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Meeting Minutes

Maryland Cybersecurity Council  
Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure

Friday, 03 April 2020

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Meeting hosted on a public zoom link (no password required to access)

Member Attendance (9/13)

Subcommittee members attending Markus Rauschecker (chair), John Abeles, Dr. David Anyiwo, Cyril Draffin, Lt. Colonel Ferguson (for Adjutant General Timothy Gowen), Professor Michael Greenberger, Terri Jo Hayes, Fred Hoover, and Clay House.

Guest presenter: Randall Cunningham (Public Safety Manager, Department of Emergency Services, Howard County, and chair, ENSB Cybersecurity Committee.

Others present: Art Treichel, CISO, State Board of Elections (SBE) and Fred Brechbiel, SBE CIO.

Staff: Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel, DoIT) 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 13 September 2019 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. Another tranche of resources had been added to the Council's repository early this year. As has been the case, these resources were identified and compiled by student interns at the Center for Health and Homeland Security at the University of Maryland-Baltimore School of Law. The repository is managed by the cybersecurity bibliographic librarian at the University of Maryland Global Campus.
- NSA Fellow. The NSA has approved a Fellow position to work on behalf of the Council. The Fellow will be housed at OAG. Once the current health situation passes, the NSA will forward a list of candidates for interviews. There is still the expectation that the Fellow

would start with the Council in the fall. The position description calls for the Fellow to develop a set of recommendations about what Maryland can do to assist utilities in enhancing their cybersecurity and resiliency. Dr. von Lehmen has been working with Judi Emmel, the Associate SLTT Director at NSA, on the Council's application for a Fellow.

- NextGen 911 (Digital 911). Mr. Cunningham noted that ENSB cybersecurity committee has adopted the NIST Cybersecurity Framework for vendors to comply with. The committee's work is moving forward but progress is slow. The Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) are preparing to transition to the new digital system. The two principal providers—Motorola and ATT—are working to ensure a seamless transfer. There is a need to look at the security of other parts of the 911 ecosystem, including the computer-aided dispatch units (CADs), radio, and the office environments supporting the PSAPs. Funds may be made available for improvements in these targeted areas.

Mr. Cunningham renewed his call for cybersecurity SMEs to assist the cybersecurity committee. The need now is to translate technical cybersecurity requirements into layman's language. Dr. von Lehmen noted that University of Maryland and University of Maryland Global Campus both have faculty willing to assist and that he would connect those faculty with Mr. Cunningham.

#### Maryland Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (Maryland ISAO)

The chair reminded the subcommittee of the background for the ISAO. A draft business plan had been created by Dr. von Lehmen following a meeting with the chair and Clay House and included an extensive legal section from CHHS. The draft had subsequently been reviewed by the chair and Clay House. Based on the review, and expected inputs from Frank Grimmelmann at ACTRA, a new draft will be forthcoming and circulated to the subcommittee members at large for comment and possible final revision.

Clay House remarked that what excited him about ACTRA as a model is the swarming strategy that it entails, viz. when there is a problem the members come together to solve it. This happens when ACTRA is addressing threats. Another example is how ACTRA has become a hub for cyber workforce development: the corporate members donated equipment to stand up a cyber range at a local university. The range is used to do K12 student and teacher education, and corporate training. Moreover, ACTRA uses both the range and its SOC for intern opportunities for students. This provides a talent development pipeline from which the member companies benefit. Mr. House emphasized that what sustains ACTRA, in addition to Frank Grimmelmann's leadership, is the level of confidence and trust relationship among the members and the confidentiality vis-à-vis government agencies.

Dr. Anyiwo asked if there was an organization already called the Maryland ISAO. Dr. von Lehmen noted that he had visited the sponsors at bwtech@UMBC last year. At the time, the

Maryland ISAO was still in the concept phase. Today, there is no information about the organization on its webpage, and it appears no progress has been made in realizing the concept.

Next steps: circulate the draft document to members for any comments that they would like to make as a contribution to the effort.

#### Policy related to the utility sector

The chair noted that the NSA Fellow will help the subcommittee with a key objective for the 2020 – 2021 period, namely, to formulate as recommendations to the full Council changes in law and other strategies to enhance the cybersecurity of the utility sector in Maryland. In this connection, Mr. Abeles met with officials US DoE to discuss what was happening at the state level with such initiatives. He had been able to compile 10-15 reports that would be useful to the subcommittee. These include the report from GridEx V held last November. Together, these reports capture the best practices of the states which could easily be picked up and used in Maryland.

Lt Colonel Ferguson from the MDNG added that while the Guard's cyber footprint had been oriented toward federal tasks, the domestic response operation was being built up and integrated with civilian agencies. New equipment is part of the ramp up. Planned is a cyber range that will be available to utilities for exercising.

Next steps: Mr. Abeles would send what he thought were the five or six best reports for distribution to the subcommittee.

#### Election security

Cyril Draffin raised several concerns:

- Absentee balloting. It presents a security issue in that mailed ballots have to be transcribed by poll workers onto paper that scanners can read, introducing the possibility of errors in transcription. Further, if the COVI-19 emergency measures persist, the question is how the manual transcription will be staffed.
- Online voting registration. Again, there are concerns about how secure the system is, especially since there have been instances in other states where the online voting registration system had been gamed.
- Finally, the plan to quickly deploy equipment for faster reporting of votes should be paused until security questions around the equipment their use can be laid to rest.

SBE's new CISA, Art Treichel, observed that he had only been in his position for three days and that he was still orienting himself to SBEs systems and plans. He welcomed Mr. Draffin's

comments and asked that any members of the subcommittee who had concerns should send them to him. He noted that he and the new CIO (Fred Brechbiel) were doing an evaluation of the entire operation, so that comments now were timely. Lt. Colonel Ferguson added that there is a Guard team that has been involved in working with SBE.

The chair asked if Mr. Treichel would be willing to provide a brief to the subcommittee on election security in Maryland to the extent that he could share in a public forum. He agreed to discuss that with the SBE Administrator with a view to seeing what would be possible.

Other business

No members raised business to discuss.

The chair summed up by asking the members to look for the ISAO draft, Mr. Abeles reports, and a possible future brief from SBE. On behalf of the subcommittee, he expressed his appreciation to Mr. Treichel and Mr. Brechbiel for attending the meeting.

The chair called for a motion to adjourn. With the motions duly made and seconded, the subcommittee adjourned at 12:15 pm.

[Note: These minutes were approved by the subcommittee at its meeting on January 15, 2021.]