DHS Welcomes Matt Masterson

Matthew (Matt) Masterson, most recently Chairman and Commissioner of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), has joined DHS as a senior cybersecurity advisor in the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, in DHS's National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD). Mr. Masterson had served the EAC since December 2014.

As EAC Chairman and Commissioner and Chief Information Officer for the Ohio Secretary of State, Mr. Masterson was instrumental in bridging gaps between federal, state, and local governments and he significantly advanced the nation's cyber efforts surrounding election security. In a time in which technology is constantly evolving, it is more important than ever that DHS maintains productive and trusted relationships with partners.

"There are few who match Matt's experience in working with all levels of government and the private sector to protect our nation's election infrastructure—experience that also makes him highly respected on both sides of the aisle," said Chris Krebs, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary, NPPD.

His portfolio includes helping support DHS's election infrastructure security activities and the work of the Election Task Force, which coordinates NPPD's election security efforts across DHS and the interagency.

Election Security Web Page Up!

A new webpage focused on election infrastructure security-related issues is now available on the DHS website. NPPD created the webpage to more effectively share election infrastructure information and pertinent election community documents. Content includes overviews on NPPD cyber tools and services available at no cost to the state and local election community. Other content includes information on the electoral process, coordinating councils, and election security. Additional information is added frequently. To see what may be of benefit for you, visit: https://www.dhs.gov/topic/election-security .

Coordinating Councils Serve Election Infrastructure Security

To further support the election infrastructure community, NPPD has collaborated with federal, state, and local government partners and critical infrastructure owners and operators to establish Coordinating Councils --- specialized forums which are self-formed and self-governing, working on behalf of a specific sector.

There are two types of Coordinating Councils: the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) and the Sector Coordinating Council (SCC).

DHS established the GCC/SCC structure under its authority to provide forums in which the government and private sector entities can jointly engage in a broad spectrum of activities to support and coordinate critical infrastructure security and resilience efforts. The construct is used in each of the critical infrastructure sectors established under Presidential Policy Directive 21 – Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience.

Coordinating Council work includes developing a physical and cybersecurity and resilience strategy for the subsector and defining how the federal government will work with election officials and vendors going forward. The Election Infrastructure Subsector has both a GCC and an SCC --- and the SCC was just formed.

The **Election Infrastructure Subsector Coordinating Council (EISCC)** held its first meeting February 15 in Washington, D.C. Its 25 members come from companies and organizations whose critical infrastructure services, systems, products, or technology are used by or on behalf of state or local government in administering U.S. elections.

The EISCC serves as the sector's voice and facilitates government collaboration with the sector for critical infrastructure security and resilience activities. The Council will enable members to further leverage information sharing; physical/cyber products, resources, and capabilities; and collective expertise on behalf of the subsector.

Its government counterpart was formed last year. The **Election Infrastructure Subsector Government Coordinating Council (EIS GCC**) held its first meeting in October 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia. The 27-member council includes 24 state and local election officials and three federal government representatives. A five-member Executive Committee leads the EIS GCC and meets biweekly.

At its February 15 meeting, the EIS GCC voted to turn a four-month pilot by the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) on threat sharing and analysis into an operational reality for the nation's election infrastructure. (See Communiqué Issue 8.) **The new Elections Infrastructure Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC)** gives state and local

jurisdictions a dedicated venue to share information about cyber threats and vulnerabilities specific to elections systems.

Membership in the EI-ISAC is open and free to all state, local, tribal, and territorial government entities and associations that support elections in the United States. DHS encourages state and local elections agencies to join the EI-ISAC to harden the cybersecurity posture of the elections sector. **To join the EI-ISAC, please complete the** registration form.

For more information on coordinating councils, election security, and related issues, please visit https://www.dhs.gov/topic/election-security

EIS Background

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated election infrastructure as critical infrastructure on January 6, 2017. The designation created the Election Infrastructure Subsector under the Government Facilities sector, with DHS as its Sector Specific Agency (SSA). The designation set several actions in motion, such as the formation of coordinating councils, coordinated federal support, and the availability of services and tools for the Election Infrastructure Subsector. For more information on the topics of this Communiqué, please contact the EISSA at EISSA@hq.dhs.gov.

Purpose

The EIS Communiqué series will periodically inform subscribers of the myriad DHS services available to the EI community. DHS provides services on a no-cost, voluntary basis to state and local election officials.

Future EIS Communiqués will highlight various services and tools, such as assessments, threat information-sharing programs, network protection, best practices, incident response, and developments at the federal level.

Thank you,

Election Infrastructure SSA

We want to hear from you! Send us your comments on how we may better serve you as well as questions, feedback, and ideas for future Communiqué topics at EISSA@hq.dhs.gov.