the owners/operators of our nation’s infrastructures. In the event of an emergency, regional operators are first on the ground and are better equipped to respond. As our critical infrastructure ages, is exposed to extreme weather, and becomes more dependent on interconnected information technology (IT), we can no longer look at structures individually, but must recognize their impact on a larger scale.
- **Innovative technology and partnerships are critical to meet DHS needs now and in the future.** Major improvements around information sharing are happening, but more improvement is needed at a faster rate—not only among chief information officers, but also across components and the private sector. DHS is looking for innovative practices and ideas from industry,

Speakers Included:

- Mr. Russell Deyo, USM
- Ms. Angela Bailey, CHCO
- Ms. Caitlin Durkovich, IP
- Ms. Soraya Correa, CPO
- Mr. Chip Fulghum, CFO
- Mr. Mark Borkowski, CBP
- Luke McCormack, CIO
- Dr. Phyllis Schneck, NPPD

especially small businesses, to match unmet capabilities with creative solutions. Industry needs to understand DHS priorities and capability gaps, which drives their technology needs.

- **As cyber threats evolve, DHS will continue to focus resources to anticipate adversaries and threats.**

Cybersecurity is a priority, not only at headquarters, but also across all components. DHS is increasing its efforts to operationalize cyber threat indicators and share information to best understand these threats, determine risk, and allocate

funding.

- **To improve its overall workforce, DHS has several human capital efforts underway to ensure the right skill sets for today and the future:** To stay competitive, DHS looks at not only compensation, but also flexibility, environment, technology accessibility, and benefits, which include leadership training, veteran programs, and education reimbursement. Several programs are also in place to streamline the hiring process and help is needed from industry to share best practices and support initiatives.

Our next AFCEA Homeland Security Conference will be in the mid-2017 in Washington, DC.

www.afcea.org/events/homeland/
