



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

Securing Federal Facilities: An Examination of FPS Progress in Improving Oversight and Assessing Risk

July 24, 2012 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies subcommittee hearing entitled “Securing Federal Facilities: An Examination of FPS Progress in Improving Oversight and Assessing Risk”:

“Today, we will hear testimony about the Federal Protective Service’s progress in developing an effective means to assess the security of federal facilities.

In hearings dating back to 2007, we learned that FPS does not have a method to assess the training and certification of a 13,000-member contract security guard force.

We also learned that FPS does not have a means to conduct facility assessments on the federal buildings it is responsible for protecting.

FPS paid \$35 million to a private contractor to develop a computer system which would allow the agency to assess the security of the facilities and track the training of guards. That effort failed.

Today, we will hear testimony about a new FPS program that is expected to allow the agency to evaluate the security needs of the buildings.

I am told that this new effort was undertaken by another Federal agency and has cost the taxpayers less than one million dollars.

If this is accurate, I think this effort holds a lesson for all of us on the benefits of in-sourcing.

However, FPS must still address the need to track and monitor the performance, training and certification of thousands of private security guards who protect federal facilities.

Additionally, as FPS moves forward, it must implement a comprehensive risk-management strategy and fulfill its obligations as the lead agency for the Federal building security.

GAO reports that without the ability to assess its buildings and monitor its guards, FPS cannot fulfill its core mission.

FPS seems to be moving in the right direction. But there are still miles to go. I hope this Committee will continue to oversee these efforts and stand ready to work with FPS.”

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