

**Opening Remarks – Plenary Meeting**  
**ISO/TC 223 – Societal Security**  
**May 9, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Orlando, Florida**

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9:00 a.m.            Plenary meeting called to order by Chairman Kumlin

9:10 a.m.            (approx) Welcome remarks from ANSI representative, Matt Deane

9:15 a.m.            (approx) Welcome remarks from host, Bob Vondrasek (NFPA)

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**Matt Deane**  
**ANSI Director of Homeland Security Standards**

Thank you Chairman Kumlin. Good morning everyone.

On behalf of the members and staff of the American National Standards Institute, I am pleased to welcome you to Florida for the 3<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting of ISO TC 223.

Orlando is one of the busiest American cities for conferences and is second only to Las Vegas for the number of hotel rooms. Attractions such as Disney World . . . Universal Studios . . . Sea World and the Kennedy Space Center draw more than 52 million tourists to the region every year.

Travel and tourism has become THE major industry in central Florida. In fact, services account for 8 out of every 10 jobs across the United States.

Today, the standards and conformity assessment community is relied upon to develop and deliver design specifications and performance criteria, reference materials and testing procedures, and management systems and guidance documents that can span multiple industries. On top of that is the cross-functional area of security.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 served as a catalyst for stakeholders in the United States to turn our attention to the urgent need for standards in the security industry. We knew that we had to do an even better job in keeping our citizens – and our visitors – safe from harm.

The impetus for change was launched in the *National Strategy for Homeland Security* and brought into law in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

A newly established federal agency, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, brought together under one mission more than 20 public sector agencies. Today, the Department's 180,000 employees focus on preventing, preparing for, and responding to disaster.

The DHS Office of Standards coordinates standardization and conformity assessment activities across the agency . . . and with private-sector partners such as ANSI.

ANSI's involvement with DHS began in February 2003 when the Institute formed its Homeland Security Standards Panel. The ANSI-HSSP brings together stakeholders from industry and government to highlight and promote existing consensus standards and conformity assessment programs, identify gaps, and make recommendations for addressing these gaps.

The Panel encouraged ANSI to engage as a founding member of the ISO Advisory Group on Security and to provide a U.S. chair for the activity. A number of you in this room were also founding members and active participants.

In my opinion, one of the most significant outcomes of the AG on Security was its call to reactivate and revitalize the dormant ISO/TC 223. We all agreed that security was a topic that needed to be addressed from a global perspective – and that ISO was the appropriate home for this effort.

The ANSI-HSSP continues to convene Workshops on a wide range of security-related areas. However, our work on Private Sector Emergency Preparedness – and our recommendation of NFPA 1600 as the national preparedness standard – is probably most well known by the members of this committee. This was our primary input document to the ISO Workshop on Emergency Preparedness that ANSI hosted in Florence last April.

The ISO Workshop was a turning point. Security experts from around the globe came together to engage in dialogue about international standards needed for emergency preparedness. The result of our collective efforts was an IWA deliverable. That text was subsequently submitted to this committee . . . and your Task Group 1 quickly produced the new PAS text that is currently under letter ballot.

In only a year's time, you've taken great steps forward:

- You've created a structure to effectively address key components of societal security standardization,
- You've issued a Publicly Available Specification for international ballot, and
- As shown by the three plenary meetings that you've already held in the past 12 months – you've demonstrated a commitment to rapid progress.

Ambassador Kumlin, I congratulate you on your excellent leadership of this committee, and extend the thanks of the United States and the larger ISO community for your vision and forward-thinking approach. I would also like to thank SIS, and especially Stefan Tangen, for its essential role as Secretariat.

ANSI also extends our gratitude to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for a great job in organizing this plenary, related working group meetings, and social event.

Finally, we thank each of you for all of your hard work and ongoing efforts to develop globally relevant security standards.

Please . . . enjoy your time in Orlando and have a successful and productive meeting.