



**CISA
CYBERSECURITY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
Cybersecurity Advisory Committee
2023 Annual Report

December 5, 2023

Prepared For:

CISA Director Easterly

Prepared By:

Ron Green, Chair

Dave DeWalt, Vice Chair

On behalf of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Cybersecurity Advisory Committee (CSAC), as outlined in the *FY21 National Defense Authorization Act*, “*The Advisory Committee shall submit to the Director an annual report providing information on the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, including its subcommittees, for the preceding year.*”



Background:

In December 2021, CISA held the inaugural meeting of the CISA Cybersecurity Advisory Committee (CSAC), a federal advisory committee comprised of some of the nation’s leading experts on cybersecurity, technology, risk management, privacy, and resilience. The CSAC advises CISA Director Easterly on policies and programs related to CISA's cybersecurity mission. Committee members—with subject matter expertise in various critical infrastructure sectors—provide recommendations to CISA’s Director on matters related to the development, refinement, and implementation of policies, programs, planning, and training pertaining to the cybersecurity mission of the Agency.

2023 Year in Review:

The CSAC convened as a full Committee during quarterly meetings in 2023. In each of the quarterly meetings, the agenda included a closed session (CSAC members and CISA Director Easterly) and public session (CSAC members, CISA Director Easterly, and public attendees who registered through the Federal Register Notice).

1. March 21, 2023: CSAC Meeting (virtual)

The CSAC convened for the first meeting of 2023 to meet virtually. In March 2023, Director Easterly appointed 13 new members to the CSAC, making this their first full Committee meeting. Director Easterly addressed the status of CISA’s implementation of the CSAC recommendations and the committee reviewed the focus of each subcommittee. No recommendations were provided to Director Easterly at this meeting.

2. June 22, 2023: CSAC Meeting (Arlington, VA)

The CSAC June Quarterly Meeting took place in Arlington, VA. The meeting included updates and next steps from all subcommittees. No recommendations were provided to Director Easterly at this meeting.

3. September 13, 2023: CSAC Meeting (virtual)

The CSAC September Quarterly Meeting took place virtually. All six subcommittees prepared recommendations for full CSAC deliberation and vote. All recommendations were approved by the full CSAC and delivered to Director Easterly. During the meeting, the Committee nominated Ron Green, Mastercard, and Dave DeWalt, NightDragon, to serve two-year terms as the Chair and Vice Chair respectively, effective December 1, 2023.

4. December 5, 2023: CSAC Meeting (Carlsbad, CA)

The CSAC December Quarterly Meeting took place in Carlsbad, CA. The Building Resilience and Reducing Systemic Risk and Technical Advisory Council subcommittees prepared



recommendations for full Committee deliberation and vote. Director Easterly led a discussion on CISA and CSAC’s strategic focus for 2024, and Chair Green provided an overview on the draft CSAC Annual Report.

As tasked by Director Easterly, the Committee continued to advance six topics in 2023. The Committee provided recommendations to fully address all aspects of the six taskings by the December 2023 Quarterly Meeting.

1. Corporate Cyber Responsibility

Purpose: Focused on what Boards and C-Suite Execs must do to embrace cybersecurity as a matter of good governance. They supported CISA’s work to ensure that companies are building safety into all of their technology products so that they are safe for consumers.

2. Turning the Corner on Cyber Hygiene

Purpose: Took a specific focus on Shaping the Technology Ecosystem to be both Secure-by-Design and Secure-by-Default, providing support to several target-rich, cyber-poor sectors, including K-12 education, hospitals, and water facilities.

3. National Cybersecurity Alert System

Purpose: Focused on understanding the feasibility of an alert system for cyber risk. The goal of this capability was to provide a clear and simple method to convey the current severity of national cybersecurity risk based upon CISA’s all-source analysis of evolving threat activity (e.g., utilizing a color-coded or numerical “scoring” system). Such a system would complement rather than replace CISA’s existing production of alerts and advisories on specific, actionable risks.

4. Building Resilience and Reducing Systemic Risk to Critical Infrastructure

Purpose: Determined how to best drive national risk management and determine the criteria for scalable, analytic model to guide risk prioritization. They specifically looked at recommendations on the development of Systemically Important Entities, our National Risk Register, and solicited input on the Continuity of the Economy Scoping Plan CISA is advancing.

5. Technical Advisory Council

Purpose: This subcommittee was comprised of hackers, vulnerability researchers, and threat intelligence experts to get direct feedback from front-line practitioners whose work is vital to the security of our nation. This group helped strengthen CISA’s bonds with the research community. They thought about how CISA can ensure that all critical products,



both free and commercial, are memory safe by the year 2030. The group also provided insights into CISA’s new High-Risk Community Protection program, dedicated to extending CISA’s existing cybersecurity work to protect domestic communities at highest risk of APT targeting and with the lowest capacity to provide for their own defense. CISA is leveraging its expertise to locate where the lowest current level of existing government support lies and how CISA can fix it.

6. Transforming the Cyber Workforce

Purpose: Focused on developing a talent management ecosystem and People-First culture at CISA. Helped CISA think about how to operationalize CISA’s core values and core principles to build this enduring culture. Helped CISA understand how to develop an overall strategy of how to assess the effectiveness of a hybrid and remote workforce, while also addressing burnout, workload, and well-being issues to develop and retain an exceptional workforce.

All CSAC reports and recommendations are publicly available at <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/groups/cisa-cybersecurity-advisory-committee>.

Throughout 2023, the subcommittees met 87 times and provided the CISA Director with 135 recommendations. The Committee is looking forward to continuing to support CISA’s strategic missions and goals in 2024.