

## **Opening Statement of Ranking Member J. Luis Correa**

Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency Joint Hearing

### ***Examining DHS' Efforts to Strengthen its Cybersecurity Workforce***

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Almost daily, we learn of nefarious attempts by Russia, China, and others to impact our cyber systems, including election systems and critical infrastructure.

Our national security, our economy, and in many ways our daily lives depend on a stable, safe, and resilient cyberspace.

The Department of Homeland Security plays a critical role in protecting the nation's cyberspace, which includes not only DHS' own computer systems and information, but also those belonging to other federal civilian agencies and our critical infrastructure, including election systems.

To fulfill this role, DHS must have a cybersecurity workforce that is well-trained, resilient, and dedicated to the mission.

However, according to the Government Accountability Office, DHS has not taken the steps necessary to staff the Department with cyber professionals properly.

Specifically, DHS has not identified or reported to Congress on its Department-wide cybersecurity critical workforce needs.

Additionally, according to GAO, DHS overstated the number of filled and vacant cybersecurity positions assigned with the proper identification codes for the specific role.

Without appropriate tracking, DHS will not be positioned to effectively examine its cybersecurity workforce, identify its critical skill gaps, or improve its workforce planning.

President Trump has claimed to be in support of strengthening federal networks and critical infrastructure, which undoubtedly will require a more robust workforce.

DHS has been given a range of tools to help bolster the cyber workforce, including special hiring authority for cybersecurity positions that allows DHS to expedite the hiring process, provide monetary incentives, and adopt a nimble approach to recruitment and retention.

I look forward to speaking with witnesses today about the specifics of the GAO findings and ways we can move the Department in a positive direction.