



Meeting Minutes
Maryland Cybersecurity Council
Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure
Friday, 15 January 2021
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual Public Meeting

Member Attendance (8/12)

Subcommittee members attending: Markus Rauschecker (chair), John Abeles, Dr. David Anyiwo, Jessica Curtis and Bryant Wu (for David Engel), Cyril Draffin, Terri Jo Hayes, Fred Hoover, and Clay House.

Guest presenters: Randall Cunningham (Public Safety Manager, Department of Emergency Services, Howard County, and chair, ENSB Cybersecurity Committee), Josh Jack (Mission Critical Partners), and Ed O'Donnell (Associate Professor and University Librarian at University of Maryland Global Campus).

Staff: Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel, DoIT), Laura Corcoran (NSA Fellow), and Dr. Greg von Lehmen (University of Maryland Global Campus, Staff to the Maryland Cybersecurity Council)

Meeting Summary

1. The chair welcomed the members, asked for a roll call of the committee to confirm a quorum, and reviewed the agenda.
2. The minutes for the 03 April 2020 meeting of the subcommittee were unanimously approved after motions duly made.
3. The subcommittee then turned to the other business on the agenda:

Updates

- Repository. Ed' O'Donnell provided the subcommittee with an update on his management of the repository. He noted that there were about 250 resources in the collection. He had culled dead links, reports, and other publications that were dated and added the last tranche of resources provided by DHS. Consistent with the focus of the repository, he observed that there were a good number of resources geared to small and medium size businesses.

The subcommittee's discussion revolved around three points:

- Whether it could be possible to establish a technical subdirectory for more technical information

- Whether the collection should be organized by control topics and include a navigation document for the site
- Whether the collection is at a point to be actively advertised.

Action items:

- Dr. Von Lehmen stated he would check with the university web team to see what changes they could make in the repository at this time and report back to the subcommittee.
- Mr. Rauschecker asked the members to look at the site and let him know if it was ready to be advertised. He also suggested that the subcommittee confer with the Public and Community Outreach Committee (PACO) to see what strategies they might have in mind. Dr. von Lehmen indicated that he would raise that question at PACO's next meeting.
- Mr. Abeles and Mr. Draffin stated that they had many resources to share about the energy sector in particular and would be willing to share them with Mr. O'Donnell for the collection. Dr. von Lehmen said that he would connect the three via email.

NextGen 911

Mr. Cunningham and Josh Jack provided the following overview:

- Progress has been slow on the Cybersecurity Committee of the Maryland 911 Board. However, working groups are meeting on cybersecurity standards and best practices, training, reporting definitions get standardized data ('attacks' versus 'events'), and ESInet provider requirements.
- Eighteen of the 24 PSAPs have chosen an ESInet provider. To date, the provider is either ATT or Motorola. There are six to eight providers nationally.
- Several counties are likely to go live this year with the NextGen 911 system, including PG County, Montgomery County, Charles County, and St. Mary County. All counties should be live by the end of 2022.
- Next Gen 911 will include capability for text messages, pictures, and video tags.

Mr. Draffin asked if there was a national standard for 911 operations. Mr. Randall stated that that is the vision, that 911 calls could be transferred anywhere. He was not sure that would require a national network. But there is a requirement that ESInet providers be able to transfer calls to each other. They will have to implement upgrades in order to achieve interoperability.

Mr. Hoover recalled the interruption in 911 service when ATT's Nashville center suffered damage in the bomb blast there. He asked whether there were redundancies to keep the same thing from happening in Maryland. Mr. Jack stated that ATT has been called to provide information to the 911 Board on the measures it is taking or has taken to ensure Maryland is more resilient. He said that it is an issue high on the board's list and that there will be more to come. Mr. Rauschecker asked if Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Jack could share the outcome with the subcommittee.

Mr. House asked whether the Cybersecurity Committee was addressing DDOS attacks. He noted that adding the capacity for text messaging that could carry pictures or videos expands the threat surface and could create the opportunity for congesting the network and slowing or interrupting 911 service. A DDOS attack could be automated. SMS spoofing would make traffic validation difficult. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Jack indicated that they were sure this issue was being addressed.

NSA Fellow Report-out

Ms. Corcoran shared her workplan for her project for the Council. Her focus will be on the electric utilities serving Maryland and the policy recommendations that would support the industry in its efforts to secure its operations and to be resilient. She will be talking with all stakeholders, including the Maryland PSC and the companies themselves and will survey what other states have done in this area.

Mr. House suggested that supply chain should be a theme in the final report. He pointed out that Chinese companies can be forced to introduce malware into their products to serve objectives of the state. He noted that there are some promising programs underway to safeguard the supply chain. Intel fingerprints all of its components so that they can be validated. There is now a secure shipping standard. He indicated he would share this information with Ms. Corcoran.

Mr. Rauschecker thanked Mr. House for that offer and invited all of the subcommittee members to share whatever materials they deemed relevant with her.

Mr. Hoover suggested that conversations at the PSC be at multiple levels, including the ground-level engineers. He also suggested the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Maryland Department of Energy.

Mr. Wilson was curious whether someone could reach out to utility companies to see how they were affected by SolarWinds, what they are doing about their supply chain in general, and about products and services out of China in particular. He asked how these utilities coordinate not just information sharing but a response across the industry. He observed that the SolarWinds compromise makes the subcommittee's discussion about an ISAO all the more relevant. It could include all Maryland stakeholders—including the industry, PSA, Maryland Energy Administration, and others—to share data and coordinate in a secure setting.

Mr. Rauschecker thanked Mr. House and others for their comments. He encouraged members to reach out to Ms. Corcoran with any questions or information that they would like to share. He reminded the subcommittee of the Council's plenary meeting on January 25.

He asked if there was further business. There being none the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

[Note: These minutes were approved at the 04 October 2021 meeting of the subcommittee.]