

Colleagues,

With regret, I announce today that Mark Weatherford will be stepping down as National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Deputy Under Secretary (DU/S) for Cybersecurity to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. His final day with DHS will be April 12.

Mark came to NPPD in November 2011 from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, where as Vice President and Chief Security Officer he directed the organization's critical infrastructure and cybersecurity program. Since Mark joined us, he has been instrumental in shaping the cybersecurity mission at DHS. Perhaps of greatest note, Mark was the first individual to hold the NPPD DU/S for Cybersecurity position—and the model he established will surely stand as an exemplar for all those who hold the position in the future.

Mark's leadership has been crucial during the realignment of the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C), which ultimately increased operational effectiveness and reduced business process redundancies. Mark has been a strong advocate in support of new cybersecurity capabilities, increased cyber workforce development, and broader collaboration with critical infrastructure sectors—an effort that contributed immensely to the President Obama's Executive Order on Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity” and Presidential Policy Directive Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience.

Mark is a living testament to the DHS mantra that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. Because of his vision, we now have stronger coordination and clearer alignment with agencies like the Department of Defense, National Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Commerce, and National Institute of Standards and Technology. Mark has also been a strong advocate for our state and local partners, helping to further address their concerns on both the cyber and communications fronts.

We have an excellent group of leaders in our organization, and as an immediate replacement, the Secretary has decided that Bruce McConnell will become the acting Deputy Under Secretary. Bruce has served as Senior Counselor (Cyber) and Director of Strategy and Policy for NPPD. His team develops critical infrastructure strategy and policy with a particular focus on cybersecurity. McConnell was appointed by Secretary Napolitano in June 2009. His team developed the 2011 *Blueprint for a Secure Cyber Future*, and is helping to ensure its implementation across the Department. McConnell came to DHS with over 25 years of technology and security experience in the public and private sectors.

Much of our progress advancing the cybersecurity and communications mission is due to Mark's vision and leadership. Please join me in thanking him for his service and in wishing him the very best as he transitions back to the private sector. His time with us has been truly invaluable to the NPPD mission and in service to the Nation.

Rand