



American National Standards Institute **HOMELAND SECURITY STANDARDS PANEL**

Accomplishments of the Panel at its Two-Year Anniversary

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP) was launched on February 5, 2003 in direct response to needs expressed for standards in this critical area. The *National Strategy for Homeland Security* (2002) identified the need for standards to support homeland security and emergency preparedness. However, a January 2, 2003 Report for Congress stated:

“Neither the federal government, nor the nongovernmental sector presently has a comprehensive, consolidated program for developing new preparedness standards.”

The ANSI-HSSP has as its mission to identify existing consensus standards, or, if none exist, assist the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and those sectors requesting assistance to accelerate development and adoption of consensus standards critical to homeland security. The Panel has looked primarily to DHS, specifically the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate, to identify the priority needs areas for exploration.

The ANSI-HSSP promotes a positive, cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors in order to meet the homeland security standards needs of the nation. Further information on the structure, participants, Panel documents and more is available on the ANSI-HSSP website (www.ansi.org/hssp).

This document provides a summary of Panel accomplishments during its first two years of existence. These accomplishments include the production of reports and recommendations, but also less tangible items such as promotion of the crucial role that standards play in the overall homeland security effort. Many of these accomplishments have elements that are on going, but the important groundwork has been laid for their future development.

Acknowledgements

The accomplishments listed are due to the hard work, dedication and leadership of the many individuals involved with this initiative. ANSI would like to thank all of the Panel and workshop participants, both past and present, for their service to this important effort. ANSI would further like to thank the members of its Steering Committee for their key role in helping to lead this effort. Special thanks are extended to the following individuals:

- **Mr. Dan Bart**, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) and **Ms. Mary Saunders**, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), for their dedicated leadership as co-chairs of the Panel these past two years.
- **Dr. Bert Coursey**, Director of the Standards Portfolio, DHS Science and Technology Directorate, for the support and guidance that he and his department have offered in the area of homeland security standards.
- **Mr. Fernando Podio**, NIST, **Mr. Bob Vondrasek**, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), **Mr. Scott Coates**, AOAC International, and **Mr. Dan Bart**, TIA, for their key roles as workshop leaders.



Additional Information

Mr. Matthew Deane
ANSI-HSSP Secretary
American National Standards Institute
25 West 43rd Street — Fourth Floor
New York, NY 10036

t: 212.642.4992
e: mdeane@ansi.org

www.ansi.org/hssp

Private Sector Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity

- At the request of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, also known as the “9/11 Commission,” the ANSI-HSSP convened a workshop with the goal of identifying an existing standard, or creating the action plan for developing one, in the area of private sector emergency preparedness and business continuity. Following three meetings with stakeholders from the private and public sectors, the workshop recommended the American National Standard NFPA 1600 — *Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs*. Recommendations for future revisions to the standard and supplemental materials were submitted by ANSI to the NFPA 1600 Technical Committee responsible for the maintenance and future revision of the standard.
- The recommendation from the ANSI-HSSP workshop was delivered to the 9/11 Commission vice-chairman at an April 29, 2004 event that received national press coverage. This contribution was included in the recommendations section of the final report published by the 9/11 Commission. NFPA 1600 has been referenced in national campaigns (e.g., DHS *Ready for Business*) and also in national legislation (e.g., US Intelligence Reform Bill and the Private Sector Preparedness Act). The Panel continues to monitor efforts and opportunities to further promote and create incentives for the use of the national preparedness standard and stands ready to provide assistance as needed.

Biometrics

- Biometric technologies are key to homeland security, as they are becoming the foundation of many highly secure identification and verification solutions. In September 2003, a workshop meeting of subject matter experts was convened to explore the area of biometric standardization. The workshop produced a report of existing standards and projects under development. The report also contained five key issues related to biometric standardization and conformity assessment and recommendations for addressing these issues. A revised report, containing updates to the table of standards and actions taken on the key issues will be issued shortly.
- DHS adopted the American National Standard INCITS 385-2004 — *Information technology — Face Recognition Format for Data Interchange*. The standard, developed by the M1 committee of ANSI-HSSP participant INCITS, is designed to be consistent with international standards for biometrics used in such applications as travel documents. This standard will also be used to specify definitions of photographic properties and digital image attributes and as a standards format for relevant

applications, including human examination and computer automated face recognition.

Biological and Chemical Threat Agents

- Biological and chemical threat agents are clearly an important concern for the nation’s homeland security. Three workshop meetings were held on this subject in 2004 and the workshop’s final report was published in December 2004 and submitted to DHS. This 400-page final report contains the listing of relevant published standards and projects under development in the areas of biological and chemical threat agents, categorized by a subject-specific taxonomy developed by workshop participants.
- Following the identification of existing standards and projects in development, a second phase of this workshop has been initiated to concentrate further on the following key standards areas: detection technologies, reference materials, sampling, and remediation testing.

Training Programs for First Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction Events

- To assist the first responder community, a workshop was established to focus on standards that support training programs and can be used to help measure their effectiveness. During 2004, three meetings were held at which participants identified the key issues and means for capturing standards in this area. A matrix document is near completion that categorizes existing standards by first responder category, cross-referenced against the DHS Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) ten target capability categories. This workshop is also examining the important role that accreditation and certification to identified standards plays in this area. The final report from this workshop is expected by the third quarter of 2005.

Emergency Communications

- Communication in an emergency situation is critical for the safety of citizens and protection of critical infrastructure, as well as for response and recovery efforts. The Emergency Communications workshop convened its first meeting on December 1-2, 2004. The workshop agreed to focus on standards for emergency communications in the categories of citizen-to-citizen, citizen-to-government, and government-to-citizen. Future meetings in 2005 will identify the existing standards and gap areas that are needed to support emergency communications, as well as necessary accreditation and certification programs.

- A breakout session on Citizen Preparedness was held in conjunction with this workshop and the discussion from that session led to the creation of the citizen preparedness resource web page on the ANSI-HSSP website.

Support to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- The ANSI-HSSP was formed in consultation with DHS and a number of the Panel workshops convened were in direct response to standards needs expressed by DHS. In addition to working with DHS via the Panel workshops and plenary meetings, the ANSI-HSSP was a supporter of the DHS *National Preparedness Month* and *Ready Business Campaign* in 2004.
- The DHS Science and Technology Directorate has adopted a number of standards and guidelines to assist local, state and federal procurement officials and manufacturers. Included in this list are American National Standards from ANSI-accredited standards developing organizations National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on personal protective equipment for first responders, and the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) on radiological and nuclear detection equipment. Both NFPA and IEEE are members of the ANSI-HSSP Steering Committee.
- With support from DHS, ANSI is developing a homeland security standards database (prototype available for view at: www.hssd.us) that will be the comprehensive source to search for security standards. A support group under the ANSI-HSSP met to offer assistance for the project and the Panel workshops supply data and subject-specific taxonomies to the database.

International Security Initiatives

- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Advisory Group on Security (AGS) was tasked in early 2004 to review the ISO and other international standards organizations' existing work related to security, assess the needs of relevant stakeholders, and recommend what additional standards work should be undertaken to support international security standardization. As ANSI was a leader in the formation of this group, the U.S. provided the chairman and the ANSI-HSSP Steering Committee served as the body to provide input to the U.S. representative on the AGS. In less than a year's time, and with key contributions from the United States, this group produced a comprehensive report on international security standards work within ISO and recommendations to further efforts in 2005 and beyond. The ANSI-HSSP Steering Committee will continue to serve as the group to provide input to the permanent group established within ISO to further address international security standards.

- Recognizing that security standardization is a global effort, the ANSI-HSSP has incorporated international outreach into its activities. In addition to the ISO initiative referenced above, a partnership has been forged with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and its working group on "Protection and Security of the Citizen." Information and ideas are shared between both organizations. The ANSI-HSSP co-chairs were active participants in the ANSI and European Standards Organizations (ESO) meetings in 2004 and 2005 that addressed security standardization among other issues. One of the co-chairs also participated in a series of bi-lateral meetings with Japan in order to share information on security standards development.
- When possible, the ANSI-HSSP seeks to facilitate discussions with other countries that are looking to work with the U.S. in the security standards arena. For example, following the December 2004 plenary meeting, a breakout session was held on behalf of the Standards Institution of Israel (SII) to discuss ways for standards cooperation between the two countries. The leaders of the ANSI-HSSP have also delivered numerous presentations to security audiences outside of the U.S. including meetings of the Global Standards Collaboration for the telecom sector.

Promotion of Homeland Security Standards

- The ANSI-HSSP strives to educate and promote the important role that standards play in the area of homeland security. The key roles of the Panel and homeland security standards were cited in the October 2003 update of the *CRS Report for Congress — Homeland Security: Standards for State and Local Preparedness*. The leaders of the Panel have delivered presentations focusing on the work of the Panel and homeland security standards at conferences, smaller stakeholder meetings, and also to individual organizations that are new to the process or looking to learn more about this area. Through press releases and inclusion in reports such as the one published by the 9/11 Commission, the work of the Panel has received nationwide press coverage in print and in online journals.
- The ANSI-HSSP newsletter and website are two further means for promoting homeland security standards. The newsletter provides information primarily on homeland security standards and related news items pulled from the headlines and submitted by ANSI-HSSP participants. The ANSI-HSSP website provides resource pages with links to further homeland security information, as well as a meeting calendar to track and help promote other events of interest to those in the homeland security community.

Forum for Information Sharing and Coordination

- Through the creation of the Panel and its roster of participants, the goal of creating a comprehensive and cross-sectoral body of homeland security experts involved in standardization has been achieved. The three plenary meetings held to date have allowed this body to meet, strategize, and share information on key homeland security standards issues and efforts underway. There have been a number of instances where groups were able to learn of complimentary efforts and make contacts that led to future collaboration. Examples of these collaborations include speaking engagements at conferences and participating in the work of the technical committees of standards developers.
- The ANSI-HSSP Secretary serves as a resource for homeland security standards inquiries, not only to provide answers or further contacts for specific standards questions, but also to connect people and groups working on the same standards issues when similar queries are received.

Partnerships with Other Homeland Security Initiatives

- To avoid the duplication of effort, there are several areas for which it was determined that the ANSI-HSSP would not organize workshops, but rather monitor the progress of existing initiatives and lend support as needed. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), an ANSI-HSSP Steering

Committee member, launched the ASME Critical Assets Protection Initiative (CAPI) to strengthen the Risk Assessment and Management for Critical Asset Protection (RAMCAP) approach and guidance document from the perspective of the security professional community. Status updates were provided at the ANSI-HSSP Steering Committee and plenary meetings.

- In the area of cyber security, the ANSI-HSSP Secretary and one of the co-chairs participate as members of the National Cyber Security Partnership (NCSP). The NCSP is a public-private partnership that was established to develop shared strategies and programs to better secure and enhance the nation's critical information infrastructure. The ANSI-HSSP was also a supporter of *National Cyber Security Awareness Month* in October 2004, which was led by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA).
- One of the ANSI HSSP co-chairs is also a Sector Coordinator under Presidential Decision Directive 63 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, and, thus, provides linkage and information about Panel activities to the other Sector Coordinators, Sector Coordinating Councils, the Department of Commerce's Economic Security Working Group, and the Information Sharing and Analysis Center Council. This also includes providing information about the Panel's work to the Board of the Partnership for Critical Infrastructure Security (PCIS).



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Looking Forward

Entering its third year of existence, the ANSI-HSSP looks to continue the momentum that was established during its first two years as it examines the vast landscape of homeland security standardization. The importance of this effort is evidenced by the new reference in the final draft version of the *United States Standards Strategy* to the importance of standards coordination in areas of emerging national priorities, such as homeland security. Future Panel work will involve the completion of ongoing initiatives in standardization areas such as emergency communications and training programs for first response, as well as tackling new areas. At the December 2004 plenary meeting, it was agreed that workshops would be convened in the areas of “enterprise power security and continuity” and “perimeter security.” ANSI-HSSP participants are encouraged to continue to submit ideas for new workshop areas as the Panel seeks to be responsive to DHS and the entire homeland security community. Much progress has been made in the area of homeland security standardization, but there is a great amount of work left to be done as the Panel continues to support this critical national priority.