

House Energy & Commerce Committee Hearing:

“Cyber Threats and Security Solutions”

10:00 am, May 21, 2013

Questions for the Record

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The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo

- 1) With our nation’s need for cybersecurity talent growing every day, what can this Committee or Congress do to expand the pipeline of highly qualified candidates for cyber jobs?**

The need for a well-trained and qualified cyber workforce is not only critical to our national security but also our global competitiveness. I urge Congress to support programs aimed at encouraging students to pursue careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. It is essential for all cyber stakeholders across government, industry, and academia to dedicate the resources needed to building a robust high-tech cyber workforce for the future.

According to a 2010 U.S. Department of Commerce study, the number of STEM jobs is expected to grow 17% in the next decade. I was privileged to serve on the 2012 Homeland Security Advisory Council’s Task Force on CyberSkills. This Council focused on identifying far-reaching improvements that would enable the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to recruit and retain the cybersecurity talent it needs. One of the council’s recommended objectives was to radically expand the pipeline of highly qualified candidates for cyber jobs through innovative partnerships with community colleges, universities, organizers of cyber competitions, and other federal agencies. Another important effort focused on this issue is the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE). The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is leading the NICE initiative, including more than 20 federal departments and agencies, to ensure coordination, cooperation, focus, public engagement, technology transfer and sustainability. The goal of NICE is to establish an operational, sustainable and continually improving cybersecurity education program for the nation to use sound cyber practices that will enhance the nation’s security. It includes not only the federal workplace, but also civilians and students in kindergarten through post-graduate school.

Northrop Grumman considers a well-trained cyber workforce a priority for both for our nation and our company, which is why we have sponsored the nation’s first ever cybersecurity honors program at the University of Maryland-College Park. We are also focusing our educational efforts on middle and high school students as the presenting sponsor of the CyberPatriot program, which this year hosted over 1,200 teams, representing approximately 7,500 students, from all 50 states, and Department of Defense schools in Europe and the Pacific.

- 2) If you could ask Congress to address one unfinished piece of business relative to cybersecurity, what would it be?**

Cyber threats are rapidly evolving while simultaneously becoming more difficult to detect and increasingly ominous. Furthermore, cyber attackers are currently able to take advantage of siloed networks by launching similar attacks time after time. The most effective step that Congress could take

to raise the nation's overall level of cybersecurity is to facilitate and encourage companies to secure their own networks and break down the barriers to sharing cyber threat information.