VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

In our letter to you on June 7, 2022, we raised serious concerns about the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) growing counter-disinformation efforts and requested information necessary to inform our congressional oversight of DHS activities.1 Since that time, DHS has produced to our offices the attached three page response, dated June 29, 2022, which did not answer any of the ten questions we asked in our oversight letter, and the attached three document productions.2 The first of those productions included two documents already in the public domain, and the other two productions contained just over 500 pages of material, approximately half of which are mostly or entirely redacted.

Based on our review of this material, it appears that many of the redactions are applied to pre-decisional and deliberative process material. We remind you that the oversight letters we send to the Executive Branch are signed in our capacity as sitting members of Congress, a separate and co-equal branch of government.3 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provisions do not apply to the oversight requests we submit in our capacity as constitutional officers and should not be applied to the materials that DHS produces in response to congressional requests.

Shockingly, in its letter of June 29, 2022, DHS expressed concern that Congress made public documents provided to our offices by a whistleblower without consulting DHS.4 In this

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nceanboard.pdf.
2 Letter from Alice Lugo, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, to Hon. Charles E. Grassley, United States Senate (June 29, 2022), with enclosures (see attachment); Letter from Alice Lugo, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, to Hon. Josh Hawley, United States Senate (June 29, 2022), with enclosures (see attachment).
4 Letter from Alice Lugo, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, to Hon. Charles E. Grassley, United States Senate (June 29, 2022) at 2; Letter from Alice Lugo, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, to Hon. Josh Hawley, United States Senate (June 29, 2022) at 2.
case, DHS again illustrated its erroneous belief that it has the authority to limit the release of material it marks with Executive Branch designations such as “For Official Use Only,” “Predecisional” and “Deliberative” and override our entirely separate constitutional authority to authorize and publicly release material that we obtain through oversight requests and lawful whistleblower disclosures.5 As our letter of June 7, 2022 made clear, we did not release all of the material provided to our offices, and we applied limited redactions to the material that we released.6 We make such decisions independently, based on our assessment of what will be in the best interest of transparency and the public interest. Moreover, DHS should learn a lesson in transparency and accountability when patriotic whistleblowers provide full and complete records in contrast to DHS failing to follow that standard and instead providing improperly redacted records.

Simply put, Congress controls when to make documents within its possession public, not DHS, and the people’s business ought to be public.

Further, documents we have received and recent public reports reinforce our alarm at DHS’s growing counter-disinformation activities.7 These efforts stretch well beyond DHS’s seriously misguided effort to establish a Disinformation Governance Board (DGB). A CISA Cybersecurity Advisory Committee document recently released by The Intercept states that “CISA has a burgeoning MDM [mis-, dis-, and mal-information] effort” that includes “directly engaging with social media companies to flag MDM…”8 The same article also quotes from a draft copy of DHS’s Quadrennial Homeland Security Review which reportedly states that “in the coming years, the department plans to target ‘inaccurate information’ on a wide range of topics, including ‘the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, racial justice, U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the nature of U.S. support to Ukraine.’”9 This report appears consistent with a memorandum we publicly released in an attachment to our June 7, 2022, letter to you, which emphasized such issues as “[d]isinformation

5 Id.
related to the origins and effects of COVID-19 vaccines or the efficacy of masks” in the context of a broader discussion of DHS’s counter-disinformation efforts.  

The records that DHS recently produced to our offices also show that a March 25, 2022, steering group meeting invitation from then-DGB Executive Director Nina Jankowicz went to a long list of DHS officials who, according to publicly available information, are affiliated with a range of different DHS offices and components.  

Due to DHS’s refusal to answer our legitimate oversight questions, the heavy redactions applied to the records DHS has produced to our offices so far, and an overall extreme lack of transparency by DHS around this issue, it is impossible to know the full extent to which various DHS components and offices are engaged in DHS’s “burgeoning” counter-disinformation efforts.

Accordingly, in order for Congress to conduct oversight of these matters, we ask that you respond to the following no later than December 29, 2022.

1. Please provide full and complete responses to all questions contained in our June 7, 2022, letter including un-redacted copies of all documents DHS has already provided to our offices in response to the letter.

2. Please provide a detailed description of DHS’s policy for responding to congressional oversight requests, including all guidelines used to determine when material should be redacted when producing materials to members of Congress.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

Josh Hawley
U.S. Senator

Enclosures

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11 Document Production 2 at 107-113 (see attachment).
June 29, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your June 7, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the Department’s disinformation-related work. I am responding on Secretary Mayorkas’s behalf.

DHS is charged with safeguarding the United States against threats to its security. In recent years, many of those threats have been exacerbated by disinformation. As part of its mission, DHS has worked for nearly 10 years across multiple administrations to address disinformation that threatens our homeland security and the security of the American people. This includes: (1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s efforts to counter disinformation spread by cartels and human smugglers to persuade migrants to cross our southwest border illegally; (2) efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to correct false information spread in the wake of natural disasters and other national emergencies, including to ensure that this false information does not prevent Americans from accessing federal aid during and after disasters and to prevent them from becoming victims of fraud; and (3) the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s work with private sector stakeholders to mitigate the risk of disinformation that threatens critical infrastructure.

To identify disinformation that poses a threat to the homeland, DHS relies on publicly available sources, research conducted by academic and other institutions, and information shared by other federal agencies and partners. DHS then shares factual information related to its mission with potentially impacted people and organizations.

Recognizing the threat to homeland security posed by disinformation, DHS created an internal working group called the Disinformation Governance Board to ensure the Department’s disinformation-related work is internally coordinated and best protects free speech, civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy. The Board, which was constituted in February, has not yet met and its executive director has resigned her position.
As you are aware, Secretary Mayorkas asked the bipartisan Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) to conduct a thorough review and assessment, led by former DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and former U.S. Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick, which will focus on two pivotal questions. First, how the Department can most effectively and appropriately address disinformation that poses a threat to our country, while protecting free speech, privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Second, how DHS can achieve greater transparency across our disinformation-related work and increase trust with the public and other key stakeholders. The HSAC’s final recommendations will be shared with the public.

While the HSAC conducts its assessment, the Board will not convene, and its work has been fully paused. The Department’s longstanding critical work to protect our country from disinformation that threatens our homeland security continues.

The Board has been grossly mischaracterized: it was never about censorship or policing speech. Rather, the Board was intended to ensure we fulfill our mission to protect the homeland, while protecting core Constitutional rights and doing so in a coordinated manner.

As reflected in its charter, the Board, by design, was not given an operational mandate or authority. Accordingly, it was not charged to identify or respond to disinformation that threatens homeland security. In fact, the charter states that DHS component agencies lead operational responses in their relevant mission spaces. This work is conducted by those agencies pursuant to their respective authorities and consistent with privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties safeguards, as well as other applicable laws. The Office of the General Counsel, Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Office of Policy, and Privacy Office will continue to exercise their statutory responsibilities to ensure disinformation-related work within relevant DHS component agencies, like all of the Department’s work, is conducted lawfully, pursuant to appropriate safeguards, and in a manner that honors and upholds our nation’s values.

The Board’s intended relationship with the private sector also has been mischaracterized. DHS does not dictate particular actions for companies to take regarding disinformation that threatens the homeland or otherwise, and there were never plans for the Board to do so.

Your letter enclosed a number of Departmental documents marked as “For Official Use Only,” “Predecisional,” and/or “Deliberative.” As you know, your letter and enclosure were made public on June 8, 2022. We want to express our concerns with the public release of these documents without a reasonable opportunity for the Department to first review these documents for protected information or verify their authenticity. The Executive Branch and the Department have a long-recognized interest in protecting the deliberations of its employees, as well as a long-standing history of doing so while accommodating Congressional oversight. It is unfortunate that any potential accommodation was cut short by a unilateral determination to release these documents.
Enclosed is a copy of the Board’s charter dated February 24, 2022 and the Department’s public fact sheet regarding the Board dated May 2, 2022, with additional background. The Department is reviewing additional documents that may be responsive to your document request. Please contact the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs should you have additional questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alice Lugo
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Enclosures
June 9, 2022

The Honorable Josh Hawley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hawley:

Thank you for your June 7, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the Department’s disinformation-related work. I am responding on Secretary Mayorkas’s behalf.

DHS is charged with safeguarding the United States against threats to its security. In recent years, many of those threats have been exacerbated by disinformation. As part of its mission, DHS has worked for nearly 10 years across multiple administrations to address disinformation that threatens our homeland security and the security of the American people. This includes: (1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s efforts to counter disinformation spread by cartels and human smugglers to persuade migrants to cross our southwest border illegally; (2) efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to correct false information spread in the wake of natural disasters and other national emergencies, including to ensure that this false information does not prevent Americans from accessing federal aid during and after disasters and to prevent them from becoming victims of fraud; and (3) the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s work with private sector stakeholders to mitigate the risk of disinformation that threatens critical infrastructure.

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As you are aware, Secretary Mayorkas asked the bipartisan Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) to conduct a thorough review and assessment, led by former DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and former U.S. Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick, which will focus on two pivotal questions. First, how the Department can most effectively and appropriately address disinformation that poses a threat to our country, while protecting free speech, privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Second, how DHS can achieve greater transparency across our disinformation-related work and increase trust with the public and other key stakeholders. The HSAC’s final recommendations will be shared with the public.

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Enclosed is a copy of the Board’s charter dated February 24, 2022 and the Department’s public fact sheet regarding the Board dated May 2, 2022, with additional background. The Department is reviewing additional documents that may be responsive to your document request. Please contact the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs should you have additional questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alice Lugo
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Enclosures
Document Production #1
DHS Disinformation Governance Board
Charter

Section 1. Purpose

The DHS Disinformation Governance Board ("Board") will guide and support the Department’s efforts to address mis-, dis-, and mal-information that threatens homeland security ("MDM"). Whereas Department Components will lead on operational responses to MDM in their relevant mission spaces, the Board will ensure DHS efforts are coordinated, deconflicted, and harmonized, both within DHS and across the interagency, to ensure efficiency, unity of effort, and promotion of applicable compliance and best practices.

The Board will focus on the following four cross-functional lines of effort to counter MDM, many of which are already underway ("lines of effort"): (1) identifying MDM ("Identification"); (2) assessing and analyzing the risk that such MDM poses to homeland security ("Risk Assessment"); (3) responding to these MDM threats ("Response"); and (4) building resilience to MDM ("Building Resilience").

With respect to each of these lines of effort, the Board will develop and support the implementation of governance policies and protocols that, among other issues, protect privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties; harmonize and support coordination with other departments and agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations; and support research and development efforts to assess and combat MDM.

Section 2. Members

The Board will be co-chaired by representatives of the Office for Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY) and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC). Standing Board members will be representatives of the following DHS Components: the Management Directorate (MGMT); Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A); Science and Technology Directorate (S&T); Privacy Office (PRIV); Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL); Office of Public Affairs (OPA); Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Representatives shall be the Principal or Deputy for their respective Component. Other Components may be invited to either join the Board or participate on an ad hoc basis, as appropriate and needed.

Section 3. Structure

The Board will be supported by a Steering Group, which will consist of a representative from each Component participating in the Board. Each representative will be selected by their respective Board member.
The Board co-chairs will designate a DHS senior official to serve as the Executive Director for the Board and Chair of the Steering Group. The Executive Director will be detailed or assigned to PLCY, where they will be supported by an Executive Secretariat for the Board comprising staff detailed or assigned to PLCY. The Executive Director will attend and may participate in all Board meetings.

Section 4. Board Responsibilities

Components will lead on MDM-related operational responses and other efforts to counter MDM in their relevant mission spaces. The Board will serve as the central forum in the Department to ensure consistent governance and coordination of such efforts, and adherence to applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory authorities and obligations.

The Board’s initial responsibilities will include a review of existing MDM governance policies and practices across the Department, including:

- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards to ensure compliance with applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory obligations;
- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards to ensure appropriate privacy and civil rights and civil liberties protections;
- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards for interactions with the private, non-profit, and academic sectors; and,
- relevant procurement policies and practices.

Based, in part, on the findings from its initial review, the Board will be responsible for developing MDM-related guidance, best practices, and recommendations regarding:

- compliance with applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory obligations;
- standards for and implementation of appropriate privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections;
- procurement guidelines for contracting or funding third parties to support the Department’s MDM efforts;
- grant funding and cooperative agreements;
- development and implementation of new technological and data management tools; and,
- any other applicable guidance, best practices, and recommendations to guide the aforementioned four lines of effort.

The Board also will coordinate, deconflict, and harmonize departmental efforts to address MDM, including by:

- receiving regular and routine updates from DHS Components, the Intelligence Community, and other interagency partners on MDM;
- harmonizing and deconflicting activities by DHS Components regarding the lines of effort;
- harmonizing, deconflicting, and coordinating, in conjunction with relevant Components, the Department’s external engagement regarding MDM;
serving as the Department’s internal and external point of contact for coordination with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, the private sector, and non-governmental actors regarding MDM; and,

serving as the Department’s internal and external point of contact for receiving, coordinating, responding to, and interacting with interagency partners, including the Executive Office of the President, for policy matters generally related to mis-, dis-, and mal-information, but not related to the performance of intelligence activities.

Section 5. Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

The co-chairs of the Board will:

- convene the Board as needed;
- approve the agenda for Board meetings;
- preside over Board meetings;
- approve summaries of conclusions reached during the Board meetings;
- communicate Board decisions and activities to the Secretary and other DHS leadership, as appropriate;
- represent the Board to external audiences; and,
- take all other actions necessary and proper for the execution of the Board’s responsibilities.

The Board Members will:

- represent the perspectives of their respective Components at Board meetings;
- review any proposals submitted to the Board; and,
- ensure that their respective Components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

The Executive Director will:

- propose agenda items and discussion topics for the Board following Steering Group review;
- communicate the positions taken at the Steering Group concerning proposals before the Board;
- propose summaries of conclusion for each Board and Steering Group meeting;
- implement and execute Board decisions through the Steering Group;
- supervise the activities of the Executive Secretariat; and,
- represent the Steering Group and, where appropriate and in coordination with the co-chairs, the Department to external audiences on MDM-related matters.

The Steering Group Members will:

- represent the perspectives of their respective Components at Steering Group meetings;
- review and discuss any proposals to be submitted to the Board;
- communicate their considerations of Board proposals to their respective Board Members, the Executive Director, and other members of the Steering Group;
review and approve summaries of conclusions of Steering Group meetings; and,
subject to the direction and guidance of their respective Board Members, help ensure that
their respective Components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

Section 6. Processes & Procedures

The Board will meet regularly at the discretion of the co-chairs and no less than once per quarter
for the first two years of the Board’s existence. The Steering Group will meet at the discretion of
the Board or Executive Director. Issues raised and proposals submitted to the Board will be
resolved by consensus to the greatest extent possible. Where there is a disagreement amongst the
Board members, the Board will resolve the matter before it by majority vote. In the absence of
consensus, any Board member may elevate, in the form of a written memorandum, an issue to
the Secretary or Deputy Secretary where they believe that a decision made by the Board
implicates their statutory or other assigned authorities.

The Steering Group is not a voting body. Instead, its members will discuss all issues brought
before it and make their recommendations to the Board. Steering Group members will support
the development of consensus recommendations to the Board to the greatest extent possible.

Section 7. Relationship to Other Departmental Governance Bodies

The Board will serve as the departmental forum for governance of DHS policies, plans,
procedures, standards, and activities pertaining to MDM that threatens homeland security. As
such, all DHS-wide or Component-specific proposals for funding related to efforts to counter
MDM should be appropriately coordinated with the Board, including in advance of submitting
any final funding proposals. Matters raised before the Board may implicate other departmental
governance fora already in existence. Where that occurs, the Board will coordinate its activities
with those respective fora through the Executive Director.

Section 8. Effective Date

This charter will go into effect when signed by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Section 9. Signature

Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Fact Sheet: DHS Internal Working Group Protects Free Speech and Other Fundamental Rights When Addressing Disinformation That Threatens the Security of the United States

Release Date: May 2, 2022

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is charged with safeguarding the United States against threats to its security, including threats exacerbated by disinformation.

Disinformation, which is false information that is deliberately spread with the intent to deceive or mislead, can take many forms. When it comes to DHS’s work, the Department is focused on disinformation that threatens the security of the American people, including disinformation spread by foreign states such as Russia, China, and Iran, or other adversaries such as transnational criminal organizations and human smuggling organizations. Such malicious actors often spread disinformation to exploit vulnerable individuals and the American public, including during national emergencies.

For nearly 10 years, different agencies across DHS have worked to address disinformation that threatens our homeland security. Here are some examples:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) counters disinformation that cartels and human smugglers spread to migrants to persuade them to cross our southwest border illegally. CBP’s work includes its “Say No to the Coyote” campaign, making clear that entering the United States illegally is a crime.
- In 2012, during Hurricane Sandy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) corrected false information about the safety of drinking water and the location of shelters, to protect and serve the hurricane’s victims. FEMA has since built capacity to identify and respond to false information during major disaster responses, including Hurricanes Maria and Ida, during which FEMA provided critical information to protect disaster survivors from targeted scams. FEMA also ensures that disinformation campaigns do not prevent Americans from accessing federal aid during and after disasters.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) works with private sector stakeholders to mitigate the risk of disinformation to U.S. critical infrastructure, work that has continued in light of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The Department identifies disinformation that threatens the homeland through publicly available sources, research conducted by academic and other institutions, and
information shared by other federal agencies and partners. DHS then shares factual information related to its mission to potentially impacted people and organizations.

The Department is deeply committed to doing all of its work in a way that protects Americans' freedom of speech, civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy. In fact, the Disinformation Governance Board is an internal working group that was established with the explicit goal of ensuring these protections are appropriately incorporated across DHS's disinformation-related work and that rigorous safeguards are in place. The working group also seeks to coordinate the Department's engagements on this subject with other federal agencies and a diverse range of external stakeholders. The working group does not have any operational authority or capability.

There has been confusion about the working group, its role, and its activities. The reaction to this working group has prompted DHS to assess what steps we should take to build the trust needed for the Department to be effective in this space. As a result, we will be taking the following additional steps:

- Under Secretary Mayorkas's leadership, the Department has renewed its commitment to transparency and openness with the public and Congress. DHS will proactively release comprehensive quarterly reports about the working group's activities to Congress, including its oversight committees.
- Secretary Mayorkas will request that the bipartisan Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) make recommendations for how the Department can most effectively and appropriately address disinformation that poses a threat to the homeland, while protecting free speech and other fundamental rights, and that HSAC Co-Chair Jamie Gorelick and HSAC Member Michael Chertoff lead this effort. Ms. Gorelick is a former U.S. Deputy Attorney General and Mr. Chertoff was Secretary of Homeland Security during President George W. Bush's Administration.
- At Secretary Mayorkas's request, DHS is exploring additional ways to enhance the public's trust in this important work.

The working group is co-chaired by the DHS Office of Policy and Office of the General Counsel, and includes other DHS leaders from CISA, FEMA, CBP, the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Science and Technology Directorate, and Privacy Office.
Document Production #2
Fabulous!

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:25 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT; Barr, MacReadie
Cc: BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; Chalkley, Marie
Subject: RE: Possible new PLCY political (Jankowicz)

Woohoo!

Rob – we will have the draft charter to you shortly. Jen and I were just making some final edits after receiving component input.

Sam

From: SILVERS, ROBERT
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Barr, MacReadie
Cc: BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; Chalkley, Marie; DASKAL, JENNIFER; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Subject: RE: Possible new PLCY political (Jankowicz)

Yes, Nina is on boarding in early March as the new Executive Director of our Disinformation Governance Board. Very exciting development. + Jen and Sam for viz.
We’ll need an office for Nina.

Thank you so much and appreciate it.

Rob

From: Barr, MacReadie <
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 2:43 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT <
Cc: BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN <
Chalkley, Marie <

Subject: Possible new PLCY political (Jankowicz)

Hi Rob,

Are you aware of a possible inbound political for PLCY, Nina Jankowicz, potentially to work on disinformation topics?? Looks like she’s in the HR pipeline, and if she’s coming our way just want to be sure PLCY has everything setup for a potential arrival.

Thank you!

MacReadie
Btw has the charter gone through formal ESEC clearance?

From: FALCON, ERIC •
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 6:48 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER • SILVERS, ROBERT • VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA •
Subject: RE: Documents for Distribution

Rob—I added my suggested edits/comments on top of Jen’s. Just a few changes I would recommend

Eric

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER •
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 6:39 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT • VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA •
Cc: FALCON, ERIC
Subject: RE: Documents for Distribution

Hi Rob,

A few suggested edits, including a couple I missed earlier. Looks good!

Thank you!

Jen
Thank you so much. Please see my additional edits in the attached. Can everyone please take a quick look? They’re under the name “Author”

If everyone’s good I’ll launch this tonight. I will try to get to the charter tonight but not sure if I will be able to.

Thank you again. I really appreciate it.

Rob -

Please find attached documents to distribute to individuals participating in the TTX tomorrow –

Below please also find a draft email to participants. We can send the formal package to S1 with the Gov Board Action Memo and Charter as well, if you like. I will leave it to Eric to get the package to you.

Sam

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GREAT WORK GUYS!!!

From: FALCON, ERIC
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 8:26 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT, DASKAL, JENNIFER, VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Subject: RE: Documents for Distribution

Rob—see attached a clean version of the Playbook.

To your question on the Charter—yes, it has gone through formal ESEC clearance with CISA, I&A, CRCL, PRIV, S&T, OPA, MGMT, FEMA, and CBP.

From: SILVERS, ROBERT
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 8:00 PM
To: FALCON, ERIC, DASKAL, JENNIFER, VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Subject: RE: Documents for Distribution

Great. Thank you Eric. Can you please provide to me in clean copy?

From: FALCON, ERIC
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 6:48 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER, SILVERS, ROBERT, VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Subject: RE: Documents for Distribution
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To: SILVERS, ROBERT
CC: FALCON, ERIC
Subject: RE: Documents for Distribution

Hi Rob,

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Thank you!

Jen

From: SILVERS, ROBERT
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 5:16 PM
To: VINograd, samantha
CC: FALCON, ERIC
Subject: RE: Documents for Distribution

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Thank you again. I really appreciate it.

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 9:46 AM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
CC: FALCON, ERIC
Subject: Documents for Distribution

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January 31, 2022

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Robert Silvers
        Under Secretary
        Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

        Jennifer Daskal
        Acting Principal Deputy General Counsel

SUBJECT: Disinformation Governance Board Charter
Thank you so much. Great work everyone.
Rob

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 3:37:51 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT - BURRIESECI, KELLI ANN
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER - FALCON, ERIC - SIKORSKYI, LUCIAN -
Subject: Disinfo Gov Board Steering Group

Rob —

Earlier today Jen and I convened the Disinformation Governance Board Steering Group meeting to understand the threat landscape; discuss current lines of effort; + review any operational planning for the week ahead.
Thanks,
Sam

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Thank you all so much. I hope you have a great weekend.

Rob

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 7:12 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
Cc: SIKORSKYI, LUCIAN, FALCON, ERIC, DASKAL, JENNIFER

Subject: Disinformation Governance Board Steering Group

Rob –

Jen and I convened the Steering Group tonight. We discussed
The Disinformation Governance Board package is still with S2 I believe.

Thanks,
Sam
Rob,
Believe you are traveling this week? Would love to touch base briefly on this when you have a chance.
Thanks,
Jen

From: SILVERS, ROBERT
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 1:01:57 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA · BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN
Cc: Chalkley, Marie · DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: Re: Disinformation Governance Board - proposed next steps

Thanks Sam. Plan all sounds good, with a couple notes:

Thank you and appreciate it!

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 7:30:31 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT · BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN
Cc: Chalkley, Marie · DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: Disinformation Governance Board - proposed next steps

Good afternoon –

Last week, S1 signed the charter for the Disinformation Governance Board which is very exciting. A few other updates/items for consideration:

Inaugural Board Meeting: Seeking Approval to Schedule the Week of March 7 or March 14
  • Jen (cc’ed) and I are hosting another Steering Group meeting tomorrow.
We recommend that

Staffing:

Look forward to your feedback, and we will certainly send a readout of tomorrow's Steering Group around.

Sam
Let's do it- I'm ready as I'll ever be!

After my incredibly helpful conversation with Nate and Milton yesterday (thanks both!) I am keen to get the steering group meetings into a regular rhythm and set some goals/metrics to orient me/ourselves toward.

If we have them, can I get a copy of the last 2-3 steering group meeting agendas as I put this together?

Was planning to send out a reminder on Rob's doc this AM coming to your inbox shortly.

See you at 11:30!

N

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 8:53 PM
To: PATCH, MILTON ; SNYDER, NATHANIEL ; JANKOWICZ, NINA ; DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: Re: Disinformation Governance Board Distro is ready

Woohoo!!
Nina - would love to get your thoughts on an agenda for this week (know you are just a few days in) or we can skip a week until you’ve chatted w some folks.

If you are amenable I’d recommend sending an email to that distro reminding folks to pile into Rob Schaul’s document and letting them know we will start our governance meetings individually w folks asap?

Thanks and looking forward to seeing you tomorrow.

@DASKAL, JENNIFER Nina and I are getting coffee at 1130 if you’d like to join us for executiv dining room deliciousness

From: PATCH, MILTON <
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 1:06 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; SNYDER, NATHANIEL; JANKOWICZ, NINA; DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: Disinformation Governance Board Distro is ready

Disinformation Governance Board <

Milton R. Patch
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Thanks so much Andy- see answers/discussion in bold in line below. We can discuss more when we sync up tomorrow.

From: FAUSETT, ANDREW
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 10:21 AM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA, VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA, DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: RE: Draft Agenda: DGB Steering Group Meeting 3/11

Nina,

Thanks for sharing this!
Hope this feedback is helpful! Let me know if you have any questions or concerns about it.

Best,

Andy

Andrew Fausett  
Acting Deputy Associate General Counsel for Intelligence  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office Number:  
Secure Number:  
Mobile Number:  

| Inelassified)  
| (Secret)  
| Top Secret//SCI |

(he/him/his)

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA  
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 8:40 AM  
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA  
| DASKAL, JENNIFER  
| FAUSSETT, ANDREW |

Subject: Draft Agenda: DGB Steering Group Meeting 3/11

Hi all,
Here's what I'm thinking for Friday's meeting. Since it's only 30M and I don't want to rush introductions / laying out what to expect for the next few weeks as Andy and I do mapping etc., I think

Best
N

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
C:
Thank you so much.

10-4. Standby, Sam, will have Brandon send you the paperwork so we can work with Kolasky ASAP.
This is a priority – please let’s finish the paperwork asap this morning so we can get it signed before Kolasky leaves DHS tmw

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:09 AM
To: Majette, Angela ; Barr, MacReadie
Cc: BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN ; JANKOWICZ, NINA ; SILVERS, ROBERT ; Chalkley, Marie ; SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN <
Subject: Liz Kozey/ Detail extension
Importance: High

Hi –

Per discussion with Rob and KAB we would like to move forward asap with extending Liz Kozey’s detail in policy for 12 months as Deputy Director of the Disinformation Governance Board. As her supervisor is departing/retiring tomorrow, we are hoping to get the paperwork over to her supervisor today to sign asap.

Could you kindly share that paperwork with me to send over to Bob Kolasky?

I know you all have so much going on and we so appreciate it!

Sam
Awesome - thank you Andy

From: FAUSETT, ANDREW
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:34:26 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; DASKAL, JENNIFER ; JANKOWICZ, NINA
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT ; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN

Subject: RE: Disinformation Governance Board Next Steps

Sam,

My apologies for failing to respond earlier—

To answer your question

Best,

Andy

Andrew Fausett
Assistant General Counsel for Information Sharing
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office Number:
Secure Number:
Mobile Number: 

(Inclassified)
(Secret)
(Top Secret/SCI)

(he/him/his)

A Department of Homeland Security attorney prepared this document for internal government use only. The document may qualify as an interagency or intra-agency document containing deliberative process material. It may also contain confidential attorney-client communications relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice. Accordingly, this material may be exempt from release to the public under exemption 5 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), and should not be shared outside the Department without the permission of the Office of the General Counsel.

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 4:04 PM
To: FAUSETT, ANDREW, DASKAL, JENNIFER
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT, JANKOWICZ, NINA, BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN

Subject: Disinformation Governance Board Next Steps

Andy and Jen – hope you are doing well.

We wanted to touch base on some items we just discussed re: the Disinfo Gov Board shortly ago with Rob.

Thank you so much and available to discuss at any time –

Sam
Microsoft Teams meeting

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***** U.S. Department of Homeland Security*****

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| Sent Date: | 2022/03/10 15:00:28 |
| Delivered Date: | 2022/03/10 15:00:36 |
Hello all,

Looking forward to working together on this!
Nina
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Thanks very much Tim!

Some interesting information here for our Board members to dig in on. Will forward to them ahead of our Steering Group Meeting on Friday.

Nina Jankowicz  
Executive Director  
Disinformation Governance Board  
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: MAURER, TIM  
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 11:32 AM  
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <  
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER <  
VINograd, Samantha

Subject: Omidyar: Z Memo

Hi Nina,

I received the attached document from the Omidyar Network and wanted to pass it along. I only skinned it so not sure who is best placed to take a look. In case you have any follow-up questions, the Omidyar staffer who sent this to me is Gus Rossi

Best,  
Tim
From: DASKAL, JENNIFER

Sent Via: Microsoft Outlook

Sent To: JANKOWICZ, NINA

Subject: DGB Sub-Steering Group Meeting: Resilience

Date: 2022/03/17 00:48:32

Start Date: 2022/03/21 11:30:00

End Date: 2022/03/21 12:00:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Schedule.Meeting.Resp.Pos

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Sent by Microsoft Exchange Server: DASKAL, JENNIFER

Sender: Microsoft Outlook

Recipient: JANKOWICZ, NINA

Sent Date: 2022/03/17 00:48:32
Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting
Or call in (audio only)

United States, Washington DC

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** ***** U.S. Department of Homeland Security ***** 

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DO NOT FORWARD OR COPY THIS INVITATION

For scheduling questions or concerns, please contact

**Purpose**: catch up on the disinformation governance board.

**Participants**:
Rob Silvers
Sam Vinograd
Nina Jankowicz

**Briefing Materials**:
Yes

---

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**
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**Or call in (audio only)**
United States, Washington DC

Phone Conference ID:
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Hi all,

Looking forward to seeing you today on the DGB steering group call. Below is what I’m planning to cover during the meeting today- please let me know if there’s anything you’d like me to add.

Best,
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
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**Sent Date:** 2022/03/18 11:20:35  
**Delivered Date:** 2022/03/18 11:20:39
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*** U.S. Department of Homeland Security ***

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Received! Thank you so much, Nina and team. I will review this shortly and am looking forward to it.

Rob

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA <
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 6:26 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; DASKAL, JENNIFER ; Kozey, Elizabeth ; FAUSETT, ANDREW ; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
Cc: Reynolds, Spencer

Subject: DGB Workplan and Public Rollout

Dear Rob,

I’m attaching the Disinformation Governance Board workplan for March-May 2022. Thanks to Liz, Andy, Sebastian, and Spencer for their support and drafting and Sam for her feedback and guidance.

I also wanted to update you on our discussion
Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about any of the above.

Best,
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

C:

Sent Date: 2022/03/18 13:51:55
Delivered Date: 2022/03/18 13:51:00
JANKOWICZ, NINA has shared a OneDrive for Business file with you. To view it, click the link below.

DGB Principles Draft_Clean_032222.docx

Hi Jen and Sam,

Attached is the draft that the team put together on DGB governing principles. I’d also like to share it with components with a deadline before our next steering group meeting on Friday, after which we can compile edits and share with Rob as planned.

Let me know if you’d like to proceed differently. Kudos to the team for a great first draft.

Best
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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terrific. Thank you Sam.

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 8:19:00 AM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT, BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN, JANKOWICZ, NINA

Subject: RE: Follow up re MDM

Rob –

We just spoke with OPA and Ricki.

The we are focused on doing this rollout right – we are continuing to work on the substance over the next day and will match that with the right timing.

Sam

From: SILVERS, ROBERT
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 11:17 AM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA, BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN, JANKOWICZ, NINA

Subject: Re: Follow up re MDM

Thanks.

Thanks and appreciate it very much.
From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:12 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT; BURRIESEI, KELLI ANN; JANKOWICZ, NINA
Subject: FW: Follow up re MDM

Rob —

We are engaging with OPA again in the morning re: the rollout and revert on timing. In the interim, we are working on a draft statement and TPs for Hill briefings.

With respect to the highlighted “examples” @JANKOWICZ, NINA and I will work to get some together asap.

Sam

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA <
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:08 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT; DASKAL, JENNIFER <
Cc: Saupp, Kevin; SHAH, SARASWATI; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; Wales, Brandon <
; LAWRENCE, JAMIE; HYSEN, ERIC; Wilcox, Cassie; Tocht, Kiersten (She/Her)
Subject: Follow up re MDM

Rob, Jen, and Brandon:

Thanks for joining the prep call today. Would appreciate your review/edits to the below,

Thanks, again.

Isa
Please designate:

- One principal and one alternate who will represent your component/office at ~once quarterly full Disinformation Governance Board meetings (component/office principal or their deputy)
- One individual and one alternate who will attend ~weekly DGB steering group meetings

1) Component/Office
   a)

2) Name of Board Member: Principal
   a)

3) Email of Board Member: Principal
   a)

4) Work Cell of Board Member: Principal
   a)

5) Name of Board Member: Alternate
   a)

6) Email of Board Member: Alternate
   a)

7) Work Cell of Board Member: Alternate
   a)

8) Name of Steering Group Member: Principal
   a)

9) Email of Steering Group Member: Principal
   a)

10) Work Cell of Steering Group Member: Principal
11) Name of Steering Group Member: Alternate
   a)

12) Email of Steering Group Member: Alternate
   a)

13) Work Cell of Steering Group Member: Alternate
   a)
Disinformation Governance Board Rollout
Talking Points
Thanks very much Nina. Will review when back in DC this weekend. + Marie
Thanks and have a good night everyone

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA ·
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 2:24:47 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT ·
Cc: BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN <DASKAL, JENNIFER
· VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Subject: Disinfo Gov Board Rollout TPs/One Pager

Dear Rob,

On our call with OPA, OLA, Ricki, and Isa about the DGB rollout yesterday, we were asked to produce this one pager with TPs about the Board’s purpose, authorities, and initial deliverables, as well as notional validators.

Jen and Sam have both reviewed this draft; once we have your feedback, we will provide the document to the those who were on the call, as per their request, and work with them on ideas for the timing and strategy for the rollout. We’ll of course keep you apprised of those ideas.

Looking forward to your feedback-
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans
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Hello folks,

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Disinformation Governance Board Steering Group meeting at 4 today.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:
- Discussion of DGB Principles document (originally distributed Tuesday and attached here);
  Please submit any written feedback before today's meeting.
- Presentations from I&A and CISA.
- Ukraine updates/AOB

If you haven't yet, please fill out this form regarding your team's Board and Steering Group representatives and alternates asap; it will assist us with planning our first full Board meeting in April; If you are not at HQ, please send the attached designee form to @PATCH, MILTON.

As a reminder while you fill out the designee forms, this is how the Charter describes the Board and Steering Group members:
- **Board Members**: Principle or Deputy for respective Component, who represent the perspectives of their respective Components at quarterly Board meetings; review any proposals submitted to the Board; and ensure that their respective Components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

- **Steering Group Members**: Component representatives who represent the perspectives of their respective Components at (currently weekly) Steering Group meetings; review and discuss any proposals submitted to the Board (such as the principles document attached to this email); communicate their considerations of Board proposals to their respective Board members, the ED, and other Steering Group Members; review and approve SOCs of Steering Group meetings; and help ensure their respective components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, and see you all this afternoon.

Best
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

-----Original Appointment-----

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:18 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; BENDER, ALFRED; MAURER, TIM; DASKAL, JENNIFER; MIRANDA, LUIS A; Spishak, Cynthia; DOBITSCH, STEPHANIE; Wright, Christopher; Saupp, Kevin; FAUSETT, ANDREW; Kolasky, Robert; Coulter, Kathryn; Cotter, Daniel; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; FALCON, ERIC; CARTER, JEFFREY T; Lamote, Jason; Smislova, Melissa; Legault, Richard; Hilt, Lucas; PECK, SARAH; Taylor, Robin; Mina, Peter; SNYDER, NATHANIEL; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; Beckmann, Luke; Sterling, Brian; Schaul, Robert; MILLONA, EVA; WATERS, ERIN; Disinformation Governance Board; JANKOWICZ, NINA; Kozey, Elizabeth; Fischer, Sebastian [He/Him]; Reynolds, Spencer; Hale, Geoffrey [He/Him]; Luke, Adam; SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN; QUINN, KEVIN; PATCH, MILTON; COHEN, JOHN; DUPREE, LYNN
Cc: Harrington, Mona; MILLER, JAMES D; Picarelli, John; RAZSI, DUSTIN
Subject: Disinformation Governance Board Steering Group
When: Friday, March 25, 2022 4:00 PM-4:25 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US &Canada)
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Distro for the Disinformation Governance Board

Microsoft Teams meeting

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- BENDER, ALFRED
- MAURER, TIM
- DASKAL, JENNIFER
- MIRANDA, LUIS A
- Spikhan, Cynthia
- DOBITSCH, STEPHANIE
- Wright, Christopher
- Sauss, Kevin
- FAHRER, ANDREW

**Recipient:**

- Kolasky, Robert
- Coulter, Kathryn
- Cotter, Daniel
- ESPINOSA, MARSHA
- FALCON, ERIC
- CARTER, JEFFREY T
- Lamote, Jason
- Smislova, Melissa
- Leasault, Richard
- Hitt, Lucas
Thanks for sharing Tim!

Just some food for thought... happy Friday!

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
C:
Opinion: Big Tech needs to pull the plug on Russia’s biggest propaganda campaign

By Ben Scott
Yesterday at 4:03 p.m. EDT

Ben Scott is a former State Department official and the director at Reset, a project of Luminate, a global philanthropic organization that is part of the Omidyar Group.

There is a violent conspiracy spreading like wildfire across social media. It revolves around a single letter. And it has captured the imaginations of millions who are devoted to promoting it. Although its central ideas are preposterous, its followers support violence to make fantasy become reality.

I’m not talking about the QAnon conspiracy (though all of the above applies to it). I’m talking about “Z,” the propaganda campaign amplified by the Kremlin in Eastern Europe to gin up support for Russian President Vladimir Putin’s murderous war in Ukraine. The Z campaign started in the days after the Invasion. It has now reached tens of millions of people across social media platforms. It is the rallying symbol of the Russian war machine and an effective weapon in the information war.

Strikingly, the QAnon conspiracy has been barred from promotion on YouTube, Facebook, TikTok and Twitter. But as of now, Z continues to grow.

Like QAnon, the Z campaign relies upon falsehoods to promote us-vs.-them antagonism. The Russian narrative claims that Ukraine — whose elected president, Volodymyr Zelensky, is Jewish — is ruled by Nazis. This grotesque mythology portrays NATO, the European Union and the United States as the great power backers of evil doers who kill innocents and threaten Russia. Like QAnon, whose messages purportedly come from an all-knowing Washington insider known only as “Q,” Z embraces a cult-of-personality strongman as its leader. Z’s outward similarity to the swastika is particularly insidious.

Z’s origins as a viral conspiracy are murky. It began with the images of Russian military vehicles in Ukraine clearly marked with the letter “Z,” apparently a military identification code to distinguish Russian vehicles from those operated by the Ukrainian army. The letter does not exist in the Cyrillic alphabet. But the Kremlin now claims that it stands for “victory” — because the phonetic rendering of the Russian “for victory” in the Latin alphabet starts with Z.
The propaganda value of the symbol quickly became evident. Russian state media produced slick videos featuring Z and began selling Z-themed merchandise. Schoolchildren have posed on Instagram with colored Z drawings. Dozens of Z hashtags racked up millions of views across social media. Even on Instagram and Twitter, which are now blocked in Russia, Kremlin-aligned accounts keep posting Z propaganda.

Like QAnon, Z has become a symbol of resentment and a messianic faith that its believers will triumph. But Z is far worse. Its central purpose is to justify a horrific war. It has become a serious information weapon pointed not only at Russian-speaking communities but also increasingly in many other languages.

Despite blocking Instagram and Twitter inside Russia, the Russian government’s own accounts continue to post on both platforms in Russian — reaching people inside Russia that circumvent the block as well as the very sizable Russian-speaking communities in Eastern Europe. Although Big Tech is frequently unwilling to share meaningful data about the scope of malign content on their services, our research suggests widespread distribution of Z — including Z-themed hashtags on Instagram and TikTok alone. (A representative for Meta, the parent company of Instagram, declined to comment on the record. TikTok did not respond to a request for comment.)

Starting in 2017, the QAnon conspiracy also began to spread like wildfire on Big Tech social media platforms. Recommendation algorithms programmed to capture user attention actively promoted it precisely because it was sensationalist and incendiary. At its peak, 1 in 5 Americans were prepared to believe that a secret cabal of blood-drinking, Satan-worshipping pedophiles held power in the United States. The conspiracy fed into wild acts of violence, including the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

Then the Big Tech companies reversed course. Google blocked QAnon apps from the Play Store for spreading “harmful information.” Facebook announced it would remove accounts related to “militarized social movements.” YouTube followed a few days later, pulling down videos with “conspiracy theories that have been used to justify real-world violence.” TikTok brought down QAnon for promoting disinformation. Twitter did the same — pulling 70,000 QAnon accounts. Mentions of QAnon on major digital media platforms dropped dramatically, slashing audiences by more than half within days.

Big Tech, in short, is responsible for both the making and the unmaking of QAnon.

Z violates all of the company policies made to address QAnon. And yet Z continues to spread on all of these platforms. The big difference is that Z is many times more dangerous than QAnon.

So why are we blocking Putin’s banks and oil but not his digital weaponry? One answer could be that the Big Tech firms are overwhelmed by the demands of information warfare. This is partly because they failed to invest in adequate product safeguards in languages other than English — a terrible risk that is now costing us all dearly. They might simply not have built the technical systems necessary to stop the promotion of Z immediately. But this is no excuse for the lack of a clear policy. They have plenty of money to solve any problem they choose to solve.

It is bizarre to apply rules against violent conspiracies in the United States and then give the Kremlin a pass for something far worse. The moral lines in this conflict are crystal clear. The Big Tech companies must act.
Nina,

Thanks so much for the nice note. They are both great, and I’m sorry I haven’t been more engaged this week. It’s been an insane few days. Really excited to get to work more with you!

Best,

Jen

Hi Jen- happy Friday!

Just wanted to send a quick note and say that I think we have a stellar team assembled for the DGB work and I’m so looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish together. Andy has been incredibly helpful as the elder statesman and institutional repository on this work. It’s also been a real pleasure to work with Sebastian- he is quick to respond and pitch in, incredibly thoughtful, and helpful in connecting me with the right people in the Department and answering lots of questions about the DGB and beyond.

Hope you have a great weekend-

Nina
Disinformation Governance Board Rollout
Talking Points
Thank you Rob, will do.

From: SILVERS, ROBERT
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 8:10:36 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <jankowicz.nina@ola.gov>; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN <kelli.burriesci@ola.gov>; DASKAL, JENNIFER <jen.daskal@ola.gov>; Chalkley, Marie <marie.chalkley@ola.gov>
Cc: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <samantha.vinograd@ola.gov>

Subject: FW: Disinfo Gov Board Rollout TPs/One Pager

This is solid! Thank you all. Please see some comments attached. Please copy me in when you send back to the team, Nina. I greatly appreciate it.

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 5:25 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
Cc: BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; DASKAL, JENNIFER; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA

Subject: Disinfo Gov Board Rollout TPs/One Pager

Dear Rob,

On our call with OPA, OLA, Ricki, and Isa about the DGB rollout yesterday, we were asked to produce this one pager with TPs about the Board’s purpose, authorities, and initial deliverables, as well as notional validators.
Jen and Sam have both reviewed this draft; once we have your feedback, we will provide the document to the those who were on the call, as per their request, and work with them on ideas for the timing and strategy for the rollout. We'll of course keep you apprised of those ideas.

Looking forward to your feedback-
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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PECK, SARAH

Mina, Peter

PATCH, MILTON

SNYDER, NATHANIEL

BURRISI, KELLI ANN

Beckmann, Luke

Sterling, Brian

Schaul, Robert

MILLONA, EVA

WATERS, ERIN

Disinformation Governance Board

Kozy, Elizabeth

Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)

Reynolds, Spencer

Hale, Geoffrey (He/Him)

QUINN, KEVIN

Luke, Adam

Harrington, Mona

MILLER, JAMES D

Pirroelli, John

CC:
Hi folks,

In lieu of tomorrow's Teams meeting of the DGB Steering Group, we'll be holding a paper sync to solicit your feedback on the issues we hope to stand up in the coming weeks.

Be on the lookout for that paper coming soon; we look forward to your comments and getting this important effort on the ground.

Best,
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

-----Original Appointment-----

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:18 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; BENDER, ALFRED; MAURER, TIM; DASKAL, JENNIFER; MIRANDA, LUIS A; Spishak, Cynthia; DOBITSCH, STEPHANIE; Wright, Christopher; COHEN, JOHN; Saupp, Kevin; FAUSETT, ANDREW; Kolasky, Robert; Coulter, Kathryn; Cotter, Daniel; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; FALCON, ERIC; SIKORSKY, LUCIAN; CARTER, JEFFREY T; Lamote, Jason; Smislova, Melissa; Legault, Richard; Hitt, Lucas; DUPREE, LYNN; PECK, SARAH; Taylor, Robin; Mina, Peter; PATCH, MILTON; SNYDER, NATHANIEL; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; Beckmann, Luke; Sterling, Brian; Schaul, Robert; MILLONA, EVA; WATERS, ERIN; Disinformation Governance Board; JANKOWICZ, NINA; Kozy, Elizabeth; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him); Reynolds, Spencer; Hale, Geoffrey (He/Him); QUINN, KEVIN; Luke, Adam
Cc: Harrington, Mona; MILLER, JAMES D; Picarelli, John; RAZSI, DUSTIN

Subject: Disinformation Governance Board Steering Group

When: Friday, April 1, 2022 4:00 PM-4:25 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US &Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Distro for the Disinformation Governance Board
Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)
United States, Washington DC
Phone Conference ID:
Find a local number | Reset PIN

******** U.S. Department of Homeland Security *******

Learn More | Meeting options
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**Sent Date:** 2022/03/31 10:50:02  
**Delivered Date:** 2022/03/31 10:50:04
Mina, Peter

Snyder, Nathaniel

Burriesci, Kelli Ann

Beckmann, Luke

Sterling, Brian (o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group)

Schaul, Robert

Millona, Eva

Waters, Erin

Disinformation Governance Board

Kozew, Elizabeth

Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)

Reynolds, Spencer

Hole, Geoffrey (He/Him)

Luke, Adam

Sikorsky, Lucian

Quinn, Kevin

Patch, Milton

Cohen, John

Dupree, Lynn

Harrington, Mona

CC: Miller, James D

Picarelli, John
Hi all,

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work on a framework for the analytic exchange with industry partners we have spoken about previously. While we iron out a few remaining wrinkles in the document, below is an update about DGB work in lieu of our weekly call.

- Thank you for your feedback on the Principles document last week; it is going up to U/S Silvers in the coming days with your valuable edits incorporated.
- We plan to hold our inaugural Board meeting this month (not an April Fools joke!), where the Board will discuss and approve the Principles document, as well as be briefed on the ongoing capabilities review and analytic exchange plans.
- We met with OPA and OLA colleagues to discuss the Board’s public rollout this morning and hope to have an update for you on more specifics soon.
- We look forward to our capabilities review meetings with CISA/NRMC, FEMA, S&T, and I&A next week.

As you continue to engage with stakeholders, read interesting reports, or encounter any areas where you and your team might need support from the DGB, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Have a great weekend,
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
C:
O:

JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sender:

VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Recipient:

BENDER, ALFRED
Beckmann, Luke
Sterling, Brian
Schaul, Robert
MILLONA, EVA
WATERS, ERIN
Disinformation Governance Board
Kozlov, Elizabeth
Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
Reynolds, Spencer
Hele, Geoffrey (He/Him)
Luke, Adam
SIKORSKY, LUCIAN
QUINN, KEVIN
PATCH, MILTON
COHEN, JOHN
DUFRENE, LYNN
Harrington, Mona
MILLER, JAMES D
Picarelli, John
RAZSI, DUSTIN

Sent Date: 2022/04/01 15:39:28
Delivered Date:
Show flow:
Intros
DHS Updates (UCG and DGB)
Meta Updates
Discussion

Thoughts?

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: VINograd, samantha
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 4:17 PM
To: Jankowicz, Nina
Cc: Daskal, Jennifer
Subject: Fw: Meeting Request

Looking forward to this – what agenda do you propose/flow of show?

From: Jankowicz, Nina
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 4:02 PM
Hi All –

Following-up on the location/format for the meeting on Thursday, April 7 at 2:30p ET. Sounds like virtual is best for the group so I’ve created a zoom for the meeting; details below. Please let me know if you would like me to circulate the zoom details in a calendar invite.

Best,
Becky

---

Ways to join

🌐 Computer or Mobile:

🔍 Zoom Meeting Info:
Meeting ID:
Passcode:

☎ Telephone:
Dial in on any of the following:

- US (Washington DC)
- US (Chicago)
- US (Houston)
- US (San Jose)
- US (New York)
- US (Tacoma)
- US Toll-free

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA •
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Louis, Danouh; Becky Moore; DASKAL, JENNIFER • Brian Rice; Felicia Agyeiwaa
Cc: Catherine Eng; Sandra Luff; Brian Martin, Cynthia •
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

I will also likely need to join virtually as I'll be at a meeting at the Nebraska Ave campus directly prior to this.

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
I defer to Ms. Daskal as the lead for disinformation. Please note that EXDIR Wales will likely join in virtually - given his tight schedule.

Danouh Louis
Staff Action Officer
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Mobile: (202) 655-1449 | Office: (703) 235-5272

Hi Danouh –

Many thanks!
Let’s go with Thursday, April 7 at 2:30p ET.
We are happy to host the meeting at our offices or come to you; whichever is your preference.

Best,
Becky

Good afternoon all,
[Removing EXDIR Wales.]

Using Outlook’s FindTime function, it appears as if Thursday, April 7 2:30-3:00 PM or Friday, April 8 3:00-3:30 PM may work for EXDIR Wales, Ms. Daskal, and Ms. Jankowicz.

Please let me know which is preferred.

Danouh Louis
Staff Action Officer
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Mobile: Office:

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER <
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 2:01 PM
To: Becky Moore <
Cc: Catherine Eng <, Brian Rice <, Felicia Agyeiwaa <, Sandra Luff <, JANKOWICZ, NINA <, Martin, Cynthia <, Louis, Danouh <, Wales, Brandon <
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Becky,

Taking Rob off this chain, given the conflict.

Brandon, Nina and I would be delighted to meet with Nathaniel, preferably end of this week. (I will be traveling next week and unavailable). I have added Cynthia Martin and Danouh Louis to this chain to assist with scheduling.

Thanks so much.

Best,
Jen

From: SILVERS, ROBERT <
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Becky Moore <
Cc: Catherine Eng <, Brian Rice <, Felicia Agyeiwaa <, Sandra Luff <, DASKAL, JENNIFER <, JANKOWICZ, NINA <, Wales, Brandon <
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Becky,
Please forgive my delay in responding. I am copying our Deputy GC for Cyber, Jen Daskal, our lead for  disinformation, Nina Jankowicz, and our response coordinator for the Ukraine crisis, Brandon Wales, for  their follow up as appropriate. Thank you for reaching out.

Rob

From: Becky Moore <><
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:49 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT <><
Cc: Catherine Eng <><Brian Rice <><Felicia Agyeiwaa <><Sandra Luff <><
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize  and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

Under Secretary Silvers –

Following up on Sandy’s note from last week regarding potentially finding time on your calendar when  our Head of Security Policy, Nathaniel Gleicher, is in town later this week and early next.

Best,
Becky

From: Sandra Luff <><
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 11:29 AM
To: ______________________
Cc: Becky Moore <><Catherine Eng <><Brian Rice  <><Felicia Agyeiwaa <><
Subject: Meeting Request

Dear Under Secretary Silvers,

I hope this finds you well.

To that end, we’d like to request a meeting with you to provide an update on these issues if your  schedule permits and would be happy to do this meeting in-person.

Many thanks for your consideration & please let us know with whom we should be in touch  regarding logistics. +Becky Moore & Felicia Agyeiwaa, cc’d above, to help schedule.
Many thanks,

Sandy

Biography
Mr. Nathaniel Gleicher is the Head of Security Policy at Meta, where he leads our company-wide effort to counter emerging and persistent threats across our platforms, including influence operations, cyber-espionage, and cybersecurity risks. He is an engineer and lawyer, and has worked in security for more than fifteen years. He has taught computer science, built and secured computer networks, and prosecuted cyber crime at the U.S. Department of Justice, served as director for cybersecurity policy at the National Security Council (NSC) in the White House, and as head of cybersecurity strategy at Illumio. At the NSC he developed U.S. government policy on key technology and cybersecurity challenges, including encryption, cyber deterrence, internet governance, and network security.
Moving it works well for me too.

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: Wales, Brandon
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:56 AM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; JANKOWICZ, NINA
      ; VINograd, Samantha
Cc: Martin, Cynthia
Subject: RE: SCHEDULE ISSUE: Nathaniel Glazier - FB

Sorry. Moving to 2:45.

Brandon D. Wales
Senior Response Official
Domestic Preparedness & Response UCG
Mobile:

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER -
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Wales, Brandon < ANKOWICZ, NINA
      < VINograd, Samantha <
Cc: Martin, Cynthia <Cynthia.Martin@HQ.DHS.GOV>
Subject: RE: SCHEDULE ISSUE: Nathaniel Glazier - FB

Which — reschedule or keep? Either way fine with me.

From: Wales, Brandon <
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:42 AM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER <; JANKOWICZ, NINA <; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Cc: Martin, Cynthia <
Subject: RE: SCHEDULE ISSUE: Nathaniel Glazier - FB

That works for me.

Brandon D. Wales
Senior Response Official
Domestic Preparedness & Response UCG
Mobile:

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER <
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:37 AM
To: Wales, Brandon <; JANKOWICZ, NINA <; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Cc: Martin, Cynthia <
Subject: SCHEDULE ISSUE: Nathaniel Glazier - FB
Importance: High

Hi Team —

I now have to be in a DSG until 2:45. Would you like me to see if we can shift the Meta/Glazier meeting or would you prefer to go ahead without me and I will join when I can?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Daskal
Acting Principal Deputy General Counsel
Department of Homeland Security
DHS Stands Up Disinformation Governance Board to Coordinate Counter-Disinformation Activities
Disinformation Governance Board
Suggested Agenda: April 2022 Board Meeting
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See below for due-outs.

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From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 4:28 PM
To: Wright, Christopher; Beckmann, Luke; MIRANDA, LUIS A; DENHUP, PAUL F; WEST, TYRONE O; FAUSSETT, ANDREW; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him); Kozy, Elizabeth; Reynolds, Spencer; MCKINNEY, KRISTIE; COMAS, JORGE O; DASKAL, JENNIFER; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; Minai, Karla; Sulc, Brian; Chester, Dean; ELMO, JOSEPH A
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER

Subject: Next Steps on Irregular Migration Case Study

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the high-level briefing on MDM in the irregular migration space yesterday morning. As a next step, we’d like to act collectively to identify a specific false or misleading narrative exploited by human traffickers or human smugglers to entice or encourage people to engage in irregular, illicit migration so we can develop a coordinated response plan.

As I mentioned yesterday, I would also like the academic/think tank sector to brief the group on their research and conclusions about MDM and irregular migration. Below are five groups of researchers/analysts who have published on this issue; I would welcome your thoughts on any other academics or think tank types who have worked extensively on MDM for possible inclusion in the roundtable, which I’d like to hold within the next 1-2 weeks. The roundtable will then inform our response plan.
I've included a list of due outs below and will be identifying a convenient time for us all to meet again in the coming days. Please let me know if you have any questions. I think this case study will illuminate best practices for the Board and components and our future coordination together, and I’m looking forward to getting it off the ground.

Best,
Nina

Due outs:

- **CBP + I&A**: leverage available resources to identify the 2-3 false narratives you assess to present the highest risk of engendering or exacerbating irregular migration and present your analysis concerning each of these narratives;
- **All**: Review below list of academics/researchers and their publications (linked) in the MDM/migration space; suggest additions to Nina.
  - [International Organization on Migration](https://www.iom.int/) (Dr. Eileen Culloty and Prof. Jane Suter, Dublin City University)
  - [George Mason University, Institute for Immigration Research](https://www.gmu.edu/) (Dr. James Witte, Director)
  - [University of Central Florida, Media and Migration Lab](https://www.ucf.edu/) (Dr. Chrysalis Wright, Director)
  - [Tech Transparency Project](https://www.techtransparency.org/) (Katie Paul, Director)
  - Bush Center, SMU Economic Growth Initiative at the George W. Bush Institute (Laura Collins, Director)

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Microsoft Teams meeting

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<td>Kozey, Elizabeth</td>
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**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)
Thanks, Rob. Excited to work with you on this.

Best,
Jen

From: SILVERS, ROBERT <
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 6:26:21 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER <
Subject: FW: First Disinfo Gov Board Meeting: Draft Agenda and Scheduling

Per my second bullet, goes without saying you are co-leading in this with me. But it should apply to the rest.

From: SILVERS, ROBERT <
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 9:26 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <
Cc: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <; DASKAL, JENNIFER <; Chalkley, Marie <; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN <; Kozey, Elizabeth <; FAUSETT, ANDREW <
Subject: RE: First Disinfo Gov Board Meeting: Draft Agenda and Scheduling

Nina and team,

Thank you so much. Looking good. I would like to see the framework for the analytic exchange and the capabilities review before calendaring the meeting, but will be ready to do so in short order once I review and am good with them.

A couple of notes in the meantime based on my quick review of the docs:

Thank you so much for the fantastic work. It is exciting to launch here. I hope everyone had a great weekend.

Rob
From: JANKOWICZ, NINA ·
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 4:51 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT ·
Cc: VINORAD, SAMANTHA · Chalkley, Marie · DASKAL, JENNIFER ·
      BURRIESCI, KELLY ANN · Kozey, Elizabeth · FAUSET, ANDREW ·
Subject: First Disinfo Gov Board Meeting: Draft Agenda and Scheduling

Hi Rob,

We are hoping to get the first Disinformation Governance Board meeting on the calendar for the week of April 18. I've attached a draft agenda (which Jen has reviewed) as well as our Principles document (which has been socialized with Steering Group Members) for your feedback. The Board will formally adopt the Principles doc at the meeting.

There are two other documents referenced in the agenda that I will follow up with early next week: the framework for a PLCY-specific Analytic Exchange, and the Executive Summary of our freshly-completed Capabilities Review.

Once you give me the go ahead, I will work with Quann to find a time that works for our members and get the meeting on the calendar.

Let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Best,

N

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DASKAL, JENNIFER
Silvers, Robert /
Recipient:
Sent Date: 2022/04/10 23:35:13
Delivered Date: 2022/04/10 23:35:14
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DUPREE, LYNN

PECK, SARAH

Mira, Peter

PATCH, MILTON

SNYDER, NATHANIEL

BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN

Beckmann, Luke

Sterlino, Brian

Schaal, Robert

MILLONA, EVA

WATERS, ERIN

Disinformation Governance Board

KozeyJ, Elizabeth

Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)

Reynolds, Spencer

Hale, Geoffrey (He/Him)

QUINN, KEVIN

Luke, Adam

King, Mcc

Mathews, Scott

SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN

COHEN, JOHN
Hello all,

Thanks to those who joined our Steering Group meeting last Friday. Please find the readout below, and as always, reach out if you have questions or concerns.

Best
Nina
Nina Jankowicz  
Executive Director  
Disinformation Governance Board  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
C:
Disinformation Governance Board

Kozey, Elizabeth

Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)

Reynolds, Spencer

Haia Geoffrey (He/Him)

QUINN, KEVIN

Luke, Adam

Kina, Mea

Mathews, Scott

SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN

COHEN, JOHN

Harrington, Mona

MILLER, JAMES D

Picarelli, John

WEST, TYRONE O

DENHUP, PAUL F

Sent Date: 2022/04/11 10:47:00
Delivered Date: 2022/04/11 10:47:02
That would be great on both counts. Hooray! Onward.

From: FAUSETT, ANDREW ·
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 5:33:42 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <kozey.elizabeth@state.gov> Kozey, Elizabeth
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER; SIKORSKY, LUCIAN; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) <reynolds.spencer@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Draft Revised MDM-Related Exchange Framework for PLCY

Nina,

Thanks for the response and the kind words! With regards to your questions—
Best,

Andy

Andrew Fausett  
Assistant General Counsel for Information Sharing  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office Number:  
Secure Number:  
Mobile Number:  

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From: JANKOWICZ, NINA  
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 3:46 PM  
To: FAUSETT, ANDREW  
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER; SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him); Reynolds, Spencer  
Subject: RE: Draft Revised MDM-Related Exchange Framework for PLCY

Andy, this is great! Thank you so much for your work and Sebastian and Spencer’s support on this.

I have two questions:
Thanks again!

N

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
C:

From: FAUSSETT, ANDREW ·
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 2:33 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <jankowicz.nina@ddot.hhs.gov>; Kozey, Elizabeth <kozey.elizabeth@ddot.hhs.gov>
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER ·; SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN ·; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) Reynolds, Spencer
Subject: Draft Revised MDM-Related Exchange Framework for PLCY

Nina and Liz,

Best,

Andy

Andrew Fausett
Assistant General Counsel for Information Sharing
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office Number: (DHS HQ)/ (NVC)
Secure Number: (DHS HQ)/ (NVC)
Mobile Number: Unclassified) (Secret) (Top Secret//SCI)
(he/him/his)
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| Delivered Date: | 2022/04/11 17:35:02 |
Looks great to me Jen! Thank you.

Nina,

Sorry for the delay, edits in the link, consistent with my comments over the last few days.

Let me know what you think. And many thanks for putting this together. Would love for this to be external, not just internal facing, once cleared.

Best,
Jen

Hi Jen-

Moving this to the top of your inbox- would love your feedback so we can get it to OPA and Ricki. (For context, as we discussed this morning, it’s an internal doc)

Have a nice evening-
Nina
Hi again both,

Jen, Sam and I just synced on this document and made a few changes based on your feedback; we also inserted some language from the Charter. It’s below. This isn’t going to be publicly released, but is for Ricki/OPA use as they develop the plan for engagement with media.

We welcome your feedback so we can send this up the chain.

Thanks!

N
Nina Jankowicz  
Executive Director  
Disinformation Governance Board  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA  
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 11:46 AM  
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA • DASKAL, JENNIFER  

Subject: RE: Updated Rollout Brief  

Nina – thanks. I believe we have a 1:1 today and we can discuss.  

And I am also sorry you are chagrined – we are so glad that the work is progressing so substantively. We oftentimes have some delays in rollouts as the communications SMEs evolve their thinking on timing and substance and then have to loop back with each other. Glad to share more on that internal dynamic when we speak.  

Sam  

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA •  
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 11:43 AM  
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER • VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA  

Subject: RE: Updated Rollout Brief  

Thanks both.
I've made a few changes based on your feedback and feel we should try to get others' input and get this out asap. I am chagrined that at this point the first conversation we had about this relatively simple announcement was five weeks ago.

Ready to chat about this/make more edits/move forward!

N

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Hi guys —

Best,
Jen

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA <nina.jankowicz@ homelandsecurity.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 8:47 AM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <samantha.vinograd@ homelandsecurity.gov>
Subject: Updated Rollout Brief
Good morning Sam and Jen! Hope you had a nice weekend.

As promised, here is the rollout doc with edits from concerned parties.

Let me know what you think- ready to send up to Ricki and OPA when you give the go ahead.

[docx icon DGB Brief 040522.docx]

Best,
Nina
This time looks free on everyone’s calendars but let me know if it doesn’t work- thanks!
Dear Colleagues,

Sam and I met with Ricki last week and at her direction drafted this short document outlining the Disinformation Governance Board’s efforts; we hope it can inform planning for the announcement.

On the week of April 25, we plan to hold both our first Board Meeting and a roundtable with researchers on irregular migration and MDM. As such, we would like to make the public announcement of the Board (and related Congressional/industry/civil society notifications) prior to those events.

Is it possible to meet tomorrow or Monday to discuss?

Thanks very much and hope you are all able to enjoy a bit of the beautiful weather.

Best,
Nina

Nina Jankowicz  
Executive Director  
Disinformation Governance Board  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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United States, Washington DC  
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**Sent Date:** 2022/04/15 09:40:09
Nina, 
thanks

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA <...>
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2022 6:01:50 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT <...>
Cc: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA · FAUSETT, ANDREW · DASKAL, JENNIFER · Kozey, Elizabeth

Subject: DGB Board Packet for Review

Dear Rob,

Great to see you at the happy hour last night!

As promised, here is the completed Board Packet for your review. Once you give the go ahead I am happy to work with Quann to get the Board meeting on the calendar for the 25th or 26th, before you depart for the Bay Area.
Sam, Jen and I would also like to carve out some time on your calendar next week to prep for the Board meeting and update you on the irregular migration case study.

Let me know if you have any questions and hope you enjoy a lovely holiday weekend.

Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sent Date: 2022/04/15 22:10:15
Message Flags: Unsent
Nina,
I’m traveling with S1 Mon-Wed so won’t make this. I apologize.
Hope you had a nice weekend.
Best,
Jen

Dear Colleagues,

Sam and I met with Ricki last week and at her direction drafted this short document outlining the Disinformation Governance Board’s efforts; we hope it can inform planning for the announcement.

On the week of April 25, we plan to hold both our first Board Meeting and a roundtable with researchers on irregular migration and MDM. As such, we would like to make the public announcement of the Board (and related Congressional/industry/civil society notifications) prior to those events.

Is it possible to meet tomorrow or Monday to discuss?

Thanks very much and hope you are all able to enjoy a bit of the beautiful weather.
Best
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Or call in (audio only)
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| **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** |

| **Sender:** Silvers.Scheduler |
| Silvers.Scheduler / |
| SILVERS, ROBERT |
| DASKAL, JENNIFER |
| DANKOWICZ, NINA |

| **Recipient:** |
| VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA |
| FAUSSETT, ANDREW |
| Kozey, Elizabeth |

| **Sent Date:** 2022/04/19 09:21:04 |
Look forward to talking it through tomorrow. Thanks all.

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 3:44 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: RE: disinfo meeting tomorrow

Thanks Rob! Here’s where we stand with the case study.

First, we’ve found that our intel shops – both at I&A and within CBP – are not ideally primed to gather and assess intelligence on this aspect of MDM. I&A is primarily focused on narratives pushed by certain foreign actors. CBP’s work on this issue is driven by their public affairs shop (which is not well-informed on disinfo) and we’ve had difficulty getting CBP IO involved in this work. We recently learned that the ODNI is setting up a new migration cell and S2’s office is going to ask that they gather intelligence as appropriate on disinformation.
In short, however, we have not yet been able to identify a false narrative that meets the threshold for a Departmental response.

@DASKAL, JENNIFER, please feed in if there is something I haven’t captured here!

I would suggest the following as our basic workplan before I head on parental leave (in addition, of course, to getting the public announcement and Board meeting under our belts, both of which are critical to get everything else moving). This is based on conversations I’ve had with the three of you, the in-depth interviews we did during the Capabilities Review, and my read of the Charter.

Best
Nina
From: SILVERS, ROBERT <>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 3:17 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA ; VINograd, Samantha ; DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: disinfo meeting tomorrow

Hi all. What issues are up for decision in tomorrow's 4:30 pm call. We need to move out quickly so I would like the issues to be teed up and everyone educated and on the same page going in so we can start the action.

Thanks so much.

Rob
Thanks so much Jake and Morgan – looking forward to getting connected with Amy in service of the case study on irregular migration that we hope to push forward asap.

Best

N

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Thanks Jake

Sam and Nina -
I'll also connect you directly to one of leads for the ODNI cell - Amy Lyreman
She's the NIM for Western Hemisphere & Transnational Organized Crime

Morgan Ryan
Office of the Deputy Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
m:

From: BRAUN, JACOB <
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 12:52 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Cc: RODRIGUEZ TORRES, ROXANNA <
    DASKAL, JENNIFER 
    JANKOWICZ, NINA
    
    DASKAL, JENNIFER 
    Lichtman, Bruce
    RYAN, MORGAN
Subject: Re: thanks

Thx Sam!
+ Morgan on my side. Will def get that request in to dni and get you all anything we get back from them going fwd. Also can't tell you how much we appreciate the support from Roxanna and Bruce. They have been real assets to this.
Jake

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 8:14:35 AM
To: BRAUN, JACOB <
Cc: RODRIGUEZ TORRES, ROXANNA <
    DASKAL, JENNIFER 
    JANKOWICZ, NINA
    
    DASKAL, JENNIFER 
    Lichtman, Bruce
Subject: thanks

Jake -

Thanks so much for the great chat yesterday. I am so glad that the CTITLE team is plugged into the work you have underway.

Nina Jankowicz is our fantastic new Executive Director of the Disinformation Governance Board – if you wouldn’t mind asking the new ODNI cell if they can that would be most helpful.

Roxanna and Bruce will continue working with you on the TOC aspects of these issues, and as we build out western hemisphere specific engagement in/around TOC we will be sure to keep your office updated.

Sam
Sounds great. Is there any reason we can’t go ahead and schedule the board meeting now, so it is held on people’s calendar? Quann is out and Andrew can help get it on calendar. Thanks so much.

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA <jankowicz.nina@clarityhealth.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:03 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
Cc: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <samantha.vinograd@clarityhealth.com>, DASKAL, JENNIFER <jennifer.daskal@clarityhealth.com>, FAUSETT, ANDREW <andrew.fausett@clarityhealth.com>, Kozey, Elizabeth <elizabeth.kozey@clarityhealth.com>

Subject: RE: DGB Board Packet for Review

Thanks all for the great discussion.

Rob and Jen, once you have had a chance to look over the below docs again (in particular we need sign off on the CONOP to get the Analytic Exchange on migration scheduled), I will:

- Work with Quann to get a 30 min Board Meeting scheduled the first week of May
- Schedule academic roundtable on migration
- Schedule Analytic Exchange on migration

Let me know when we’re ready to roll and I will fly into action!

Have a good (almost) weekend, everyone.

N

Nina Jankowicz
From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2022 9:02 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
Cc: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA DASKAL, JENNIFER FAUSSETT, ANDREW Kozey, Elizabeth

Subject: DGB Board Packet for Review

Dear Rob,

Great to see you at the happy hour last night!

As promised, here is the completed Board Packet for your review. Once you give the go ahead I am happy to work with Quann to get the Board meeting on the calendar for the 25th or 26th, before you depart for the Bay Area.

Sam, Jen and I would also like to carve out some time on your calendar next week to prep for the Board meeting and update you on the irregular migration case study.

Let me know if you have any questions and hope you enjoy a lovely holiday weekend.

Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
| Sender: | SILVERS, ROBERT / |
| Recipient: | FAITH, ANDREW / |
|           | Kozey, Elizabeth / |
|           | COULAN, ANDREW / |

**Sent Date:** 2022/04/21 20:20:10  
**Delivered Date:** 2022/04/21 20:20:00
Happy Monday all! Moving this to the top of the inbox so we can get the Board meeting scheduled.

Thanks!

Nina Jankowicz  
Executive Director  
Disinformation Governance Board  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  

---

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER <daskal.jennifer@ homelandsecurity.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:15 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <njankowicz@ homelandsecurity.gov>  
SILVERS, ROBERT <rrobert@ homelandsecurity.gov>  
Vinograd, Samantha <svinograd@ homelandsecurity.gov>  
FAUSETT, ANDREW <aausett@ homelandsecurity.gov>  
Kozey, Elizabeth <ekozey@ homelandsecurity.gov>  

Subject: RE: DGB Board Packet for Review

Thanks, Nina. Review of the analytic exchange CONOPS is on me.

Dealing with a TRO, but will put this on the top of the list for tomorrow. Thanks for a really productive conversation everyone!
Thanks all for the great discussion.

Rob and Jen, once you have had a chance to look over the below docs again (in particular we need sign off on the CONOP to get the Analytic Exchange on migration scheduled), I will:

- Work with Quann to get a 30 min Board Meeting scheduled the first week of May
- Schedule academic roundtable on migration
- Schedule Analytic Exchange on migration

Let me know when we’re ready to roll and I will fly into action!

Have a good (almost) weekend, everyone.

N

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:03 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
Cc: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; DASKAL, JENNIFER
     FAUSSET, ANDREW
Kozev, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: DGB Board Packet for Review

Dear Rob,

Great to see you at the happy hour last night!
As promised, here is the completed Board Packet for your review. Once you give the go ahead I am happy to work with Quann to get the Board meeting on the calendar for the 25th or 26th, before you depart for the Bay Area.

Sam, Jen and I would also like to carve out some time on your calendar next week to prep for the Board meeting and update you on the irregular migration case study.

Let me know if you have any questions and hope you enjoy a lovely holiday weekend.

Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
C: | O:

Sender:
DASKAL, JENNIFER
SILVERS, ROBERT
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA

Recipient:
FAUSETT, ANDREW
Kozev, Elizabeth

Sent Date: 2022/04/25 09:53:37
Delivered Date: 2022/04/25 09:53:38
ROLLOUT PLAN
Disinformation Governance Board
Great. Thanks Nina.

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:17 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT, VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Cc: Kozey, Elizabeth, DASKAL, JENNIFER, FAUSETT, ANDREW
Subject: Update on Board announcement - coming tmo AM

the announcement of the Board will be in Politico Playbook tomorrow morning, according to Marsha. Excited for this to be out there and dive in on the plans we discussed last Thursday.

About to head into an IPC but will be out circa ~7pm if there are any concerns.

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Hi Nina,

It was so great to hear from you this morning. Congratulations on all your personal and professional developments! I was wondering if you had a moment in the near future to discuss a legislative provision that was part of the FY20 and FY21 NDAA.

The center has not been stood up to date, and there has been discussions among Senate staff that the more appropriate government agency to sponsor such a center would be the Department of Homeland security. Would you be available to jump on a quick call to discuss this further?

Thank you so much,
Congrats!

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA <JANKOWICZ.NINA@US.HHS.GOV>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 12:35:19 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; RAZSI, DUSTIN
    BENDER, ALFRED; MAURER, TIM
    DASKAL, JENNIFER; MIRANDA, LUIS A
    Spishak, Cynthia; DOBITSCH, STEPHANIE
    Wright, Christopher
    Saupp, Kevin; FAUSETT, ANDREW
    Cotter, Daniel; ESPINOSA, Coulter,
    MARSHA; SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN
    CARTER, JEFFREY T; Lamote, Jason
    Cofield, Valerie (She/Her);
    Legault, Richard
    Hitt, Lucas; DUPREE, LYNN
    PECK, SARAH
    PATCH, MILTON; SNYDER, NATHANIEL
    BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; Beckmann,
    Luke; Schaul, Robert
    Sterling, Brian; MILLONZA, EVA
    WATERS, ERIN
    Kozey, Elizabeth; Fischer, Sebastian
    Reynolds, Spencer; Hale,
    Geoffrey (He/Him); QUINN, KEVIN
    King, Meg; Luke,
    Adam; Mathews, Scott
    Cc: Harrington, Mona; MILLER, JAMES D
        Picarelli, John; WEST, TYRONE O
        DENHUP, PAUL F; Smislova, Melissa

Subject: DGB is now public!

Hello colleagues,

Hope you’re all doing well; we are looking forward to reconvening for our regular Steering Group meeting on Friday afternoon.
I wanted to write to make sure everyone saw that the establishment of the Disinformation Governance Board was covered in POLITICO Playbook this morning. Now that the cat's out of the proverbial bag, we are excited to begin external engagement with industry, academia, and civil society as well as continue to push our internal agenda.

Your component heads/their schedulers should have received a request from Andrew Dolan who is in the process of scheduling our first full Board meeting; please ensure you work with him to find a time for this convening asap.

As always, if you have MDM related programming matters, questions, or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks, and see you Friday.
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

-----Original Appointment-----
From: VINograd, Samantha <vinogradusal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:18 PM
To: VINograd, Samantha; RAziS, DUSTIN; BENDER, ALFRED; MAURER, TIM; DASKAL, JENNIFER; MIRANDA, LUIS A; Spishak, Cynthia; DOBITSCH, STEPHANIE; Wright, Christopher; COHEN, JOHN; Saupp, Kevin; FAUSStETT, ANDREW; Kolasky, Robert; Coulter, Kathryn; Cotter, Daniel; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; FALCON, ERIC; SIKORSKjY, LUCIAN; CARTER, JEFFREY T; Lamote, Jason; Cofield, Valerie (She/Her); Legault, Richard; Hitt, Lucas; DUPREE, LYNN; PECK, SARAH; Taylor, Robin; Mina, Peter; PATCH, MILTON; SNyDER, NATHANIEL; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; Beckmann, Luke; Sterling, Brian; Schaul, Robert; MILLONA, EVA; WATERS, ERIN; Disinformation Governance Board; JANKOWICZ, NINA; Kozey, Elizabeth; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him); Reynolds, Spencer; Hale, Geoffrey (He/Him); QUINN, KEVIN; Luke, Adam; King, Meg; Mathews, Scott
Cc: Harrington, Mona; MILLER, JAMES D; Picarelli, John; WEST, TYRONE O; DENHUP, PAUL F; Smislova, Melissa
Subject: Disinformation Governance Board Steering Group
When: Friday, April 29, 2022 4:00 PM-4:25 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US &Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Distro for the Disinformation Governance Board <
Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)
United States, Washington DC
Phone Conference ID:
Find a local number | Reset PIN

×

***** U.S. Department of Homeland Security *****

Learn More | Meeting options

| Sender: DASKAL, JENNIFER |
| Recipient: JANKOWICZ, NINA |
| Sent Date: 2022/04/27 12:59:18 |
| Delivered Date: 2022/04/27 12:59:19 |
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2022

Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room
MS. PSAKI: Hi, everyone. Good afternoon.

Okay, two items for all of you at the top. Today, we released a report highlighting the historic small-business boom under the Biden-Harris administration. Last year, Americans applied to start 5.4 million new businesses -- 20 percent more than any year on record. And small businesses are creating more jobs than ever before.

And it's been particularly strong for entrepreneurs of color. For example, Hispanic entrepreneurs started new businesses in 2021 at the fastest rate in more than a decade -- 23 percent faster than pre-pandemic levels.

You heard the President say this today, but this approach is in stark contrast to congressional Republicans' tax plan, which would raise taxes by an average of almost $1,200 on nearly half of small-business owners.

Not only does President Biden reject congressional Republicans' plans to increase taxes on half of small-business owners, he also has an economic strategy to keep the small-business boom going, including expanding access to capital, making historic investments in technical assistance programs to help entrepreneurs identify resources, leveraging federal procurement to direct hundreds of billions in government contracts to small businesses, and leveling the playing field for small-business owners to reforming the tax code.

I also wanted to note that today the Food and Drug Administration announced two proposed rules: one to prohibit menthol cigarettes and one to prohibit flavor -- flavored cigars.

The rules announced today would enforce regulations related to what stores sell and what companies manufacture and distribute, which is a critical -- critical action to prevent children from becoming the next generation of smokers, help adult smokers quit, and significantly reduce tobacco-related health disparities.

With that, why don't you kick us off.

Q Hello, I have two questions about student loan forgiveness. First off, has the President concluded that he has the power to do this unilaterally?

And secondly, does he believe that means testing is the correct approach to student loan forgiveness?
MS. PSAKI: Well, there's been no conclusion of any process internally yet. But you heard the President talk this morning about his ongoing consideration of how to provide additional relief to many Americans who are still -- still have student loans, even though they have not paid a penny on federal student loans since he took office.

And what was the second part of your question?

Q  Has he decided if he wants to do means testing?

MS. PSAKI: So, he has talked in the past about how, you know, he doesn't believe that -- that millionaires and billionaires, obviously, should benefit or even people from the highest income. So that's certainly something he would be looking at.

Q  So, I just want to be very clear about the power to do this. He's looking at doing this issue.

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q  But you're not saying if he's going to send a bill to Congress or he's actually going to do it himself.

MS. PSAKI: Well, we definitely know he has the ability and the -- the legal ability to sign a bill Congress passes.

Q  Sure.

MS. PSAKI: So what we're really talking about is authorities through executive action, which we're continuing to look at and he's continuing to consider.

Q  And lastly, what concerns does he have about the growing cost of college? You know, obviously, the cost of college has been rising very quickly. This would reduce borrowers' out-of-pocket costs so they don't have to pay down some of their debt. But what about that cost of the education up front?

MS. PSAKI: Well, it -- from the beginning of his administration -- and, I would say, through the course of his career -- he has expressed an interest on the increasing cost of college and the barriers that that poses to people getting a two-year or four-year education.

He has taken a number of steps already since he took office to bring down costs for
Americans, including bringing down the cost of college.

The American Rescue Plan provided nearly $40 billion in higher-education relief for colleges and universities, much of which was earmarked for emergency financial aid to help students to make college more affordable for college and -- for current and future students.

He also called for and Congress passed a $400 increase in the maximum Pell Grant -- the largest increase in over a decade.

And additionally, we have now approved the cancellation of more than $18.5 billion in student loan debt for more than 750,000 borrowers.

So while he's continuing to consider what executive actions he could take using his own authority -- even though if Congress sent him a bill tomorrow, he could sign it and he would sign it to give $10,000 of student debt relief -- we've also -- he has not hesitated and has also taken additional steps.

Q  And the final question: a response to Republicans like Senator Romney who say this is a political giveaway to consider canceling student -- student loan debt.

MS. PSAKI: I would say, you know, the President's view is that, as the leader of the country, what he needs to do is continue to provide relief to people who need it most to help people get some extra breathing room. And that includes getting people con- -- this consideration of getting people relief who have taken steps to further their education and maybe take steps to advance their -- their family circumstances.

Go ahead.

Q  Thanks. Switching gears to Title 42: The President said today that the administration would comply with whatever the courts decide. So, just to be clear, there's not a plan to fight this decision?

MS. PSAKI: That would be a decision made by the Department of Justice, but they haven't even done a formal ruling that they're considering at this point in time.

Q  But there's the temporary restric- -- the TRO. So, at this point, the administration is -- doesn't have anything to announce, in terms of fighting this?

MS. PSAKI: They verbally did the TRO. They have not done, I don't believe, a more formal,
written one that has been looked at or considered by the Department of Justice at this point in time.

Q Does the President disagree with this ruling?

MS. PSAKI: Again, it's the Department of Justice to look at this. The President has talked about how he would -- the authority is given to the CDC to make a decision about when the conditions exist to lift Title 42. They made that decision, and he certainly supports that. And that's why we're preparing to lift it, through the Department of Homeland Security and an interagency process.

Q But if the CDC determined, like you just said, the order was no longer necessary, then it wouldn't make sense to fight -- to not fight this, to let that just stand.

MS. PSAKI: Well, the Department of Justice would make that decision. There hasn't even been a formal issuing by the court. It's been a verbal report. They said they would need to look at that. They would make any announcement about any legal action.

Q And I just want to ask you: We just continue to hear these Democratic senators that were briefed this week. Cortez Masto was the latest. She was briefed by the administration and said that even though you've been saying there's this comprehensive plan to deal with the border after Title 42 is lifted, she has not seen a comprehensive plan. She said she did not hear a comprehensive plan on how they are going to address the surge or the resources needed to make sure we are addressing the drug trafficking across the border.

So your response to her and just, big picture, why Democrats aren't united on this?

MS. PSAKI: I can't speak for all Democrats. I can tell you that we share the frustration about how broken our immigration system is and how there need to be fixes at the border, whether that is smarter security funding or fixing the asylum processing system that's long been broken.

And we would welcome the interest of any Democrat or Republican to work with us on that effort and talk about and work for it -- work on moving forward the bill the President proposed on his first day in office.

Secretary Mayorkas -- who oversees this, of course -- has been testifying. I think he has four - - he's testifying to four committees, including the House Judiciary Committee today. And he laid out six pillars of our plan, including components that address exactly those specific
pieces: how we would surge resources, personnel, transportation, medical support; how we're enhancing CBP processing; how we're administrating -- administering consequences for unlawful entry; how we're bolstering the capacity of nongovernmental organizations; what we're doing to target and disrupt the transnational criminal organizations; and how we're going to deter irregular migration.

But this is not an immigration policy. This is how we're implementing the lifting of Title 42. So we need a longer-term, more comprehensive immigration reform policy. And we'd welcome any efforts to work with that with members of Congress.

Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Jen. The request for $33 billion -- how quickly do you expect it will move through Congress? And when is the deadline for when you absolutely need it?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not here to set new deadlines. But I can tell you that both needs are urgent. Well, the -- I would say that need is urgent, as is the need for COVID funding is urgent.

In terms of where we are with -- with spending, just to give you a sense of -- of the money that we've already -- we've already allocated or already been giving -- putting on the ground to the Ukrainians in the form of military assistance -- I stumbled through that a little bit -- as you know, we had $3.5 billion in military security assistance. We have about $250 million of that left in drawdown. So, obviously, we will work to expedite that and provide that to the Ukrainians.

But in order to continue to help assist them, help make sure they have the -- the weapons they need, the artillery they need, the equipment they need, it is certainly urgent to move forward on this funding.

Q And what is your view on why the economy shrunk 1.4 percent during the first quarter?

MS. PSAKI: So, GDP, which is what that's a measure of, measures a couple of different components of economic data: consumption, investment, inventory, and exports.

On a number of these -- these data components -- we had very positive signs in this same set of data, including consumption; consumer spending was up by about 2.5 percent. On investment, business investment, residential investment -- both up as well.
And on exports, the number was down, but that is largely because our economy is doing better than many economies around the world. So, while we were purchasing a lot of goods from other countries, there wasn’t the same capacity to purchase our goods. That is -- that is why that number was -- was lower.

And then on inventory, which is another piece of data that is measured, quarter four of last year had the largest inventory number of any quarter in history, in large part because, as the supply chain problems were being fixed -- thanks in large part to the President's efforts -- businesses were able to get goods, and they made enormous purchases -- largest numbers to stock their inventory of any quarter in history. And this -- what this data is measuring is changes in growth from quarter to quarter.

So, because of that, even though this was the fifth-largest inventory quarter in history, in comparison with the fourth quarter of last year, it showed a decrease, which led to the -- to the number.

But what -- what economists -- many economists -- Jason Furman has spoken to this, and others -- what they look at as measures of the strength of the economy and what they're monitoring closely from quarter to quarter as important indicators are consumer spending, business investment, residential investment. All of these increased at strong rates in the first quarter and as did the overall demand, and are good signs for the strength of the economy.

Q And lastly, to what extent are you looking at cutting tariffs on Chinese goods as a way to ease inflation?

MS. PSAKI: Well, there’s an ongoing review of that led by Ambassador Tai at USTR. And we are certainly continuing to look at where these tariffs -- put in place by the prior administration -- don’t make sense. And one of the factors that we’re looking at as a part of this review is certainly the impact on jobs and wages and, of course, on inflation. But we’re also looking at -- and costs, of course, of goods.

But we’re also looking at where we have concerns about the economic policies and approaches of China. But I don’t have anything to preview at this point in terms of how that review is going.

Go ahead.

Q Just one point of clarification: Does the President want this funding for Ukraine tied to the COVID-19 funding?
MS. PSAKI: We’re not making a predetermination of that from here. We put forward both of these funding requests today because they’re both vital, they’re both important. We need them both to help the Ukrainians and to help ensure we’re continuing our COVID programs here in this country and around the world. But we’re not going to predetermine for Congress how they move forward. There is just an urgency in moving them forward.

Q Okay. It was just confusing, because in his letter to Congress, he seemed to say he didn’t want it tied to the COVID-19 funding, but he told reporters he didn’t care if it was tied to the COVID-19 funding.

MS. PSAKI: That was not the intention of how it was written. It was intended just to convey we’re moving -- we’re putting these both forward today.

Q Okay. So you’re not -- so the White House is not saying that it should be tied to the COVID-19 funding?

MS. PSAKI: No. We’re saying: These are both urgent. We would like to move these forward. We’ll work with you to determine how to get that done.

Q Okay. And you said you don’t want to put a deadline on when Congress needs to pass and authorize this $33 billion request that the President has made. But how many more weeks can Ukraine go, based on what they have so far and based on the drawdown authority that the President still has, before you do start to see interruptions in military aid and economic assistance and humanitarian aid?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I would say, because we have $250 million left --

Q That’s not very much, though, compared to what you’re asking for.

MS. PSAKI: I know, I’m -- I’m getting -- I’m getting to your point. I’m getting to the point here.

You know, there’s obviously more that’s needed. And we want to be able to continue to provide a range of security and military assistance to the Ukrainians.

Now, we strategically frontloaded the military and security assistance we were providing a couple of weeks ago, expedited the delivery of it, because we knew that as Russia was repositioning in the east, and really re- -- re- -- changing their strategic approach to focus on
the Donbas, they would need that on the front end.

So, it doesn't mean that it will be exactly the same pace and every week, but certainly there is an urgency to getting this funding done. There has been bipartisan -- through.

There has been bipartisan support in the past, and we're certainly looking forward to working with them to get this done as quickly as possible.

Q And it would seem to suggest that there is a timeline, since officials told reporters today, briefing it, that they believe this is enough for Ukraine for the next five months to last through the end of the fiscal year -- which, of course, that would start in a few days if you're judging on a five-months timeline.

MS. PSAKI: Well, that's a different -- that's a different question than a timeline for getting the package done. I mean, we did this on a fiscal year basis because that seemed to make sense, of course, and also because we wanted to do it over the long term for planning purposes. But it doesn't mean that the funding would be delivered tomorrow, obviously. We have to get it through and move it through Congress. And we want to do that as quickly as possible.

Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Jen. A quick follow on student loans. Today, the President said that he is not considering the $50,000 figure that some Democrats have pushed for. Is there a range you can provide for what he is considering? Is it more than the $10,000 both of you have mentioned before?

MS. PSAKI: He has said that before. So, today was not the first time he has said that about $50,000 in the past. I guess it's been a few months. I don't have a top range for you. I think he was just reacting to that size of the number.

He said in the past, and I've reiterated, that he would be happy to sign a piece of legislation or a bill that came to his desk that canceled $10,000 in student loans. Could be more than that. We're looking at that. But I think $50,000 was just his indication of that size and his opposition to that.

Q Got it. And then today, when he was talking about the supplemental budget, he said that NATO Allies and EU partners are going to pay their "fair share of the cost as well." How does he define "fair share"?
MS. PSAKI: I think he was trying to send the message, which has already been underway, that we are going to continue to give a range of -- and a significant range -- amount of military and security assistance. But other countries -- we expect them to continue to step up as well, as this is going to be a sustained effort, a longer war, as we’ve talked about before. We’re going to need other countries to continue to provide a range of assistance as well.

And we are far and away -- the United States is -- the largest provider of military, humanitarian, and economic assistance. And other countries have taken steps. I mean, Germany just announced this week -- right? -- their -- their plan or their intention, and they may have been delivered, to provide tanks -- something they have never done before.

A number of other countries have announced steps to provide a range of military assistance and weapons that they have never provided before.

But it was more the President sending a message about the need for every country to remain committed to this sustained and long-term effort to support the Ukrainians.

Q But -- but he’s not saying that they should be paying as much as the U.S. in terms of a monetary figure?

MS. PSAKI: Every country is going to be able to provide different amounts and different types of assistance. So it’s not prejudging that. It’s just an ask and a reminder and a call to the world that we need to be in this for the long term, and we all need to continue to provide a range of assistance.

Q And then one more on Paul Whelan. Yesterday, I asked you about what his brother said. Today, he himself issued a statement, and he is asking, “Why was I left behind?” He mentioned he’s pleased Trevor is home with his family, but he is asking, “Why hasn’t more been done to secure my release?” What is the administration’s response to Paul Whelan?

MS. PSAKI: I would say that we will continue to do everything possible to bring Paul Whelan home. We are in regular touch with his family and his family members. And we don’t outline in detail everything we are doing publicly because our objective is to return him home with his family.

The President is focused on that. And we would say to him, we -- “We are going to continue to do everything possible to bring you home.”
Q  Can you say whether there has been any progress made in the past two, three months on their cases -- on Whelan and Brittney Griner?

MS. PSAKI: It wouldn't be constructive to outline or detail any specifics from here because our objective is to be successful, and talking about these cases publicly and getting into specifics often isn't constructive toward that goal.

Go ahead.

Q  Jen, thank you. I wanted to start by asking you a few questions about Ukraine. The U.N. Secretary-General met with President Putin. He's meeting with President Zelenskyy. He's trying to strike a deal to get those who are in the steel plant out. Ukrainian officials were very skeptical of these talks heading into this week. Does the administration feel as though there's been any progress that has come out of his talks with Putin and Zelenskyy?

MS. PSAKI: Look, I would say that it's not for us to make a judgment from here. We are here to support the efforts of the Ukrainians and the Ukrainian leaders to pursue diplomatic talks and diplomatic engagements should they see that as constructive.

We have not seen evidence that President Putin or the Russians have taken steps -- whether it is allowing for humanitarian convoys to move forward, humanitarian assistance, creating corridors -- that would give an indication of that.

But our objective is: continue to implement the strategy that we laid out from early in this conflict, which is to provide the type of security and military assistance to help the Ukrainians fight and win on the battlefield -- they obviously did that in Kyiv in pushing back the Russians -- to give them economic and humanitarian assistance to strengthen their hand in diplomatic talks.

Q  Against the backdrop of the President's announcement today and request for this $33 billion aid package, can you say: Is it the policy goal of the United States for Ukraine to defeat Russia?

MS. PSAKI: Well, look, it depends on how you -- we're not going to define that from here. That's for the Ukra--

Q  How would you define it?

MS. PSAKI: Well, that's for the Ukrainians to define.
What we are going to do from here is to continue to provide them with a range of security and military assistance, as is evidenced by the package that the President proposed and put forward to Capitol Hill today; to strengthen their ne-- their hand at the negotiating table; and ensure that they have the support and backing of the United States and the world.

Q Just to be clear -- and I understand what you're saying: It's for the Ukrainians to define. But does the United States think that success has to include Russians leaving all of the new portions of Ukraine that they currently invaded?

MS. PSAKI: Again, we're not going to define that from here, Kristen. There are a range of negotiations that may happen and may take place, and we're just not going to get ahead of that.

Q Let me ask you about Build Back Better, if I might, or the remains of Build Back Better.

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q Given that you are pushing for this new aid, given that you are pushing for pandemic aid as well, where does that fall right now on the agenda? Is there urgency to get those priorities passed as well?

MS. PSAKI: Absolutely. I mean, here's the thing about Congress and governing: You -- you can and you are able to do more than one thing at one time. Right? Just even look at the committees of jurisdiction in Congress. The committees that are considering and looking at, you know, some of the military assistance and security packages may not be the same that are considering and writing pieces of legislation on a reconciliation package.

There is a great deal of interest and passion on Capitol Hill among Democrats in moving forward on the President's agenda and the President's proposal to lower the cost of prescription drugs; to lower the cost of childcare, of healthcare, of eldercare. And we're going to continue advocating and fighting for that.

Q In order for it to get done against the backdrop of this election year, do you need to have a deal in place by Memorial Day -- that has obviously been floated as the deadline?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not here to set new deadlines, Kristen. We know there is interest, there's passion, there's advocacy. We're continuing to do a lot of work behind the scenes, and we're going to continue to fight to get it done.
Q  I know you don't want to talk about deadlines, but if you could give us a reality check. The President said today he's going to announce something on student loans in just a few weeks. You had said that there could potentially be an announcement by August -- the end of the summer. Realistically, can we expect to hear something from the President in the next few weeks on this?

MS. PSAKI: Stay tuned and we'll see. Obviously, we have to continue a policy process. The President will make a decision. And once we have a decision to make, we'll -- we'll, of course, announce that.

What I was getting at, really, is: The end of August is also the time that the student loan payment deferral -- that's the kind of period that it was extended through. So, it was more about making a decision before then.

Q  Okay. Thanks, Jen.

MS. PSAKI: We always like to beat timelines here. You know.

So, go ahead.

Q  Thank you, Jen. On student loan debt --

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q  -- the Committee for a Responsible Budget has spoken out against this, saying they've done a calculation that canceling $10,000 per borrower would cost $250 billion, $50,000 per borrower would cost $950 billion. What do you say to people, sort of, in their camp who are concerned that canceling student debt can have inflationary impact?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I haven't looked at all those numbers and what incomes they would apply to, nor has there been a proposal that the President has put out on this front or anything that's passed through Congress.

But what I would say, broadly speaking, is that when you look at the choices that need to be made, the President is looking at the impact of student loans -- something that many people in this country, millions of Americans undertook to get a better education, to make sure they were advancing their own knowledge, to maybe help their family have a better life -- that finding ways to provide relief to students, to make sure that these working-cla-- working
families are getting relief is more important than tax cuts to millionaires, billionaires, and corporations.

And we can make choices about where we invest and where we think we can make the tax system more fair. But there isn't even a bill that's moved through Congress, nor have we put a proposal together. So I don't -- those numbers aren't based on any reality at this moment.

Q But broadly speaking, is there any concern that, you know, given this narrative that it could have an inflationary impact that's coming from critics of this administration who are looking at the economy, looking at inflation, and having problems with where it stands, is there a concern that, you know, canceling student debt could make it hard for the Joe Manchins of Congress to sign on to bills that would, you know, pass elements of Build Back Better that you guys are still trying to get through, which he said he won't do because of inflation?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I'm not going to speak, obviously, for Senator Manchin. I haven't heard him make that point in the past either.

What I would say is that the way that inflation impacts people across the country is costs -- right? -- costs to their bank accounts, costs to their budgets. And what we're talking about here is how to provide people with relief, how they can -- how we can provide them with relief or consider providing them with relief so that they have more money to spend on things in their lives. And providing student loan relief is exactly that.

And the President has taken a range of steps to address and lower costs for people. Considering this is one of them. Extending the pause on student loan payments is one of them. But also, fixing the glitch -- the "family glitch" in the Affordable Care Act is another one of them.

So, when we talk about inflation, sometimes we talk about it like, you know, a 50,000-foot ivory tower economist might. And really, what in-- -- how inflation impacts people is costs and what they're paying out of their pocket.

So, actually, considering this would be helping Americans address exactly that issue.

Q And then on this new report that the Department of Homeland Security is setting up a Disinformation Governance Board to tackle misinformation ahead of the midterms: Secretary Mayorkas said that part of its intention was to tackle misinformation in Hispanic communities especially. Can you give us an idea of what this board is going to be doing, what
their authority would look like?

MS. PSAKI: Sure, Jacqui. I really haven't dug into this exactly. I mean, we, of course, support this effort, but let me see if I can get more specifics. We know that there has been a range of disinfo out there about a range of topics -- I mean, including COVID, for example, and also elections and eligibility. But I will -- I will check and see if there's more specifics.

Q: There's been some criticism of the person who's been chosen to oversee this board. She had previously called the Hunter Biden laptop a "Trump campaign product," seeming to discredit its validity -- or validity of reporting surrounding that.

How can you assuage concerns of people who are looking at this person who's been appointed to this position and wondering if she's going to be able to accurately judge misinformation now that a lot of that reporting has been proven to be factual in some ways?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I don't have any comments on the laptop.

But what I can tell you is that it sounds like the objective of the board is to prevent disinformation and misinformation from traveling around the country in a range of communities. I'm not sure who opposes that effort, and I don't know who this individual is, so I have no comments on it specifically.

Q: Her name is Nina Jankowicz. She also just recently made some polarizing comments about the Twitter -- Elon Musk's Twitter purchase. It's just getting some pushback from critics who are saying this person may not be the right choice for a board that is run by the Department of Homeland Security. Can you speak to that at all?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any information about this individual. I can check on more information about the board.

Go ahead.

Q: How much of the original $13.6 billion for Ukraine has actually been spent at this point? Reporters are still trying to understand the answer to that.

MS. PSAKI: Well, I noted a little bit earlier, I think, in response -- in proactive, preemptive response to this question, that, of the $3.5 billion on security, we've spent $3.25 billion of that already, which we have transparently provided regular info to all of you on.
In terms of the humanitarian and economic assistance, a lot of it has been allocated to how it would be spent. I can see if we have an update on what has actually gone to ground.

Q  Okay. And secondly, on the -- on the menthol ban, some Black community activists, the ACLU, members of the CDC have voiced concerns that it could push more of the illicit market, which would lead to racially profiling Black smokers. Can this administration ensure that won't happen?

MS. PSAKI: Absolutely. Because this rule would go after manufacturers and people who sell, not individuals who smoke menthol cigarettes. And it would save lives.

I'd also note that the NAACP put out a statement saying: "For decades, the tobacco industry has been targeting African Americans and have contributed to the skyrocketing rates of heart disease, stroke, and cancer across our community. The tobacco industry is on a narrow quest for profit, and they have been killing us along the way. The NAACP has been calling for a ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored e-cigarettes for years now, and we applaud the FDA's...plan..."

But what we're talking about here is this -- these rules are estimated that -- it's estimated that eliminating menthol and tobacco products could prevent up to 654,000 deaths over the next 40 years and up to 238,000 deaths among African Americans.

But this is not about going after individuals smoking menthol cigarettes; this is about manufacturers and people who are selling them.

Q  Jen, why does President Biden believe pro-life taxpayers, Catholics among them --

Q  On -- on inflation.

Q  -- should fund Title 10 clinics --

Q  Excuse me. On inflation -- hey!

Q  -- that advise women on how to get an abortion?

MS. PSAKI: Sir. We don't --

Q  You're going down the row, and you're giving these people five and six questions. I get one, don't I? And the people back here too --
MS. Psaki: I think if you could -- if you could sit here and be respectful --

Q. You give them five to six questions.

MS. Psaki: -- of your colleagues here --

Q. So, again, my question is --

MS. Psaki: -- that might work better.

Go ahead.

Q. -- why does President Biden believe pro-life taxpayers --

MS. Psaki: Sir, Sir.

Q. -- Catholics among them --

MS. Psaki: I think he's the next question.

Go ahead.

Q. Yes. Okay, so on --

Q. -- should have to fund Title X clinics that advise women on how to get an abortion? Simple question.

Q. You're being very disrespectful.

Q. -- on the AMLO meeting, your statement laid out a bunch of domestic issues that would be discussed, and regional issues --

MS. Psaki: Yeah.

Q. -- like economic cooperation, et cetera. I was wondering if the President was planning to raise AMLO’s attitude towards Russia and Ukraine. He’s been really loath to criticize Russia, and he hasn’t really joined this international effort. So, does the President plan to raise that tomorrow?
MS. PSAKI: You know, it's a good question. The primary focus of the meeting, as you outline, is about, kind of, getting ahead of the Summit of the Americas, talking about the agenda. Obviously, there's a lot to be discussed as it relates to migration.

And this meeting was planned in advance of our long-term planning of the potential lifting of Title 42 as well. It is often on the President's mind, as you know -- Russia and Ukraine and the conflict. So, while it may not be on the preemptive agenda, we will have a more comprehensive readout once the meeting is concluded.

Q    And then, on the GDP report, I'm just wondering if the contraction has the White House rethinking its support for the Fed's plan to raise interest rates?

MS. PSAKI: We continue to support the intention or stated intention of the independent Federal Reserve to recalibrate, and we support that effort.

I noted a lot of the different data measurements here because I think it's important to note that the inventory piece was not unexpected. I mean, we actually spoke to it a couple of days ago as well, given the record inventory numbers from the fourth quarter of last year and the fact that it measures the comparison and the change of growth from quarter to quarter.

Q    And then lastly, this has happened while you came out here so you might not have heard about it, but Senator Manchin said at a hearing that he thinks the electric vehicle tax credit, quote, "makes no sense." And I'm wondering what your reaction to that is and whether you think that further complicates a skinny reconciliation bill getting through.

MS. PSAKI: I would say that Senator Manchin remains a friend of the President's and someone we will continue to work with and look forward to continuing engagements with.

Go ahead.

Q    So, again, my question: Why does President Biden believe pro-life taxpayers, Catholics among them --

Q    Okay, so, earlier you were asked about the economic --

Q    -- should fund Title 10 clinics that advise women on having an abortion?

Q    -- you were asked about economic and humanitarian assistance aid amount.
MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q  I’m wondering: The military aid, it seems like the President said has, quote, “basically” run out. The military -- I’m sorry, the humanitarian and economic aid, if it has not yet run out, could those funds be diverted first from the White House to additional security and military assistance? Is that something that you all can do? Is it something you are considering?

MS. PSAKI: I don’t believe. It’s a good question. I don’t believe that’s under consideration in large part because the humanitarian and economic assistance is vital. Think about the number of the millions of refugees, the millions of people who have been -- become homeless as a result of this -- or no longer in their homes as a result of this war. And there are a range of economic needs that President Zelenskyy has spoken about himself about -- that will be needed over the coming months.

So that’s why there are multiple buckets, and that will continue to be the case. I’m not aware of any consideration of reallocation of funds.

Q  And then, the other question I was going to ask is: In terms of having the 250 military -- I’m sorry, $250 million in military assistance that remains, could you all essentially spend money on the front side in the coming weeks if Congress is unable to pass something, recoup it from the supplemental later? And if you do that, is there a limit how much money you can spend that way upfront?

MS. PSAKI: Just so I understand -- I may have to ask OMB this question -- can we kind of get a line of credit of sorts?

Q  Correct. Exactly.

MS. PSAKI: Okay. To -- to kind of purchase or things along those lines.

Let me check and see with our budgetary experts. No one knows more than how this works than Shalanda Young, so I will check with her and get back to you.

Q  And the last question I was going to ask is: Is it the administration's policy to continue to provide essentially an unlimited amount of money to Ukraine? I mean, is there a top-line budget? And is the thinking that the administration will continue to support Ukraine for as long as it needs, for how much money it needs?
MS. PSAKI: Well, I think we did this five-month request because we wanted to be able to do longer-term planning and work with the Ukrainians, our European partners. This is not all for Ukraine, it's also for some of our Eastern European partners and others to help support them during this time as well.

But I'm not going to get ahead of where we will be in three months, four months, five months. Our objective is continue to support the Ukrainians. But I'm not going to get ahead of where we are at this point in time.

I can note -- and I know this goes to Alex's earlier question -- I mean a little bit in terms of the other components, and I can see if there's more of a specific of what's been spent down.

But when it comes to humanitarian, economic, food, and other security assistance, some of that funding is, you know, $1.7 billion to ensure continuity of Ukraine's democratic operations and provide other macroeconomic assistance; hundreds of millions of dollars in food, shelter, and other humanitarian aid to Ukrainians. But we can also see if there's more specifics on where we are with the spend-out of it.

Go ahead.

Q  Yeah, revisiting student loan debt and that issue. Why isn't President Biden willing to go as high as $50,000? That's the figure that Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has pointed to. That's the figure that a lot of progressive Democrats have pointed to. So what about that number gives the President concern?

MS. PSAKI: The President himself has spoken to this in the past, so I'd really point you to his own words on this front.

Q  Remind me what he said then.

MS. PSAKI: I'm happy to get them to you after the briefing, but what I can tell you is that the President has said many times that he would be happy to sign a bill that would provide $10,000 in relief to individuals who have student loans, and Congress could send him that. That hasn't happened yet. That could be the first focus of Congress, as an example. And he's continuing to consider what he has the executive authority or authority to do with his own power. So, I'm just not going to get ahead of that consideration process.

Go ahead.
Q  So, again, it’s a simple question: Why does President Biden --

Q  Jen, you mentioned the $33 billion package and how urgent it is. We don’t yet really have a timeline on how urgent -- you know, if it’s weeks or months. Can you detail at all sort of the White House strategy behind getting that money secured? The President, obviously, next week is going to Alabama to tour Lockheed Martin and the Javelins. It may be one opportunity --

MS. PSAKI: Yeah, to see Javelins -- Javelins being made.

Q  That may be one opportunity to draw attention to this. Are there other things that the White House is doing strategically to get that urgency, you know, felt by members of Congress?

MS. PSAKI: Look, I think you are going to see a full-court press from us on this funding, as well as the COVID funding, which is very -- which is vital to the continuation of our fight against the pandemic.

And you will see that in the form of engagement with members on the Hill and committees; you will see that in the form of our Secretary of State, our Secretary of Defense, and other national security officials speaking publicly, testifying, as many of them are, and speaking to it during testimony.

And obviously, you noted, the President’s visit to the factory -- the Lockheed Martin factory, I believe, in Alabama next week.

Even the decision today for the President to make the announcement himself instead of doing just a background briefing and providing all of the details to all of you was an effort to talk through the vital need of this assistance, what it would go to, and elevate it to that level.

Q  And then, is there any effort, I guess -- you heard this a little bit from him today talking about how Ukrainians are giving up their lives, so the money -- I guess, is there anything that the White House is doing to address the concern from some Americans that this is an awful lot of money going to a foreign country when we have domestic needs at home?

I don’t know if there’s anything proactively that you guys may do to try to make that case for why this amount of money is needed.
MS. PSAKI: Well, I would say that we’ve also seen an incredibly heart- -- heartfelt outpouring of support from the American people for the efforts of the United States to lead in standing up to Russian aggression and to stand up in favor and support of the Ukrainians.

You know, to the President, this is about American leadership in the world. It’s also about standing up for democracy versus autocracy. It’s about standing up against one foreign country invading another foreign country. And, you know, it’s about American leadership in the world.

So, we will continue to articulate that and make that clear. And that is part of the reason why the President also detailed in specificity today what all of this would go to. I mean, some of it -- a great deal of it is, of course, to military assistance to fight this war, but there is funding in there, as he noted this morning, for food security and ensuring that we are addressing any food shortages around the world. There is assistance that is going into humanitarian assistance and helping the outflow of refugees. And so, it was important to him personally to lay out the specifics in his remarks this morning.

Q  Can I follow up on --

Q  So, again, a really simple question --

MS. PSAKI: Go ahead.

Q  Yes, thanks, Jen. Looking ahead to the President’s --

Q  There’s a simple process, sir.

Q  (Inaudible) question. You give these people six questions in the front row.

Q  Looking ahead to the President’s trip to Japan --

Q  It’s disrespectful.

Q  -- that was announced last night, I’m wondering if you can talk about -- and the Quad summit.

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q  I’m wondering if you can talk how the President will raise sort of a unified response to
Russia --

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q -- with India at the table and then also, sort of, the China-Taiwan issue.

MS. PSAKI: Well, on the Japan -- on the first part, on Russia, I would say, first, we've had a number of engagements, as you know, with leaders in India about our approach to supporting the Ukrainians in this -- in this war, whether that is sanctions and the enormous sanctions package we're putting in -- we've put in place or, of course, the assistance we've provided. We will convey the same sentiments in this meeting.

Now, this meeting is several weeks away, so a lot can certainly happen. And as you know, other members of the Quad have also been vital partners and vital, you know, supporters of the Ukrainians' effort to fight the war, including Japan. I mean, Japan -- just as an example -- has not only provided a range of assistance, but they've also agreed to divert some of the LNG resources to help Europe. So there's a number of steps they have also taken that will be a part of the discussion.

And certainly, the President will provide an update on what we're doing and where things stand at that point in time.

We're just not quite there on previewing the agenda yet. Obviously, the President's position on Taiwan has not changed. He will certainly restate it during this meeting, but I'm sure we'll have more to preview as we get closer to the trip.

Q And China, Taiwan -- how will that be raised as well?

MS. PSAKI: Again, as we get closer to the trip -- there's not a change in our policy. Obviously, the President's policy is based on the Taiwan Relations Act. That will continue. And as we get closer to the trip, I'm sure we'll have more to preview.

Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Jen. One question on Moldova and one on COVID. Do you have any update, any insight on the explosions in Transnistria earlier in the week?

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.
Q And if the Russians were to open a new front in Moldavian territory, would that trigger any new consequences for Russia?

MS. PSAKI: On the first part, I just don't have new confirmation or new details to read out from here on -- we're still continuing to look at the explosions from earlier this week.

I'm just not going to get ahead of a hypothetical at this point in time in terms of what consequences there would be.

Q Yesterday, you were talking about how there's great access to Paxlovid --

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q -- in the country. You're trying to get the word out on its effectiveness. One of the main issues with Paxlovid is that an individual who is eligible has to test positive, and then they have to race to get it within three days even though they're quarantining. Is there any conversation within the administration to change that for an eligible individual to be able to get it preemptively?

MS. PSAKI: I think that would be a decision likely made by our health and medical experts, so I just don't have anything to preview at this point in time.

It requires a prescription, right? But there are a range of ways to have those conversations with your doctor. So I'm not sure it always involves a race to the doctor's office. But different doctors can have virtual appointments and other means of getting prescriptions. It's about consulting to ensure you're eligible.

Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Jen. So, I have a question on Ukraine, and then a follow-up on my colleague's questions. Zelenskyy's top advisor tweeted today that "Ukraine should decide whether to strike [Russian] military facilities." I know you've spoken to -- on this before, but -- you're trying to avoid a hypothetical situation. But this seems like it's getting closer towards a non-hypothetical situation. Can you -- can you at least outline -- (laughter) -- outline --


Q -- whether the administration believes that this is escalatory or could be constructive?
MS. PSAKI: Well, you know, one, I think it’s important to take a step back and remember what we’re talking about here. I mean, it is Russia that started this war, invaded Ukraine, and violated Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. It’s Russian forces that have committed war crimes and horrifying atrocities. And it’s Russia that continues to attack Ukrainian targets in Ukraine every day.

So even if we are, dare I say, “getting into a hypothetical,” what we’re talking about here is not any intention of Ukraine invading Russia and trying to take Russian territory, going after Russian civilians, going after Russians’ hospitals. We’re talking about consideration of military targets. It’s something very different. So I just think that’s important context for everybody to consider.

Q  Still on Ukraine: There’s no formal announcement as of right now about Jakarta inviting Zelenskyy to the G20. But our sources suggest that they are indeed inviting both Zelenskyy as well as Putin. So, under those circumstances, would the President consider attending? I know it’s still six months away. But under those circumstances, (inaudible)?

MS. PSAKI: Well, we certainly welcomed reports about Ukraine’s invitation. Obviously, we can’t confirm that on behalf of Indonesia, who is hosting. And the President has been clear about his view: This shouldn’t be business as usual, and that Russia should not be a part of this.

But, again, it’s six months away; we don’t even have confirmation of these reports. So I’m certainly not going to get into a hypothetical in this case.

Q  And just to --

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q  -- to follow up on the issue of, you know, Americans being concerned about the amount of money being sent out to Ukraine: One of the things that the President outlined today in his speech was not just humanitarian assistance, but also allow pensions and social support to be paid to the Ukrainian people.

So, what would you say to the American public who says, “Okay, it’s one thing to help Ukrainian refugees with food and shelter, but why should we be paying for their pensions?”

MS. PSAKI: Well, look, I would say that we have provided a range of economic assistance, because we know that their economy has been devastated — not of their doing, because they
were invaded by a foreign country.

Q  But how is that --

MS. PSAKI: And they're going -- let me -- let me finish. And they are going to need assistance in order to recover. We provide assistance -- economic and humanitarian assistance -- to a range of countries around the world because that's part of American leadership. And so, I would say that's the reasoning for this assistance being proposed in the package.

Go ahead.

Q  Jen, on menthol -- going back to the opposition in the Black community: I talked to Congresswoman Frederica Wilson today, and she said she's opposing it. She says the President not -- “should not only deal with menthol, but ban all” -- instead of just menthol. She feels that it will cause a profiling issue. And she also says this is something that should not be dealt with in the midterms because it will split the Black community. What do you say to that? And are you talking to Frederica Wilson, Al Sharpton, Ben Crump, and others about this very issue?

MS. PSAKI: Well, let me try to answer all your questions there. I'm sure you'll let me know if I don't, April, of course.

You know, this is a public health decision made by the FDA. And the objective of it was not to address politics or handle politics in one way or another, but to save lives.

And the studies estimate that with menthol cigarettes -- if they're no longer available, it could prevent over 650,000 deaths, including 238,000 African Americans. There are also high rates of use by children and young adults. Menthol also increases the appeal of cigarettes, makes them easier to use, especially for kids.

And what we have seen, as you know, is decades of targeted marketing activities at the African American community to promote further purchasing and, in many ways -- and, for many, addiction to these cigarettes.

So, this is not -- but what I think is important for everybody to know and understand, including opponents, is: This is not targeting individuals. This is not to give anybody license to arrest somebody who is smoking a cigarette -- a menthol cigarette. This is going after the manufacturers of this. It is going after those who are selling, because it is -- it has -- we have seen decades of marketing targeted activities at exactly these communities.
Q. So, with that said -- as you say, "decades" -- I mean, there has been efforts to stop the targeting through billboards in urban communities in the '90s, and on and on. This is decades old. But why now? You know, there's been progression, but why now instead of other issues?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I think, again, this is a public health decision that went through a public health process. It wasn't made through a political prism or made, you know, for any other reason than the lives that it could save.

Go ahead.

Q. Thank you, Jen. At least seven sailors have died by suicide since the USS George Washington began undergoing (inaudible) overhaul. There have been three just within the last month. The Navy today confirmed three from prior years. Is the President aware of these suicides? Does he have any response to them? And is the military doing enough to make sure that it is promoting the mental wellbeing of our service members?

MS. PSAKI: Well, certainly the President is regularly briefed and is aware. And the service men and women and the stress and the pressure on them is something that is on his mind, including making sure we have the right mental healthcare, the right treatments for any individual who may be suffering from depression or anything that might lead to suicide.

In terms of an assessment of what the steps they are taking or what they're doing, I'd really point you to the Department of Defense, who would be better versed to speak to the specifics.

Q. Sure. And then to follow up on a question from yesterday about Ukraine and tariffs: The President could -- today, if he wanted to -- by executive action, undo these Trump-era tariffs on steel imports from Ukraine. Is there any reason why he wouldn't do that? Does it have anything to do with pushback from unions?

MS. PSAKI: There's an ongoing consideration and process of reviewing a range of steps we can help -- we can take to provide relief to the Ukrainians, a review of tariffs. But there's a range of factors. And I just don't have anything to preview in that process at this point.

Q. Okay. But that is something that he is considering?

MS. PSAKI: There's a range of options on the table.
Go ahead, in the back.

Q  Thanks, Jen. I wanted to ask: The House is out next week, and usually that would be where an appropriations bill would start. Given that the President is saying the COVID funding is so urgent, in addition to the Ukraine proposal, how do you see this playing out legislatively, in the quick that you need it to?

MS. PSAKI: Well, this is something -- now that we've put the proposal forward and put it forward and sent it up to the Hill, a lot of the work is happening behind the scenes, engagement with our legislative team -- Steve Ricchetti, Louisa Terrell and this team -- with leaders on the House side, the Senate side to move it forward as quickly as possible.

But in terms of the legislative mechanics, I'd really point you to leaders on the Hill for specifics on that.

Q  And one other question on COVID funding. The Biden administration has been -- I don't know if "reticent" is the right word -- to release spending that you've done on COVID tests, the rapid testing program, whether it's how much you spent per test or overall. Is that information that you're planning to make public or planning to provide to the Senate and the House as they consider whether to provide more funding?

MS. PSAKI: The testing program in terms of people being able to order free tests?

Q  Yeah, the COVID tests (inaudible).

MS. PSAKI: What specifically do you think we haven't provided?

Q  The amounts that you spent per test or overall per contract --

MS. PSAKI: I'm sure if members of Congress or committees are interested in information, we'll have those discussions with them directly.

Go ahead.

Q  Thanks, Jen. Two questions. My first question is about the security pact between China and the Solomon Islands. Do you have any concerns that China is taking advantage of what's going on in the Pacific because the U.S. is so focused on Ukraine and Russia?
MS. PSAKI: I know we have spoken to this a little bit in the past and expressed some concern at the time. I'll have to talk to our national security team and see if we have any -- any updates on recent developments.

Q And I just have one more question about President Biden's trip to Asia. Could you confirm reports by some Asian media outlets that are saying that President Biden is going to announce some kind of China strategy during his trip to Korea and Japan?

MS. PSAKI: Again, this trip is weeks away, which is a lifetime for us, so we're not quite there yet on previewing specifics of the trip and what it will entail.

Why don't we do the last one, and then I got to wrap it up.

Q Thank you, Jen. Thank you. The Minnesota Department of Human Rights found that the city of Minneapolis and the MPD engaged in a pattern of practice of racial discrimination. They're working on some consent decree, but we know that can take some time. Is there anything that the President can do moving forward? Can we say that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act seems like it's shelved for now? And has the President seen that report? What's his reaction?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any direct reaction from the President to that report. I can certainly check with him on that. We're still consid-- continuing to consider a police reform executive order, as you know. That's -- consideration is underway. It continues to be underway. And the President has every intention of signing one.

And, of course, we would, of cour-- still love to have bipartisan legislation passed through Congress. We know the anniversary is coming up in just a few weeks. And certainly, that's something that remains on the President's mind.

Thank you, everyone, so much.

4:07 P.M. EDT
Document Production #3
Disinformation Governance Board
DHS MDM Capabilities Review
DHS Disinformation Governance Board
Charter

Section 1. Purpose

The DHS Disinformation Governance Board ("Board") will guide and support the Department’s efforts to address mis-, dis-, and mal-information that threatens homeland security ("MDM"). Whereas Department Components will lead on operational responses to MDM in their relevant mission spaces, the Board will ensure DHS efforts are coordinated, deconflicted, and harmonized, both within DHS and across the interagency, to ensure efficiency, unity of effort, and promotion of applicable compliance and best practices.

The Board will focus on the following four cross-functional lines of effort to counter MDM, many of which are already underway ("lines of effort"): (1) identifying MDM ("Identification"); (2) assessing and analyzing the risk that such MDM poses to homeland security ("Risk Assessment"); (3) responding to these MDM threats ("Response"); and (4) building resilience to MDM ("Building Resilience").

With respect to each of these lines of effort, the Board will develop and support the implementation of governance policies and protocols that, among other issues, protect privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties; harmonize and support coordination with other departments and agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations; and support research and development efforts to assess and combat MDM.

Section 2. Members

The Board will be co-chaired by representatives of the Office for Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY) and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC). Standing Board members will be representatives of the following DHS Components: the Management Directorate (MGMT); Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A); Science and Technology Directorate (S&T); Privacy Office (PRIV); Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL); Office of Public Affairs (OPA); Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Representatives shall be the Principal or Deputy for their respective Component. Other Components may be invited to either join the Board or participate on an ad hoc basis, as appropriate and needed.

Section 3. Structure

The Board will be supported by a Steering Group, which will consist of a representative from each Component participating in the Board. Each representative will be selected by their respective Board member.
The Board co-chairs will designate a DHS senior official to serve as the Executive Director for the Board and Chair of the Steering Group. The Executive Director will be detailed or assigned to PLCY, where they will be supported by an Executive Secretariat for the Board comprising staff detailed or assigned to PLCY. The Executive Director will attend and may participate in all Board meetings.

Section 4. Board Responsibilities

Components will lead on MDM-related operational responses and other efforts to counter MDM in their relevant mission spaces. The Board will serve as the central forum in the Department to ensure consistent governance and coordination of such efforts, and adherence to applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory authorities and obligations.

The Board’s initial responsibilities will include a review of existing MDM governance policies and practices across the Department, including:

- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards to ensure compliance with applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory obligations;
- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards to ensure appropriate privacy and civil rights and civil liberties protections;
- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards for interactions with the private, non-profit, and academic sectors; and,
- relevant procurement policies and practices.

Based, in part, on the findings from its initial review, the Board will be responsible for developing MDM-related guidance, best practices, and recommendations regarding:

- compliance with applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory obligations;
- standards for and implementation of appropriate privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections;
- procurement guidelines for contracting or funding third parties to support the Department’s MDM efforts;
- grant funding and cooperative agreements;
- development and implementation of new technological and data management tools; and,
- any other applicable guidance, best practices, and recommendations to guide the aforementioned four lines of effort.

The Board also will coordinate, deconflict, and harmonize departmental efforts to address MDM, including by:

- receiving regular and routine updates from DHS Components, the Intelligence Community, and other interagency partners on MDM;
- harmonizing and deconflicting activities by DHS Components regarding the lines of effort;
- harmonizing, deconflicting, and coordinating, in conjunction with relevant Components, the Department’s external engagement regarding MDM;
- serving as the Department's internal and external point of contact for coordination with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, the private sector, and non-governmental actors regarding MDM; and,
- serving as the Department's internal and external point of contact for receiving, coordinating, responding to, and interacting with interagency partners, including the Executive Office of the President, for policy matters generally related to mis-, dis-, and mal-information, but not related to the performance of intelligence activities.

Section 5. Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

The co-chairs of the Board will:

- convene the Board as needed;
- approve the agenda for Board meetings;
- preside over Board meetings;
- approve summaries of conclusions reached during the Board meetings;
- communicate Board decisions and activities to the Secretary and other DHS leadership, as appropriate;
- represent the Board to external audiences; and,
- take all other actions necessary and proper for the execution of the Board's responsibilities.

The Board Members will:

- represent the perspectives of their respective Components at Board meetings;
- review any proposals submitted to the Board; and,
- ensure that their respective Components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

The Executive Director will:

- propose agenda items and discussion topics for the Board following Steering Group review;
- communicate the positions taken at the Steering Group concerning proposals before the Board;
- propose summaries of conclusion for each Board and Steering Group meeting;
- implement and execute Board decisions through the Steering Group;
- supervise the activities of the Executive Secretariat; and,
- represent the Steering Group and, where appropriate and in coordination with the co-chairs, the Department to external audiences on MDM-related matters.

The Steering Group Members will:

- represent the perspectives of their respective Components at Steering Group meetings;
- review and discuss any proposals to be submitted to the Board;
- communicate their considerations of Board proposals to their respective Board Members, the Executive Director, and other members of the Steering Group;
review and approve summaries of conclusions of Steering Group meetings; and,
subject to the direction and guidance of their respective Board Members, help ensure that their respective Components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

Section 6. Processes & Procedures

The Board will meet regularly at the discretion of the co-chairs and no less than once per quarter for the first two years of the Board’s existence. The Steering Group will meet at the discretion of the Board or Executive Director. Issues raised and proposals submitted to the Board will be resolved by consensus to the greatest extent possible. Where there is a disagreement amongst the Board members, the Board will resolve the matter before it by majority vote. In the absence of consensus, any Board member may elevate, in the form of a written memorandum, an issue to the Secretary or Deputy Secretary where they believe that a decision made by the Board implicates their statutory or other assigned authorities.

The Steering Group is not a voting body. Instead, its members will discuss all issues brought before it and make their recommendations to the Board. Steering Group members will support the development of consensus recommendations to the Board to the greatest extent possible.

Section 7. Relationship to Other Departmental Governance Bodies

The Board will serve as the departmental forum for governance of DHS policies, plans, procedures, standards, and activities pertaining to MDM that threatens homeland security. As such, all DHS-wide or Component-specific proposals for funding related to efforts to counter MDM should be appropriately coordinated with the Board, including in advance of submitting any final funding proposals. Matters raised before the Board may implicate other departmental governance fora already in existence. Where that occurs, the Board will coordinate its activities with those respective fora through the Executive Director.

Section 8. Effective Date

This charter will go into effect when signed by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Section 9. Signature

[Signature]
Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Feb. 24, 2022
Plan for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence
Dear Ambassador Pierce:

Ambassador Karen Pierce DCMG
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
USA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

[DATE]

PRE-DECISIONAL/FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
DHS Disinformation Governance Board Charter
FROM: Tim Maurer, Senior Counselor for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technology
DATE: February 10, 2022
SUBJECT: Draft Outline: Foreign Affairs article

Sir,

Please find attached for your review a draft outline for a Foreign Affairs article.
Tough Questions for S1 House Judiciary Committee Hearing

HOT TOPICS
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alejandro Mayorkas  
Date: April 26, 2022 at 9:55:50 PM EDT  
To: "ESPINOSA, MARSHA"  
Subject: Re: Press Roundup for TUES, 4/26

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2022, at 9:51 PM, ESPINOSA, MARSHA

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA  
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:45 PM  
To: 'Mayorkas, Alejandro'  
Cc: Tien, John; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; REZMOVIC, JEFFREY; ULLOA, ISABELLA; SEIDMAN, RICKI; CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN; LUGO, ALICE; PECK, SARAH  
Subject: Press Roundup for TUES, 4/26

Good evening, Secretary,
BLUF: We saw a fair amount of coverage on the Supreme Court hearing on MPP and the IP memo today and spent much of the day clarifying the court’s decision on T42 related to these matters. Some highlights for you below.

TODAY

- Axios: DHS outlines plan to secure border after Title 42 is lifted
- Associated Press: US preps for even busier border amid lifting of health order
- CBS News: Biden officials release updated post-Title 42 plan amid bipartisan criticism

- “The Western District of Louisiana has announced its intent to grant a TRO that would restrict DHS’s operations at the border that are essential to our preparations for when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Title 42 public health Order expires. If and when the Court issues a TRO, the Department will comply with any such Order. DHS is continuing to apply the Title 42 Order and will do so until its termination on May 23. When the Title 42 Order is lifted, we intend to significantly expand the use of expedited removal through our Title 8 authorities and thereby impose long-term law enforcement consequences on those who seek to cross the border without a lawful basis to do so. It makes no sense that the plaintiffs would demand that DHS be stopped in its use of expedited removal or otherwise prevented from preparing for aggressive application of immigration law when the public health Order expires.”

- CNN: Supreme Court examines Biden's power to set US immigration policy in 'Remain in Mexico' challenge
- Reuters: U.S. Supreme Court weighs 'remain in Mexico' immigration dispute

Washington Post: A top Democrat ties Pence's 'I'm not getting in the car' to Jan. 6 'coup' (Aaron Blake)
NOTABLE CLIPS

New York Times: Texas' Busing of Migrants to D.C. Isn't Having Abbott's Intended Effect Yet
(Eileen Sullivan)
Los Angeles Times: Supreme Court leans in favor of Trump over Biden in asylum border dispute (David G. Savage)

The Supreme Court justices gave a mostly skeptical hearing Tuesday to the Biden administration’s bid to repeal a President Trump policy that requires tens of thousands of asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for their cases to be heard. Several of the court’s conservatives said they agreed with Texas state lawyers and Trump-appointed judges who ruled that U.S. immigration officials may not allow these migrants to enter this country. They pointed to a provision in the 1996 law that said asylum seekers “shall be detained” while their claims are heard. Solicitor Gen. Elizabeth B. Prelogar, representing the administration, argued there was “no way” the government could detain so many asylum seekers for months or years. She told the court there were 220,000 migrants at the border in one month last year, but only 32,000 could be held in detention. Traditionally, the court has given the executive branch broad authority to enforce the immigration laws, including reversing the policies of prior administrations. But it is not clear the Biden administration will prevail in its plan to repeal Trump’s strict immigration policies. But state lawyers for Texas and Missouri sued and last year won nationwide orders from judges that required the new administration to maintain the prior Trump policy. In August of last year, the justices by a 6-3 vote refused an emergency appeal seeking to overturn the judge’s order. And there was no clear sign during Tuesday’s argument the majority will do so now. The case was Biden vs. Texas, and a ruling will be handed down by late June.

Bloomberg Government: Biden Unveils Border Plan Details After Democrat Defections (Ellen Gilmer)

The Biden administration is sharing new details of how it will manage increased border crossings when pandemic-related restrictions end, an effort to mollify the growing number of Democrats who’ve criticized the plan. The six-part strategy, which focuses on speeding up migrant processing and targeting smugglers, largely reflects actions the Department of Homeland Security has already outlined but includes more specifics. For example, DHS commits to using a process called expedited removal to quickly deport migrants who don’t meet initial thresholds to seek asylum. The agency expects significant increases in migrant arrivals after the
termination of Title 42, a public health authority that has allowed the quick expulsion of migrants since 2020. The policy is set to lift May 23, but that timeline may be thrown off by legal action. "Many elements of this plan are already being implemented as we manage a historic number of encounters, including a record number of noncitizens trying to enter the United States multiple times," Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas wrote in a 20-page memo released Tuesday. "Others are elements that we are prepared to implement once the Title 42 termination goes into effect." DHS is working to prepare for as many as 18,000 migrants a day when Title 42 lifts. Moderate and politically vulnerable Democrats previously argued that the agency lacked a sufficient plan for the influx. It remains unclear whether the new memo will win them over.
Thank you, Alice. Thanks to the team.
Ali
Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
From: LUGO, ALICE
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 9:34:59 PM
To: Mayorkas, Alejandro
Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
REZMOVIC, JEFFREY
ULLOA, ISABELLA
SEIDMAN, RICKI
ESPINOSA, MARSHA
CARNES, ALEXANDRA
SHENKLE, ABBY
Subject: DHS Congressional Plan of the Day for Thursday, April 28, 2022

Good evening Secretary,

The congressional plan of the day for tomorrow is below. Additionally, the latest intel we have on schedule and topics for lines of questions are captured below. We will have updates for you on the Family Reunification Task Force and deported vets tomorrow morning. Let us know if there are questions.
Great job at both of your hearings today! I’ll see you in the morning.

**House Judiciary Hearing intel and schedule for tomorrow:**

**Hearings**

“Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security”
House Committee on the Judiciary
Witness: **DHS Secretary** Alejandro Mayorkas
10:00 a.m., 2141 Rayburn

“Nomination Hearing for U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Nominee Admiral Linda Fagan”
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
Witness: Admiral Linda Fagan (USCG Vice Commandant)
10:00 a.m., 253 Russell

“Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency”
House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Witness: **CISA Director** Jen Easterly
1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn

**LEGISLATION INITIATIVES OF NOTE**

Alice Lugo  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Significant Correspondence Report

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<td>Rep. Gossar (AZ)</td>
<td>Writes regarding a Disinformation Governance Board.</td>
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May 3, 2022

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th St., SW
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Significant Concerns Regarding the “Disinformation Governance Board”

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write on behalf of Protect Democracy, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University to express our concern regarding last week’s announcement that the Department of Homeland Security has established a “Disinformation Governance Board.” Disinformation causes real harms, but the Constitution limits the government’s role in combating disinformation directly, and the government can play no useful role at all in the absence of public trust. The announcement of this Board, housed in a Department with a checkered record on civil liberties and without clarity and specificity on its mandate, has squandered that trust.

The initial report revealing the Board’s existence provided that the Board would “immediately begin focusing on misinformation aimed at migrants, a problem that has helped to fuel sudden surges at the U.S. southern border in recent years,” as well as “monitor and prepare for Russian disinformation threats.” In an interview over the weekend, you further noted that the Board will “work[] to ensure that the way in which we address threats—the connectivity between threats and acts of violence—are addressed without infringing on free speech, protecting civil rights and civil liberties—the right of privacy. The Board . . . will draw from best practices and

1 Amanda Seitz, Disinformation Board to Tackle Russia, Migrant, Assoc. Press (Apr. 28, 2022), https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-immigration-media-europe-misinformation-4e873389889bb1d9e2ad8659d9975e9d.

2 Id.
communicate those best practices to the operators . . . .”

You also said that American citizens would not be monitored. 4 Yesterday, the Department issued a statement providing that “[t]he Department identifies disinformation that threatens the homeland through publicly available sources, research conducted by academic and other institutions, and information shared by other federal agencies and partners” and “then shares factual information related to its mission to potentially impacted people and organizations.” 5 The statement specifies that the Board was formed “with the explicit goal of ensuring . . . protections [for freedom of speech, civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy] are appropriately incorporated across DHS’s disinformation-related work and that rigorous safeguards are in place.” 6 It also notes that the Board will “seek[] to coordinate the Department’s engagements on this subject with other federal agencies and a diverse range of external stakeholders.” 7

We acknowledge and appreciate the Department’s recognition that mis- and disinformation is a significant problem, particularly with respect to non-English speaking communities. 8 Those who intentionally spread disinformation can distort public discourse, interfere with elections, and undermine democracy. While we do not believe that there is a single solution to the problem of disinformation, among the solutions needed are the provision of timely, accurate, and trustworthy information by the government, as well as longer term support for education initiatives focused on media literacy. To the extent that the Board would simply ensure that the Department responds to publicly reported disinformation campaigns with timely, accurate information, we would generally welcome such an effort. In the 2020 election, for example, the Department’s Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency offered a timely

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4 Id.
6 Id.
7 Id.
rebuttal to claims that there was widespread fraud in the 2020 election. That is one kind of work that the government can and should do to counteract disinformation.  

But for the government to play its appropriate role effectively, it must build trust and demonstrate a commitment to abiding by the strict limitations the Constitution places on its ability to combat disinformation, described in some more detail below. The way in which the Department has publicly announced the Board has fallen short on those fronts. Moreover, for the reasons below, we do not believe such an initiative should be housed at the Department. If the Administration is committed to housing it at the Department, though, the Department should at a minimum impose clear restrictions on the Board to ensure that it does not engage in more constitutionally suspect activities.

To the extent that the Board or the Department intends to take any measures to prohibit disinformation or otherwise punish the spread of disinformation or to engage in constitutionally suspect monitoring of communications of individuals in the United States or of citizens abroad, we urge the Department to reconsider for two primary reasons.

First, “[i]f there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.” Our First Amendment prohibits such efforts, and for good reason. We have learned the hard way that government initiatives to root out disfavored speech and ideas are dangerous and unwise. Any effort to prohibit or punish the spread of “disinformation” by the Department would likely fall outside of what the Constitution permits, absent extraordinary circumstances and outside narrow categories of speech.

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12 E.g., New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254, 273–74 (1964) (recounting the history of the Sedition Act of 1798, which was motivated in part by an effort to tamp down on misinformation, and noting that “[a]lthough the Sedition Act was never tested in [the Supreme] Court, the attack upon its validity has carried the day in the court of history”).
Second, the Department has a history of flouting the Constitution in flagrant ways. It is one of the least politically accountable agencies in our federal government,\(^{13}\) and it has often violated individuals’ civil liberties. The Department has a particularly poor track record when it comes to “monitoring” individual’s First Amendment–protected activities. From illegally surveilling Reverend Kaji Douša after she spoke out against the Trump Administration’s immigration policies,\(^{14}\) to gathering intelligence on reporters that cover the Department,\(^{15}\) to monitoring the social media accounts of visa applicants,\(^{16}\) the Department has demonstrated a readiness to cross the legal bounds of privacy and speech rights. We therefore take little comfort from the Department’s assurances that it will “‘protect privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties’ as part of its duties.”\(^{17}\)

Even in the hands of well-intentioned, good-faith actors, any government board ostensibly tasked with monitoring and “govern[ing]” disinformation is a frightening prospect; in the wrong hands, such a board would be a potent tool for government censorship and retaliation. The Department now seems to suggest that the primary purpose of the Board is to ensure that civil liberties are protected in activities the Department is already engaged in. If that is the case, it is unfortunate that that purpose was so obscured in a confusing rollout that invited misperception and undermined trust.

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We welcome the Department’s recognition of the serious problems posed by mis- and disinformation. But for the reasons above, we question whether the Board can play a useful role in combating mis- and disinformation at this point and would encourage you to reconsider the

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Board’s existence or, at a minimum, promptly provide further clarity on the kinds of specific activities the Board will engage in and the activities it will be prohibited from engaging in. Should you wish to discuss this letter or our position, please contact John Langford, at john.langford@protectdemocracy.org or (202) 579-4582.

Sincerely,

Protect Democracy
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University
May 4, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Re: The “Disinformation Governance Board”

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I am writing about the decision to create a bizarre “Disinformation Governance Board” at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Its sole function is to spy on American citizens, using authorization under the Patriot Act. Your job, and the DHS’, was to protect Americans from foreign threats. You have now created an internal police force that is based on political speech and political concerns.

This board is not only unconstitutional and purely partisan, but it is a Soviet-style attempt to obliterate freedom of speech. Congress has not authorized this new department or funded it. Your DHS’ February 7, 2022 terrorism bulletin cites a “heightened threat environment” due to domestic terrorism. The bulletin also states that “there is widespread online proliferation of false or misleading narratives regarding unsubstantiated widespread election fraud and COVID-19.” And that “grievances associated with these themes inspired violent extremist attacks during 2021.”

Almost every sentence is either false or at least subject to dispute. Certainly, there has been false information about the 2020 election and COVID-19. Most of it just happens to come from the Administration itself. But even if you disagree with that, you are not free to label this difference of opinion as “terrorism” and set up an illegal internal secret police. This is an outrageous abuse of civil rights and free speech.

My constituents were forced by the federal government to stay home, not go to school, and shut their businesses. Many were compelled to inject experimental and untested foreign biological material into their body. Many were denied proper treatment for COVID-19 while they watched other nations in real time successfully treat their citizens with remedial and effective drugs. The people have a right to speak about this and share their perspectives and displeasure, without the DHS declaring them terrorists or sharers of disinformation.
This Administration’s efforts to propagandize and mislead Americans is not limited to your new Censorship Board. In February 2021, the DOD ordered a “directed standoff” “to address the issue of extremism in the ranks.” 62.9% of all new money requested by DOJ in FY 2022 was for the purpose of fighting “domestic violent extremists”—which included the hiring of 299 new employees. And in October 2021, Attorney General Garland directed the full force of federal law enforcement against parents outraged over their children’s indoctrination in support of sexual deviancy, pedophilia, grooming, and sexual mutilation in the name of gender dysphoria. Parents should be outraged, and you should be ashamed to support the sexual mutilation of our children. But at the very least you should end your efforts to classify these parents as terrorists.

Please also respond to the following questions:

1. Could you explain why violence from BLM and Antifa is not listed as violent extremism?
2. Can you explain why the recent mass killings by two Black Nationalists were not deemed domestic violent extremism?
3. Could you please list all the “violent extremist attacks in 2021?” Your bulletin and testimony are entirely devoid of evidence.
4. Could you please list property damage and lives lost due to “violent extremist attacks in 2021”?
5. Please list and identify all monetary damage and lives lost due to BLM riots in the summer of 2020?
6. Please identify all congressional sources authorizing a censorship board as being constructed by your office.
7. What is the amount you are budgeting for the new disinformation board?

Thank you for addressing my concerns. Please adhere to all rules and regulations when addressing these issues.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress
The MDM Governance Board

Charter
September 13, 2021

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Robert Silvers /s/
Under Secretary
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

Samantha Vinograd /s/
Senior Counselor for National Security
Office of the Secretary

SUBJECT: Organizing DHS Efforts to Counter Disinformation

The spread of disinformation presents serious homeland security risks:
- Conspiracy theories about the validity and security of elections may undermine trust in core democratic institutions, amplify threats against election personnel, and jeopardize the voting rights of vulnerable communities.
- Disinformation related to the origins and effects of COVID-19 vaccines or the efficacy of masks undercuts public health efforts to combat the pandemic.
- Foreign terrorists, nation-states, and domestic violent extremist (DVE) groups leverage disinformation narratives to amplify calls to violence, including racially or ethnically motivated and anti-government/anti-authority violence. These actors often amplify and exploit narratives that already exist in public discourse, such as disinformation surrounding the validity of the 2020 election underpinning calls to violence on January 6, 2021.
- Disinformation can complicate the performance of core DHS missions. Falsehoods surrounding U.S. Government immigration policy drive vulnerable populations to pay smugglers to bring them on the dangerous journey to our southern border. Disinformation can hamper emergency responders in the aftermath of natural disasters or other incident responses.
DHS Functions and Existing Efforts to Counter Disinformation

DHS components are already engaged in countering disinformation, with activities falling into five functions that are performed by the components themselves or through third-party resources: 1) identification of disinformation relevant to DHS's mission; 2) analysis of its source and influence; 3) information sharing regarding threats posed by disinformation; 4) response to the disinformation threat; and 5) building resilience to disinformation. There is also excellent work being done by interagency partners, the private sector, and academia—particularly concerning identifying and analyzing disinformation—and DHS should leverage this work when possible.

1) Identification: Information gathering on disinformation threats and trends.
   - I&A's Homeland Influence Task Force collects information on possible disinformation from publicly available sources as well as other intelligence sources where the collection furthers one of I&A's authorized intelligence missions, such as foreign intelligence and protection of critical infrastructure.
   - CISA gathered information on disinformation related to the elections with SLTT partners leading up to the 2020 election and has limited authority to collect information on disinformation related to critical infrastructure.

2) Analysis: Assessing the impact of specific disinformation narratives on the homeland or on DHS missions.
   - I&A, as well as other components engaging in intelligence and analytic functions, produce analysis on disinformation threats, whom they may be targeting, and what attendant risks might arise.

3) Information Sharing: Providing timely, quality information on disinformation threats and strategic trends to stakeholders including SLTT authorities, private sector partners, or the public directly.
   - Leading up to the 2020 election, CISA relayed reports of election disinformation from election officials to social media platform operators.
Subject: Organizing DHS Efforts to Counter Disinformation

Page 3

- I&A distributes intelligence products to SLTT partners related to disinformation threats. Most recently, I&A issued a Public Safety Notification concerning the possible threat of violence motivated by conspiracy theories related to the "reinstatement" of former President Trump.
- The August 13, 2021 National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin referenced the threat of disinformation spread by foreign and domestic threat actors.

4) Response: Factual countering disinformation through public communications channels to mitigate related threats, increase awareness, and improve public safety.
- During the 2020 election, CISA maintained a ‘Rumor Control’ website to counter foreign disinformation related to the security and conduct of the vote. CISA sought to ‘prebunk’ incorrect claims with factual information.
- In your August 12, 2021 public remarks in Brownsville, TX concerning the southwest border, you stated your intention to "debunk false information that has been spread," sharing factual information about the situation on the ground and DHS’s border enforcement and policies.

5) Building Resilience: Improving the public’s ability to detect disinformation through digital and media literacy, where DHS has a unique role to play, programs and civic education. These programs are coordinated with federal, SLTT, and private sector partners.
- CISA launched a graphic novel series to reach potentially impacted communities in a non-traditional way. The novels educate on the dangers of disinformation and how to detect it.
Hi – I know we are still finalizing the document but as I work to finish the ED’s position description do you have any views on the title of the Board?

Hi – I am done going through the document.

I think we should

Sam

Eric – thank you and sorry for the delay.

On the name,
In terms of membership,

@DASKAL, JENNIFER what do you think?
Hi Sam, Jen, Lucian, and Andy—

I have completed adjudicating components’ comments on the draft MDM Governance Board Charter that we circulated last week. Please see linked below redline and clean versions of the charter.

Happy to hop on a call to discuss either later today or at another point this week. We may consider

Eric

---

Eric Falcon (he/him)
Advisor
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
    (mobile)
Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Re: DHS’s Disinformation Governance Board Must Be Disbanded.

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

As the chief legal officers of our respective States, we the undersigned Attorneys General are tasked not just with enforcing the laws, but with protecting the constitutional rights of all our citizens. Today we write you to insist that you immediately cease taking action that appears designed exclusively for the purpose of suppressing the exercise of constitutional rights.

Every American knows that the Constitution forbids the government to “abridge[s] the freedom of speech.” U.S. Const. Amend. I. As Justice Robert Jackson wrote nearly eighty years ago, “[i]f there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion.” West Virginia State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 624, 642 (1943). Your recent testimony before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, however, indicated that the Department of Homeland Security, under your leadership, is doing exactly that: prescribing orthodoxy by slapping a federal-government label of “disinformation” or “misinformation” on speech that government bureaucrats, operating behind closed doors, decree to be improper. This is an unacceptable and downright alarming encroachment on every citizen’s right to express his or her opinions, engage in political debate, and disagree with the government. The Biden Administration’s

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latest effort to decide what speech is “acceptable” and “orthodox” combines McCarthyite speech policing with the secrecy of the English Star Chamber. In short, you seem to have misunderstood George Orwell: the “Ministry of Truth” described in 1984 was intended as a warning against the dangers of socialism, not as a model government agency. “MiniTru” and its thuggish apparatchiks are the villains in that story, not the heroes. For the sake of our democracy, you must immediately disband the “Disinformation Governance Board” and cease all efforts to police Americans’ protected speech.

The existence of the Disinformation Governance Board will inevitably have a chilling effect on free speech. Americans will hesitate before they voice their constitutionally protected opinions, knowing that the government’s censors may be watching, and some will decide it is safer to keep their opinions to themselves. The resulting damage to our political system and our culture will be incalculable: as a democracy, our political debates and decisions are supposed to take place in the public square, where every citizen can participate, rather than in government office buildings where hand-picked and unaccountable partisan committees are insulated from public supervision and criticism.

The timing of the Disinformation Governance Board’s creation is also highly suspect. For years, many have defended Twitter’s open censorship of voices hostile to the elite consensus by arguing that private companies enjoy the right to determine what is said on their platforms. This argument only works, however, if those private companies are not censoring on the government’s behalf. By its own admission, the Biden Administration has been “flagging problematic posts” on social media and coordinating with the private sector to regulate Americans’ free speech. The President of the United States publicly urged social media companies to police “misinformation and disinformation” on their platforms. Suddenly, just as Elon Musk prepares to acquire Twitter with the stated purpose of correcting the platform’s censorship of free speech, you announce the creation of the Disinformation Governance Board. As the Biden Administration apparently loses a critical ally in its campaign to suppress speech it deems “problematic,” you have created a new government body to continue that work within the federal government. The contemporaneous occurrence of these two events is hard to explain away as mere coincidence. It instead raises serious questions about the extent of the Biden Administration’s practice of coordinating with private-sector companies to suppress disfavored speech.

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2 Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, July 15, 2021, The White House (July 15, 2021), https://tinyurl.com/bdsc4jh (“[W]e are in regular touch with these social media platforms, and those engagements typically happen through members of our senior staff...”).

3 Remarks by President Biden at Virtual Meeting on Military Deployments Supporting Hospitals for the COVID-19 Response, The White House (January 13, 2022), https://tinyurl.com/45ezsejt (“I make a special appeal to social media companies and media outlets: Please deal with the misinformation and disinformation that’s on your shows. It has to stop.”).
Virginia, like many other States, is preparing to conduct federal, state, and local elections beginning with early primary voting this week. Virginians are evaluating candidates and their platforms, trying to persuade their friends and neighbors, and debating the merits of innumerable political and moral questions, from international conflicts to local disputes. And just like always, the public conversation will include disputes over facts, and potentially even intentional misstatements of fact. But as Justice Brandeis explained long ago, “the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence.” Whitney v. California, 274 U.S. 357, 377 (1927) (Brandeis, J., concurring). Your censorship will not drown out misinformation; it will suppress the lawful speech of well-meaning but unpopular speakers, and it will turn bad actors into martyrs with far more influence than if you simply allowed “more speech” to combat their alleged misinformation.

No statutory authority exists to support your creation of a board of government censors. Although Congress has considered a variety of measures to address the perceived dangers of “disinformation” in the United States, none has passed.\(^4\) Instead, while the people’s elected representatives continue to debate this issue, you have arrogated to yourself the power to address it without congressional authorization, despite the far-reaching effects of the Disinformation Governance Board on Americans and our political process. “It is axiomatic that an administrative agency’s power to promulgate legislative regulations is limited to the authority delegated by Congress.” Bowen v. Georgetown Univ. Hosp., 488 U.S. 204, 208 (1988). By flouting that essential check on the power of the Executive Branch, you undermine the separation of powers and dramatically overstep your authority and the jurisdiction of your agency.

There is perhaps no clearer illustration of the folly of the Disinformation Governance Board than the consistently poor judgment of the person you have made its executive director, Nina Jankowicz.\(^5\) Ms. Jankowicz—the self-styled “Mary Poppins of disinformation”\(^6\)—is like so many who complain about misinformation and disinformation: she is often in error but never in doubt. She has previously suggested news that Hunter Biden’s laptop had been compromised was the product of a foreign disinformation campaign.\(^7\) She asserted that the theory tracing COVID-19 to a lab

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leak in China was invented because it was “politically convenient for Trump,” although the intelligence community now assesses that this theory may very well be correct. She has even praised Christopher Steele, the discredited author of the infamous false “dossier” about President Trump, and one of the most notable peddlers of disinformation in recent memory. It would be amusing that a self-proclaimed expert in disinformation like Ms. Jankowicz has proven to be so bad at identifying it, except that you have placed her in charge of doing so on behalf of the United States government. It is also extremely troubling that Ms. Jankowicz has described parents in Loudoun County, Virginia who object to the indoctrination of their children with Critical Race Theory as “disinformers” engaged in “disinformation for profit.”

The Disinformation Governance Board, by its very existence, and almost certainly by design, threatens to “enforce silence” when Americans wish to express views disfavored by the Administration. It is therefore already chilling free speech and impeding the political process in Virginia and every other State. This is unconstitutional, illegal, and un-American. Unless you turn back now and disband this Orwellian Disinformation Governance Board immediately, the undersigned will have no choice but to consider judicial remedies to protect the rights of their citizens.

Sincerely,

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia

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11 See also Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Apr. 25, 2022, 1:29 PM), https://tinyurl.com/3r93he5p (“I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms . . .”).
Steve Marshall  
Attorney General  
State of Alabama

Mark Brnovich  
Attorney General  
State of Arizona

Leslie Rutledge  
Attorney General  
State of Arkansas

Ashley Moody  
Attorney General  
State of Florida

Christopher M. Carr  
Attorney General  
State of Georgia

Todd Rokita  
Attorney General  
State of Indiana

Derek Schmidt  
Attorney General  
Commonwealth of Kansas

Daniel Cameron  
Attorney General  
State of Kentucky

Jeff Landry  
Attorney General  
State of Louisiana

Lynn Fitch  
Attorney General  
State of Mississippi

Eric Schmitt  
Attorney General  
State of Missouri

Austin Knudsen  
Attorney General  
State of Montana
Authorized for Public Release by Senator Grassley and Senator Hawley

Douglas J. Peterson  
Attorney General  
State of Nebraska

Dave Yost  
Attorney General  
State of Ohio

John M. O'Connor  
Attorney General  
State of Oklahoma

Alan Wilson  
Attorney General  
State of South Carolina

Ken Paxton  
Attorney General  
State of Texas

Sean D. Reyes  
Attorney General  
State of Utah

Patrick Morrisey  
Attorney General  
State of West Virginia

CC:  
Hon. Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States  
Ms. Nina Jankowicz, Executive Director, Disinformation Governance Board  
Hon. Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
Hon. Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader, United States Senate  
Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives  
Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives
**From:**
Canegallo, Kristie

**Cc:** O'Connor, Kimberly

**Subject:** The Hill: GOP seeks testimony from DHS disinformation board head (Emily Brooks)
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**Sent Date:** 2022/05/05 13:21:35  
**Delivered Date:** 2022/05/05 13:21:37
Thank you, Jen. Looking forward to seeing the updated version after your edits.

On membership,

For the name,

Eric

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:01:12 PM
To: FALCON, ERIC VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN FAUSSETT, ANDREW
Subject: RE: MDM Charter Adjudication

Hi all,

I started to go through this and am making a number of edits. Staying true to the edits, but now that we have all the feedback just wanted to streamline/make it plain English.

On the name,

And on membership,

Thoughts?
Hi Sam—

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:54:16 PM
To: FALCON, ERIC DASKAL, JENNIFER SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN FAUSETT, ANDREW
Subject: RE: MDM Charter Adjudication

Eric – thank you and sorry for the delay.

On the name,
In terms of membership,

@DASKAL, JENNIFER what do you think?

Also sorry i can’t tell but who added

From: FALCON, ERIC
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:01 AM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA DASKAL, JENNIFER SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN FAUSETT, ANDREW
Subject: MDM Charter Adjudication

Hi Sam, Jen, Lucian, and Andy—

I have completed adjudicating components' comments on the draft MDM Governance Board Charter that we circulated last week. Please see linked below redline and clean versions of the charter.
Happy to hop on a call to discuss either later today or at another point this week. We may consider...

Eric

---

Eric Falcon (he/him)
Advisor
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

FALCON, ERIC
DASKAL, JENNIFER
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA

Recipient: SIKORSKYJ, LUCIAN,
FAUSSETT, ANDREW

Sent Date: 2022/01/20 21:12:59
Delivered Date: 2022/01/20 21:13:02
+Marsha

From: SHENKLE, ABBY
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 10:14 AM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Cc: LUGO, ALICE  SEIDMAN, RICKI
     MEYER, JONATHAN
Subject: FOR OGC REVIEW: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

Hi Jen - can you take a look at the below in advance of this afternoon?

Pulled out from the RTQ if it’s easier to edit in that doc. Just want to make sure we have the OGC ok.

Ty!
NINA

Subject: RE: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

Thanks so much. Edits embedded and avail to discuss any/all.

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 6:06 PM
To: PECK, SARAH

Subject: RE: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

+ Nina and Sam

Pls don’t share further.

Folks should please aim to wrap up their edits by 7 pm ET at the latest. Thanks.

From: PECK, SARAH
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 5:31 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA

Subject: Re: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

OPA continues to update the RTQ on this issue in the shared doc:

I added in OLA’s questions and some of the answers but it would be great if Jen or Isa could help with responses to a few of the new ones. And as a reminder we shouldn’t share the link outside of this group.

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 3:34:01 PM
To: SHENKLE, ABBY

Subject: RE: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

Cc: Himmel, Chloe
Seidman, Ricki
Canegallo, Kristie
Jankowicz, Nina

Cc: Himmel, Chloe
Seidman, Ricki
Canegallo, Kristie

SEIDMAN, RICKI
SILVERS, ROBERT
CANEGALLO, KRISTIE

Subject: Re: [For Review] DGB Senate letters

Thank you. I understand a hard Q&A is being finalized?

---

From: SHENKLE, ABBY
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 3:31:37 PM
To: LUGO, ALICE DASKAL, JENNIFER Lamote, Jason ESPINOSA, MARSHA ; PECK, SARAH
Cc: ULOA, ISABELLA HIMMEL, CHLOE Mehringer, Holly
Subject: Re: [For Review] DGB Senate letters

Holly. Isa the DGB questions from HSGAC are at bottom of this email.

---

From: LUGO, ALICE
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:53 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; Lamote, Jason SHENKLE, ABBY ESPINOSA, MARSHA PECK, SARAH
Cc: ULOA, ISABELLA HIMMEL, CHLOE
Subject: RE: [For Review] Senate Letters

+ chloe

Alice Lugo
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

---

From: LUGO, ALICE
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:53 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; Lamote, Jason SHENKLE, ABBY ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA PECK, SARAH
Cc: ULOA, ISABELLA
Subject: RE: [For Review] Senate Letters

These are the letters the questions were pulled from.

Alice Lugo
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Lamote, Jason; LUGO, ALICE; SHENKLE, ABBY; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; PECK, SARAH
Cc: ULOA, ISABELLA
Subject: RE: [For Review] Senate Letters

Privileged

Jason, Alice —

Jen

From: Lamote, Jason
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:44 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER; LUGO, ALICE; SHENKLE, ABBY
Subject: Fwd: [For Review] Senate Letters

Jen, here's the letter

From: Kozey, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 11:28:50 AM
To: Lamote, Jason; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; DASKAL, JENNIFER; JANKOWICZ, NINA; FAUSETT, ANDREW; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
Cc: JANKOWICZ, NINA; LUGO, ALICE; SHENKLE, ABBY
Subject: [For Review] Senate Letters

Hi Jason,
Please see our draft response attached. Once Sam/Jen have the opportunity to review and provide feedback, we should be all set.

Sam/Jen,
Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Liz
Liz Kozey  
Senior Advisor (detailee)  
Office of Counterterrorism and Threat Prevention  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans  
Department of Homeland Security  
Office: | Cell:  
Email:  

From: Lamote, Jason  
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 11:07 AM  
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA ; Kozey, Elizabeth ; FAUSETT, ANDREW  
Subject: RE: Senate Letters  

Please let me know if/when you have additional feedback on these responses.

Jason Lamote  
Director - Cyber, Intelligence, Operations  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
Department of Homeland Security  
Cell: | Email:  

From: Lamote, Jason  
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 2:38 PM  
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA ; FAUSETT, ANDREW ; Kozey, Elizabeth  
Subject: Senate Letters  

OLA would like us to coordinate responses to the questions raised in the Senate letters that can be used at 51 hearing preps on Monday and later next week. I've taken a first stab at most of the questions. Can you please review, edit, and add content as you recommend?
Jason Lamote  
Director - Cyber, Intelligence, Operations  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
Department of Homeland Security  
Cell: | Email: 

| Sender:  
| SHENKLE, ABBY  
| DASKAL, JENNIFER  
| LUGO, ALICE  
| SEIDMAN, RICKI  
| MEYER, JONATHAN  
| ESPINOSA, MARSHA  

| Recipient:  

| Sent Date: 2022/05/04 10:47:32  
| Delivered Date: 2022/05/04 10:47:35  

Thank you so much!

For clarity, Andy included his edits/comments at the link below:

[docx icon 1b - MDM Charter Adjudication 17/JAN22 Clean w Showstoppers.docx](#)

Eric

---

From: FAUSETT, ANDREW  
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 5:18 PM  
To: FALCON, ERIC  VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA  DASKAL, JENNIFER  SIKORSKY, LUCIAN  
Subject: RE: MDM Charter Adjudication

Eric,

Thanks for taking the laboring oar on this.

Hope this is helpful. Please let me know if anything gives you pause.

Best,

Andy
Andrew Fausett  
Assistant General Counsel for Information Sharing  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office Number: (DHS HQ)/(NVC)  
Secure Number: (NVC)  
Mobile Number: (Unclassified)  
(Secret)  
(Top Secret/SCI)  
(he/him/his)

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From: FALCON, ERIC  
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:01 AM  
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA  
DASKAL, JENNIFER  
SIKORSKY, LUCIAN  
; FAUSETT, ANDREW

Subject: MDM Charter Adjudication

Hi Sam, Jen, Lucian, and Andy—

I have completed adjudicating components’ comments on the draft MDM Governance Board Charter that we circulated last week. Please see linked below redline and clean versions of the charter.
INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY). PLCY provides policy development and coordination, strategy, planning and analysis to the DHS Secretary and other Departmental leaders to facilitate decisionmaking and other critical matters that may arise in a dynamic homeland security threat environment. PLCY is responsible for strengthening our Nation’s homeland security by developing DHS-wide policies, programs, and planning to promote and ensure quality, consistency and integration across all homeland security missions.

Accordingly, PLCY serves as a liaison between the Office of the Secretary (and Deputy Secretary) and DHS Components, coordinating Departmental decisions and actions, as well as managing the Department's official relations in interagency policy fora, with the White House, and with other Federal agencies and international governments. PLCY supports the Secretary with accurate and timely formulation and implementation of policy throughout DHS and with our homeland security partners. The incumbent develops and coordinates DHS-wide policies and provides advice and consultation to DHS Components & Offices and other Federal agencies.

Specifically, the incumbent serves as Executive Director, Disinformation Governance Board (“the Board”). He or she guides and supports the Department’s efforts to address mis-, dis-, and mal-information (MDM) that threaten homeland security and ensures that through the Board Departmental efforts are coordinated and harmonized, both within DHS and with the interagency, to ensure efficiency, unity of effort, and promotion of best practices.

MAJOR DUTIES

The incumbent is responsible for contributing to the development, integration, and alignment of policy and strategy across the Department in the areas of countering MDM in its mission spaces, to include identifying MDM that threatens homeland security, assessing and analyzing the risk that such MDM poses to homeland security, building resilience to MDM, and responding to these MDM threats.

Partnering with relevant Components and Offices, the incumbent will develop and support the implementation of policies and protocols that, among other issues, ensure respect for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties; support and help harmonize coordination with other departments and agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental actors; and support research and development efforts to understand the MDM threat to homeland security. He or she advises the Assistant Secretary; ensures the Board is coordinated across DHS Components; and supports and implements engagement with the National Security Council (NSC) staff and with other federal, international, state and local governments, academia, and private sector stakeholders to a unified DHS-wide approach.
The incumbent directs the Board’s review of existing MDM policies and practices across the Department, including policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards (a) to ensure compliance with applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory obligations; (b) to ensure appropriate privacy and civil rights and civil liberties protections; and (c) for interactions with the private, non-profit, and academic sectors. With Board members, the incumbent is responsible for developing guidance, best practices, and recommendations with respect to MDM efforts; implementation of appropriate privacy and civil rights and civil liberties protections; procurement guidelines for contracting or funding third parties to support the Department’s MDM efforts; grant funding and cooperative agreements; the development and implementation new technological and data tools; and any other applicable best practices to guide the lines of effort with respect to identification, risk assessment, response, and building resilience.

The incumbent directs the Board’s development of reports for Departmental leadership, to include the Secretary, addressing MDM-related privacy and civil rights and civil liberties concerns, MDM mitigation efforts, and strategic priorities on MDM. He or she receives and directs the appropriate distribution of regular and routine updates from Department components and headquarter offices, the intelligence community, and partners on MDM narratives that threaten homeland security; he or she directs the harmonization of activities by the Department and relevant components to counter MDM threats, including with respect to external outreach; coordinates the Department’s response to federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private sector, or other nongovernmental partners that raise concerns about MDM threats to DHS through the component or components with the appropriate authorities to address them; and serves as a headquarters official for receiving, coordinating, responding to, and interacting with interagency partners, including the Executive Office of the President, for general MDM policy matters not related to the performance of intelligence activities.

As the Board’s director, ensures that this work is managed collaboratively, in such a way that members are fully engaged, informed, and well prepared to contribute to the Board’s mission. The incumbent is responsible for the successful management of the Board’s activities, to include scheduling and preparing for engagements/meetings, developing materials for member deliberations, briefing members, developing and tracking after-actions, preparing executive summaries, reporting the Board’s work to senior leadership, etc.

He or she ensures that the Board partners with policy, legal, and operational personnel at appropriate DHS components and headquarter offices and other federal agencies to achieve mission critical goals. He or she ensures that appropriate departments, agencies, and components within the Federal government are appraised and engaged in analyzing pertinent information on policy matters. He or she ensures that the Board coordinates, gathers, and analyzes information needed to ascertain impacts of existing, proposed, or new policy.
He or she serves as a recognized expert in the development, implementation, and continual evaluation of policies affecting DHS. Provides advice and guidance to senior officials on matters involving the analysis, evaluation, and assessment of program implementation, policies, and procedures and operational guidance to assist
in the resolution of program implementation issues involving domestic, international, legal, and social concerns that impact DHS programs.

Leads and performs complex analyses and studies for effectiveness in meeting goals and accomplishing program objectives. Determines the viability, consistency, and clarity of program policies and operational guidance and conducts in-depth reviews to determine resource levels required to accomplish programs in an efficient and effective manner.

Formulates and recommends plans to improve program policies, practices, methods, and organizational structure. Translates management goals and objectives into policy and evaluates progress and results. Adjusts progress schedules and priorities to meet new requirements or unforeseen situations. Develops, coordinates, and implements strategic plans to include mission, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies. Formulates and implements plans to improve program policies, practices, methods, and organizational structure.

Performs other duties as assigned.

**SUPERVISORY CONTROLS**

Incumbent serves under the direction of a PLCY Assistant Secretary, although he or she exercises independent judgment in instances where established policies or procedures apply. Other than on matters of unusual significance, the incumbent’s decisions and judgments are generally not reviewed. He or she decides when a particular matter should be brought to the attention of the Assistant Secretary.

**CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

This position has been designated as SPECIAL SENSITIVE and requires a security clearance at the TOP SECRET level, with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS-SCI) as the individual will be required to access, process, use, and safeguard classified information. The employee is required to obtain and maintain this clearance level and failure to do so may result in separation from the position.

This is a Drug Testing Designated Position (TDP) and is covered by the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Drug-Free Workplace Program. The incumbent is required to sign a Condition of Employment form (for certain positions identified as critical under the drug testing program) and must pass urinalysis testing, as required prior to appointment, reassignment, or transfer, and employee will be subject to random testing while employed with the Department in a TDP.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The incumbent of this position requested for Schedule C exception will not be able to adequately perform his/her duties without having privileged information regarding the political, personal, and management philosophies of the Assistant Secretary, a non-career (political) SES. A confidential relationship of a Schedule C nature is imperative since the incumbent will speak for the Assistant Secretary and other PLCY leadership, and as such, will be expected to reflect his/her supervisor’s philosophies in
conversations with leading figures of the Government, business, and other groups. The incumbent will be obligated to present the views of the Assistant Secretary in correspondence and other communications with agency managers and program officials.

**FLSA EVALUATION**

_____ Executive Exemption

_____ Exercises appropriate management responsibility (primary duty) over a recognized organizational unit with a continuing function, and

_____ Customarily and regularly directs 2 or more employees, and

_____ Has the authority to make or recommend hiring, firing, or other status-change decisions, when such recommendations have particular weight.

Note: Shared supervision or “matrix management” responsibility for a project team does not meet the above criteria. Limited “assistant manager” functions or “acting in the absence” of the manager does not meet the above criteria.

_____ Professional Exemption

_____ Professional work (primary duty)

_____ Learned Professional, (See 5 CFR, 551.208)

(Registered Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Physician’s Assistants, Medical Technologists, Teachers, Attorneys, Physicians, Dentists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Engineers, Architects, and Accountants at the independent level as just some of the typical examples of exempt professionals)

or

_____ Creative Professional, (See 5 CFR 551.209), or

_____ Computer Employee (See 5 CFR 551.210; must meet salary test and perform such duties as system analysis, program/system design, or program/system testing, documentation, and modification). Computer manufacture or repair is excluded (non-exempt work).

Met X Administrative Exemption
Met X Primary duty consistent with 5 CFR 551 (e.g.; non-manual work directly related to the management or general business operations of the employer or its customers), AND job duties require exercise of discretion & independent judgment.

Conclusion: Exempt FLSA = EXEMPT
I've taken a look and responded to a few comments. There are a few more in there that predate my joining the Department that I think Jen or Sam should be able to address.
Perfect. Yes, let’s consolidate relevant items in the RTQ doc. Thank you.

Subject: RE: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

To clarify on the hard q’s, we’re relying on OPA’s excellent work in the RTQ. Will revert with examples.

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent:
To: PECK, SARAH
Cc: HIMMEL, CHLOE
SEIDMAN, RICKI
CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
JANKOWICZ, NINA

LUGO, ALICE
PECK, SARAH
DASKAL, JENNIFER
ESPINOSA, MARSHA

Mehringer, Holly
SILVERS, ROBERT
WATERS, ERIN
VINograd, SAMANTHA

Subject: RE: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

+ Nina and Sam

Pls don’t share further.

Folks should please aim to wrap up their edits by 7 pm ET at the latest. Thanks.
From: PECK, SARAH
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 5:31 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA; SHENKLE, ABBY; LUGO, ALICE; DASKAL, JENNIFER; Lamote, Jason; ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Cc: HIMMEL, CHLOE; Mehringer, Holly; SEIDMAN, RICKI; SILVERS, ROBERT; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; WATERS, ERIN
Subject: Re: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

OPA continues to update the RTQ on this issue in the shared doc:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o4262022-ROLLOUT-DisinformationBoard.docx

I added in OLA's questions and some of the answers but it would be great if Jen or Isa could help with responses to a few of the new ones. And as a reminder we shouldn't share the link outside of this group.

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 3:34:01 PM
To: SHENKLE, ABBY; LUGO, ALICE; DASKAL, JENNIFER; Lamote, Jason; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; PECK, SARAH
Cc: HIMMEL, CHLOE; Mehringer, Holly; SEIDMAN, RICKI; SILVERS, ROBERT; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
Subject: Re: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

Thank you. I understand a hard Q&A is being finalized?

From: SHENKLE, ABBY
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 3:31:37 PM
To: LUGO, ALICE; DASKAL, JENNIFER; Lamote, Jason; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; PECK, SARAH
Cc: ULLOA, ISABELLA; HIMMEL, CHLOE
Mehringer, Holly
Subject: Re: [For Review] DGB Senate Letters

+Holly. Isa the DGB questions from HSGAC are at bottom of this email.

From: LUGO, ALICE
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:53 PM
These are the letters the questions were pulled from.

From: LUGO, ALICE
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:53 PM

Privileged

Jason, Alice —
From: Lamote, Jason
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:44 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; LUGO, ALICE ; SHENKLE, ABBY
Subject: Fwd: [For Review] Senate Letters

Jen, here’s the letter.

From: Kozey, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 11:28:50 AM
To: Lamote, Jason ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Cc: JANKOWICZ, NINA ; DASKAL, JENNIFER ; FAUSETT, ANDREW ; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
Subject: [For Review] Senate Letters

Hi Jason,
Please see our draft response attached. Once Sam/Jen have the opportunity to review and provide feedback, we should be all set.

Sam/Jen,
Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Liz

Liz Kozey
Senior Advisor (detatitee)
Office of Counterterrorism and Threat Prevention
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
Department of Homeland Security
Office: Cell:
Email:

From: Lamote, Jason
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 11:07 AM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA ; FAUSETT, ANDREW ; Kozey, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Senate Letters

Please let me know if/when you have additional feedback on these responses.

Jason Lamote
Director - Cyber, Intelligence, Operations
Office of Legislative Affairs
From: Lamote, Jason  
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 2:38 PM  
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA  
Koze, Elizabeth  
FAUSETT, ANDREW  
Subject: Senate Letters

OLA would like us to coordinate responses to the questions raised in the Senate letters that can be used at S1 hearing preps on Monday and later next week. I've taken a first stab at most of the questions. Can you please review, edit, and add content as you recommend?
| **Sender:** | JANKOWICZ, NINA,  
|            | (FYIBOHF232PDL)  
|            | <NINA.JANKOWICZ  
|            | ULLOA, ISABELLA  
|            | SHENKLE, ABBY  
|            | PECK, SARAH  
|            | LUGO, ALICE  
|            | DASKAI, JENNIFER  
|            | Lamore, Jason  
|            | ESPINOSA, MARSHA  
| **Recipient:** | HIMMEL, CHLOE  
|            | Mehringer, Holly  
|            | SEIDMAN, RICKI  
|            | SILVERS, ROBERT  
|            | CANEGALLO, KRISTIE  
|            | WATERS, ERIN  
|            | VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA  
| **Sent Date:** | 2022/05/03 18:21:07  
| **Delivered Date:** | 2022/05/03 18:21:08  

Summary of Disinformation Governance Board Roles and Responsibilities
April 27, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I write to request information regarding the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) plans to create a “Disinformation Governance Board” to purportedly counter misinformation related to homeland security issues. On April 27, 2022, Politico reported DHS is particularly focused on information related to “irregular migration and Russia.” Nina Jankowicz confirmed reports that she will serve as this board’s executive director.

The Biden Administration has not proven itself to be a credible arbiter of “disinformation.” Instead, it has taken steps to silence information that is unflattering to this Administration under the guise of “disinformation.” For example, unnamed intelligence officials, the media, and social media platforms engaged in a coordinated effort to censor stories about Hunter Biden’s laptop and his questionable financial dealings under the false label of “disinformation.”

In fact, Ms. Jankowicz herself has been a beacon of misinformation online. She has published multiple tweets furthering the false media narrative about the Hunter Biden laptop. In one tweet she wrote, “IC has a high degree of confidence that the Kremlin used proxies to push influence narratives, including misleading or unsubstantiated claims about President Biden, to US media, officials, and influencers, some close to President Trump. A clear nod to the alleged Hunter laptop.” In another, she referred to the origins of how the media came into possession of the contents of Hunter Biden’s laptop as a “fairy tale about a laptop repair shop.”

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3 Tyler Olsen, President Biden said Hunter laptop was Russian disinformation, but son now says it “could be his,” Fox News, Apr. 2, 2021, available at https://www.foxnews.com/politics/president-biden-said-hunter-laptop-was-russian-disinformation-but-son-now-says-it-could-be-his.
4 See Nina Jankowicz (@wicziapia), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2020, 8:15 AM), https://twitter.com/wicziapia/status/13192510093298309276 (promoting an article that questioned the accuracy of the New York Post’s reporting on the Hunter Biden laptop); see also Nina Jankowicz (@wicziapia), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2020, 10:18 PM), https://twitter.com/wicziapia/status/1319463138107031553.
posted tweets pushing the Trump-Russia collusion hoax and another implying the United States is as corrupt as Ukraine.⁷

Now, DHS is creating a board to counter misinformation focusing on irregular migration and Russia and appointing a purveyor of misinformation to lead that effort.⁸ DHS is taking this action just weeks after announcing its plans to stop Title 42 expulsions at the southwest border, which has sparked a surge of illegal migrant crossing at the border, with CBP reporting an average of over 7,000 encounters a day in March 2022 compared with over 5,900 a day in February 2022.⁹ DHS even concedes it needs to be prepared to encounter 18,000 migrants a day at the southwest border once Title 42 is lifted.¹⁰

You claim this Administration’s border policies are humane, but the crises caused by your policies have only added to the many tragedies caused by illegal immigration. I am concerned DHS’S Disinformation Board will only serve to silence or censor those voices critical of your disastrous policies and serve a political cover for your failure to secure the border.

1. Provide the statute allowing DHS to create the Disinformation Board, appoint board members, and assign or hire staff.
2. How does DHS define “misinformation”? 
3. What does DHS consider to be “irregular migration”? 
4. What does DHS consider to be misinformation about irregular migration? 
5. What DHS component or office is responsible for monitoring and collecting data on “misinformation”? How many staff are tasked with this assignment? What are their job descriptions and classifications? 
6. What specific actions does DHS intend to take to “counter misinformation”? 

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⁷ See Nina Jankowicz (@wizcopia), Twitter (May 1, 2018, 6:50 AM), https://twitter.com/wizcopia/status/991268617965600768, see also Nina Jankowicz (@wizcopia), Twitter (Jan. 6, 2021, 3:50 PM) https://twitter.com/wizcopia/status/1346922196476706819.
Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 6, 2022. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I write with deep concern about the Department of Homeland Security’s decision to create a new Disinformation Governance Board. I confess, I at first thought this announcement was satire. Surely no American Administration would ever use the power of Government to sit in judgment on the First Amendment speech of its own citizens. Sadly, I was mistaken. Rather than protecting our border or the American homeland, you have chosen to make policing Americans’ speech your priority. This new board is almost certainly unconstitutional and should be dissolved immediately.

For well over a year, your Department has consistently treated competing policy views as disinformation to be monitored or investigated. However, political debates on issues such as immigration, pandemic lockdowns, and foreign policy clearly constitute “core political speech” protected by the First Amendment.\(^1\) The Supreme Court has even gone so far as to say that “Under the First Amendment there is no such thing as a false idea.”\(^2\) The apparent broad mandate of this new government entity to “coordinate countering misinformation” in America undermines the argument that it can even exist consistent with the Constitution.\(^3\)

Particularly troubling is your choice to lead the new board, Nina Jankowicz, a supposed “expert” with a long history of partisan attacks. Consider:

- In 2020, she described President Trump’s use of the national guard as “a sentence I expect to hear from leaders of authoritarian countries, not the President of the United States.”\(^4\)
- In 2021, she quoted with praise an article that said “homegrown fascism predated President Donald Trump.”\(^5\)
- She has said America is systemically racist.\(^6\)
- In response to revelations about Hunter Biden’s laptop, she tweeted that “50 former natsec officials and 5 former CIA heads that believe the laptop is a Russian influence op. Trump says ‘Russia, Russia, Russia.’”\(^7\)

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\(^4\) [https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1267589264440729600](https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1267589264440729600)
\(^5\) [https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1321123630403694593](https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1321123630403694593)
\(^6\) [https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1311123042387529734](https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1311123042387529734)
\(^7\) [https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319463138107031553?s=20&t=1EZYZWppGDhyWKhE5ensHnQ](https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319463138107031553?s=20&t=1EZYZWppGDhyWKhE5ensHnQ)
Jankowicz has said the new DHS Board will “maintain the Dept’s commitment [sic] to protecting free speech.” This is particularly ironic given Jankowicz’s extensive criticism of free speech and the First Amendment. Jankowicz has claimed that “the ‘free speech vs censorship’ framing is a false dichotomy.” And when Elon Musk announced his acquisition of Twitter, she said “I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms, what that would look like for the marginalized communities ... which are already shouldering ... disproportionate amounts of this abuse.” Jankowicz has even described opponents of social media speech codes as “first amendment zealots.” These statements that question the value of free speech are obviously disqualifying for such a role.

While Democrats have for years controlled the public square through their Big Tech allies, Mr. Musk’s acquisition of Twitter has shown just how tenuous that control is. It can only be assumed that the sole purpose of this new Disinformation Governance Board will be to marshal the power of the federal government to censor conservative and dissenting speech. This is dangerous and un-American. The board should be immediately dissolved.

So that Congress can consider remedial legislation, please provide the following responses prior to your expected testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on May 4, 2022:

1. How will this Disinformation Board function? And who exactly will it be monitoring?
2. What analysis did DHS conduct, if any, to ensure that the Disinformation Board and its activities comport with the First Amendment?
3. Why did DHS time its announcement of this governance board directly after Mr. Musk’s acquisition of Twitter?
4. Who appointed Ms. Jankowicz to head the board as executive director? Were you aware of her history of partisan conduct prior to her appointment?
5. Has DHS conferred with any private social media company in the creation or operation of this board?

Sincerely,

Josh Hawley
United States Senator

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8 https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1519282822158110721
9 https://twitter.com/JackPosobiec/status/1519397817260904454?s=20&t=ukuMjyeXItNIuHka1DmtGw
10 https://www.npr.org/2022/04/16/1093212502/women-face-disproportionate-attacks-online-one-expert-shares-some-of-the-details
11 https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1192897252328714240
From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
To: FOX, ALEXANDRA
CC: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
    REZMOVIC, JEFFREY
    SEIDMAN, RICKI
    PECK, SARAH
    MEYER, JONATHAN
    DASKAL, JENNIFER

Subject: Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Date: 2022/05/03 08:22:21
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Denied

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 8:21:16 AM
To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
    REZMOVIC, JEFFREY
    SEIDMAN, RICKI
    PECK, SARAH
    MEYER, JONATHAN
    DASKAL, JENNIFER

Subject: Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Did we get the green light?

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 7:35:41 AM
To: FOX, ALEXANDRA
Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
    ULLOA, ISABELLA
    REZMOVIC, JEFFREY
    SEIDMAN, RICKI
    MEYER, JONATHAN
    PECK, SARAH
    DASKAL, JENNIFER

Subject: Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2
Things will move quickly so a quick morning call would be ideal. Thank you!

From: FOX, ALEXANDRA
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 10:51 PM
To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; ULLOA, ISABELLA; REZMOVIC, JEFFREY; SEIDMAN, MEYER, JONATHAN; PECK, SARAH
Subject: Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Sorry for the delay!

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 10:22 PM
Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; ULLOA, ISABELLA; REZMOVIC, JEFFREY; SEIDMAN, MEYER, JONATHAN; PECK, SARAH; FOX, ALEXANDRA
Subject: RE: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

-S1, + Alex

From: Mayorkas, Alejandro
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 10:20 PM
To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
Subject: Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Smaller group so as not to burden many. I would like to confer Thank you.

Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Mayorkas, Alejandro
Cc: Tien, John; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; REZMOVIC, JEFFREY; ULLOA, ISABELLA
Good evening, Secretary,

- CNN: Biden administration defends disinformation board from fierce GOP criticism
- New York Post: The left no longer has any idea what 'neutral' even is (Editorial Board)
- FOX: Free speech concerns mount over DHS 'disinformation' board as lawmakers, critics weigh in
- Washington Post: DHS tries to right controversial rollout of its 'disinformation governance board'
- Washington Post: Opinion: The Disinformation Governance Board is a bad name and a sillier idea (Eugene Robinson)
- GAO released a report on “Federal Agencies’ Use of Open Source Data and Related Threat Products Prior to January 6, 2021.” It had no recommendations for DHS.

- VICE News: Kids Allege Medical Neglect, Frigid Cells, and Rotten Burritos in Border Detention (Keegan Hamilton)

One 9-year-old boy described feeling so cold his “bones hurt.” Teenage mothers said they were denied milk, diapers, and medicine for sick babies. A 17-year-old boy reported witnessing other children being tased as punishment. These allegations are just a handful of what’s described in recent complaints obtained by VICE News and filed on behalf of thousands of migrant children detained last year by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or CBP. The children’s names have been withheld in the complaints because they fear retaliation for speaking out. The complaints, detailed here for the first time since being filed on April 6, allege migrant children in CBP custody are routinely denied medical care, served rotten or inedible food, and abused verbally and physically. The complaints also allege CBP routinely violates a court order that’s supposed to limit a kid’s time in CBP custody to 72 hours; instead they’re subjected to prolonged stays in frigid holding cells known as holding cells or ice boxes. The Biden administration has said it’s preparing for another wave of migration with the pending rollback of Title 42, a Trump-era policy that has enabled border agents to turn away nearly everyone except unaccompanied children. While officials claim conditions are improving, the complaints paint a grim picture of what awaits those who attempt to cross, especially young
people. “We expect now that Title 42 is going away, this is just going to worsen,” said Carson Scott, an attorney with Immigrant Defenders Law Center. “Advocates have consistently been sounding the alarm bells. When we have waves of more children crossing the border, conditions get even worse.”

- Project Veritas: BREAKING: Source Inside the Federal Government Reveals Suspected and Known Terrorists Walk Freely in the United States Following Biden Administration’s Pullout in Afghanistan

NOTABLE CLIPS
Reuters: U.S. ’Blinken, Mayorkas to meet Tuesday with Mexico foreign minister
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas will meet Tuesday with Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard, the Mexican official said in a tweet
Monday afternoon, Ebrard also said he will have a meeting to discuss investments in Central America and Mexico's southern region.

Washington Post: **DHS tries to right controversial rollout of its 'disinformation governance board'** (Cristiano Lima)

According to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, there's a lot of misinformation out there about the department's newly launched "Disinformation Governance Board." Since DHS announced the ominously named initiative last week, it has offered few details about the scope of its work and powers. Amid that informational void, Republicans and some civil society groups have bashed the effort as a potential vehicle for government censorship and a threat to free speech. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) likened the group to the fictional "Ministry of Truth" propaganda agency from George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984." During a pair of television interviews on Sunday, Mayorkas cast those concerns as misplaced but said DHS should have defined the board's role more clearly. "Those criticisms are precisely the opposite of what this small working group within the Department of Homeland Security will do," Mayorkas told CNN. "I think we probably could have done a better job of communicating what it does and does not do." Mayorkas said that part of the group's mandate is "to ensure that the way in which we address threats ... [occurs without] infringing on free speech, protecting civil rights and civil liberties, the right of privacy." The agency initially said the board would focus on countering disinformation coming from Russia ahead of the midterm elections and from human smugglers targeting migrants on the U.S.-Mexico border. But it said relatively little about what exact function it would serve, and its critics on the right seized on the board's broad-sounding name to suggest something more nefarious was afoot.
Washington Post: **Opinion: The Disinformation Governance Board is a bad name and a sillier idea (Eugene Robinson)**

Nothing is more important to the future of our democracy than the fight against disinformation. But a new Department of Homeland Security unit — ominously called the Disinformation Governance Board — is not helping. To the contrary, it only promises to provide aid and comfort to the enemies of truth. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas should pull the plug on the new board. Like, yesterday. And never speak of it again. The problems begin with the worst name I’ve ever heard the federal government come up with, and that’s saying something. Disinformation Governance Board? To call the unit’s name Orwellian is an insult to George Orwell, who was a masterful prose stylist and who wrote a famous essay, “Politics and the English Language,” railing against sins such as “staleness of imagery” and “lack of precision.” I can see how disinformation requires monitoring. I can see how it requires fact-checking and refutation. But governance? How do you govern lies? Beyond the issue of the name is the still-mystifying question about what the board is supposed to do. At congressional hearings this past week, Mayorkas veered from pitching it as an effort to counteract Russian-style meddling in our elections to portraying it as an effort to protect Spanish-speaking migrants from lies told by the criminals who smuggle them into the country. He failed to make clear exactly how the board was supposed to accomplish either of these tasks. “I think we probably could have done a better job of communicating what it does and does not do,” Mayorkas said Sunday on CNN.

The Hill: **White House pledges DHS disinfo board will be ‘nonpartisan and apolitical’ (Morgan Chalfant)**

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday that a board on disinformation recently convened by the Department of Homeland Security will operate “in a nonpartisan and apolitical manner.” “The mandate is not to adjudicate what is true or false online or otherwise,” Psaki told reporters during a briefing. “It will operate in a nonpartisan and apolitical manner. It’s basically meant to coordinate a lot of the ongoing work that is happening ... and the focus is on disinformation and threats to the homeland.” Psaki said that the board would address disinformation related to threats such as violent extremism, human trafficking and malign foreign influence. She also noted — as she did last week — that the work of the board started under former President Trump’s administration in 2020. Republicans have attacked the board since its creation was disclosed last week, comparing the effort to the “Ministry of Truth” depicted in George Orwell’s dystopian novel “1984.” Some have also zeroed in on the board’s executive director, Nina Jankowicz, suggesting that she can’t be neutral because of tweets that she sent in 2020 regarding a New York Post story about a laptop purportedly belonging to President Biden’s son Hunter Biden. Jankowicz, an expert in disinformation and eastern Europe, at the time amplified the opinion of national security experts that the laptop was part of a Russian influence operation.

Publications including The Washington Post have since verified content on the laptop. Conservatives have also mocked Jankowicz over a TikTok video she made about disinformation. Psaki and other Biden officials have defended Jankowicz, describing her as highly qualified to lead the new Disinformation Governance Board.

CNN: **Biden administration defends disinformation board from fierce GOP criticism (Priscilla Alvarez and Sean Lyngaas)**

The Department of Homeland Security and the White House are defending a new initiative to help target disinformation amid fierce criticism from Republicans who cast the effort as overreach and attacked its leader. Last week, DHS announced an interagency team, dubbed the “Disinformation Governance Board,” to coordinate department activities related to disinformation aimed at the US
population and infrastructure. Nina Jankowicz, a disinformation expert with experience working on Ukraine and Russia issues, was tapped to helm the board, along with two senior DHS officials, including acting Principal Deputy General Counsel Jen Daskal. [...] In a fact sheet released Monday afternoon, DHS said Mayorkas has asked department officials to enhance the public's trust in the group. Mayorkas has also asked the bipartisan Homeland Security Advisory Council to recommend ways DHS can address disinformation while "protecting free speech and other fundamental rights," according to the fact sheet. Jamie Gorelick -- the council's co-chair and a former US deputy attorney general -- will lead the effort along with Michael Chertoff, a member of the council who was secretary of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush.

SOCIAL MEDIA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sender:</th>
<th>Recipient:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Espinosa, Marsha</td>
<td>Spelman, Rick</td>
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<td>Ulloa, Isabella</td>
<td>Meyer, Jonathan</td>
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<td>Fox, Alexandra</td>
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<td>Daskal, Jennifer</td>
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<td>Rezmovic, Jeffrey</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**Sent Date:** 2022/05/03 08:22:19  
**Delivered Date:** 2022/05/03 08:22:21
ESPINOSA, MARSHA

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER

To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA

Subject: Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Date: 2022/05/03 07:35:57

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Absolutely

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 11:39:27 PM

To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA

Subject: Fwd: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Hi Marsha.

Thank you!

Jen

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 11:29:47 PM

To: FOX, ALEXANDRA

Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE

(continued)

Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Plus Jen.

From: FOX, ALEXANDRA

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 10:51:12 PM

To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA

Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE

(continued)

Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Sorry for the delay!

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 10:22 PM

Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE

(continued)
From: Mayorkas, Alejandro
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 10:20 PM
To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Cc: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; REZMOVIC, JEFFREY; ULLOA, ISABELLA; MEYER, JONATHAN; SEIDMAN, RICKI; PECK, SARAH

Subject: Re: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

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Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA <
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Mayorkas, Alejandro
Cc: Tien, John; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; REZMOVIC, JEFFREY; ULLOA, ISABELLA; SEIDMAN, RICKI; CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN; LUGO, ALICE; MEYER, JONATHAN; PECK, SARAH

Subject: Press Roundup for MON, 5/2

Good evening, Secretary,

- CNN: Biden administration defends misinformation board from fierce GOP criticism
- New York Post: The left no longer has any idea what 'neutral' even is (Editorial Board)
- FOX: Free speech concerns mount over DHS 'disinformation' board as lawmakers, critics weigh in
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  One 9-year-old boy described feeling so cold his “bones hurt.” Teenage mothers said they were denied milk, diapers, and medicine for sick babies. A 17-year-old boy reported witnessing other children being tased as punishment. These allegations are just a handful of what’s described in recent complaints obtained by VICE News and filed on behalf of thousands of migrant children detained last year by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or CBP. The children’s names have been withheld in the complaints because they fear retaliation for speaking out. The complaints, detailed here for the first time since being filed on April 6, allege migrant children in CBP custody are routinely denied medical care, served rotten or inedible food, and abused verbally and physically. The complaints also allege CBP routinely violates a court order that’s supposed to limit a kid’s time in CBP custody to 72 hours; instead they’re subjected to prolonged stays in frigid holding cells known as hieleras or ice boxes. The Biden administration has said it’s preparing for another wave of migration with the pending rollback of Title 42, a Trump-era policy that has enabled border agents to turn away nearly everyone except unaccompanied children. While officials claim conditions are improving, the complaints paint a grim picture of what awaits those who attempt to cross, especially young people. “We expect now that Title 42 is going away, this is just going to worsen,” said Carson Scott, an attorney with Immigrant Defenders Law Center. “Advocates have consistently been sounding the alarm bells. When we have waves of more children crossing the border, conditions get even worse.”

- Project Veritas published a report claiming that “suspected and known Afghan terrorists are roaming freely within the United States with the knowledge of the federal government.” We will monitor to see if this gets picked up by actual news outlets.
  - Project Veritas: BREAKING: Source Inside the Federal Government Reveals Suspected and Known Terrorists Walk Freely in the United States Following Biden Administration’s Pullout in Afghanistan

TOMORROW
NOTABLE CLIPS
Reuters: U.S.' Blinken, Mayorkas to meet Tuesday with Mexico foreign minister
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Washington Post: DHS tries to right controversial rollout of its ‘disinformation governance board’
(Cristiano Lima)
According to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, there’s a lot of misinformation out there about the department’s newly launched “Disinformation Governance Board.” Since DHS announced the ominously named initiative last week, it has offered few details about the scope of its work and powers. Amid that informational void, Republicans and some civil society groups have bashed the effort as a potential vehicle for government censorship and a threat to free speech. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) likened the group to the fictional “Ministry of Truth” propaganda agency from George Orwell’s dystopian novel “1984.” During a pair of television interviews on Sunday, Mayorkas cast those concerns as misplaced but said DHS should have defined the board’s role more clearly. “Those criticisms are precisely the opposite of what this small working group within the Department of Homeland Security will do,” Mayorkas told CNN. “I think we probably could have done a better job of communicating what it does and does not do.” Mayorkas said that part of the group’s mandate is “to ensure that the way in which we address threats ... [occurs without] infringing on free speech, protecting civil rights and civil liberties, the right of privacy.” The agency initially said the board would focus on countering disinformation coming from Russia ahead of the midterm elections and from human smugglers targeting migrants on the U.S.-Mexico border. But it said relatively little about what exact function it would serve, and its critics on the right seized on the board’s broad-sounding name to suggest something more nefarious was afoot.
Washington Post: **Opinion: The Disinformation Governance Board is a bad name and a sillier idea** (Eugene Robinson)
Nothing is more important to the future of our democracy than the fight against disinformation. But a new Department of Homeland Security unit — ominously called the Disinformation Governance Board — is not helping. To the contrary, it only promises to provide aid and comfort to the enemies of truth. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas should pull the plug on the new board. Like, yesterday. And never speak of it again. The problems begin with the worst name I’ve ever heard the federal government come up with, and that’s saying something. Disinformation Governance Board? To call the unit’s name Orwellian is an insult to George Orwell, who was a masterful prose stylist and who wrote a famous essay, “Politics and the English Language,” railing against sins such as “staleness of imagery” and “lack of precision.” I can see how disinformation requires monitoring, I can see how it requires fact-checking and refutation. But governance? How do you govern lies? Beyond the issue of the name is the still-mystifying question about what the board is supposed to do. At congressional hearings this past week, Mayorkas veered from pitching it as an effort to counteract Russian-style meddling in our elections to portraying it as an effort to protect Spanish-speaking migrants from lies told by the criminals who smuggle them into the country. He failed to make clear exactly how the board was supposed to accomplish either of these tasks. “I think we probably could have done a better job of communicating what it does and does not do,” Mayorkas said Sunday on CNN.

The Hill: **White House pledges DHS disinfo board will be ‘nonpartisan and apolitical’** (Morgan Chalfant)
White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday that a board on disinformation recently convened by the Department of Homeland Security will operate “in a nonpartisan and apolitical manner.” “The mandate is not to adjudicate what is true or false online or otherwise,” Psaki told reporters during a briefing. “It will operate in a nonpartisan and apolitical manner. It’s basically meant to coordinate a lot of the ongoing work that is happening … and the focus is on disinformation and threats to the homeland.” Psaki said that the board would address disinformation related to threats such as violent extremism, human trafficking and malign foreign influence. She also noted — as she did last week — that the work of the board started under former President Trump’s administration in 2020. Republicans have attacked the board since its creation was disclosed last week, comparing the effort to the “Ministry of Truth” depicted in George Orwell’s dystopian novel “1984.” Some have also zeroed in on the board’s executive director, Nina Jankowicz, suggesting that she can’t be neutral because of tweets that she sent in 2020 regarding a New York Post story about a laptop purportedly belonging to President Biden’s son Hunter Biden. Jankowicz, an expert in disinformation and eastern Europe, at the time amplified the opinion of national security experts that the laptop was part of a Russian influence operation. Publications including The Washington Post have since verified content on the laptop. Conservatives have also mocked Jankowicz over a TikTok video she made about disinformation. Psaki and other Biden officials have defended Jankowicz, describing her as highly qualified to lead the new Disinformation Governance Board.

CNN: **Biden administration defends disinformation board from fierce GOP criticism** (Priscilla Alvarez and Sean Lyngaas)
The Department of Homeland Security and the White House are defending a new initiative to help target disinformation amid fierce criticism from Republicans who cast the effort as overreach and attacked its leader. Last week, DHS announced an interagency team, dubbed the “Disinformation Governance Board,” to coordinate department activities related to disinformation aimed at the US population and infrastructure. Nina Jankowicz, a disinformation expert with experience working on
Ukraine and Russia issues, was tapped to helm the board, along with two senior DHS officials, including acting Principal Deputy General Counsel Jen Daskal. [...] In a fact sheet released Monday afternoon, DHS said Mayorkas has asked department officials to enhance the public's trust in the group. Mayorkas has also asked the bipartisan Homeland Security Advisory Council to recommend ways DHS can address disinformation while "protecting free speech and other fundamental rights," according to the fact sheet. Jamie Gorelick -- the council's co-chair and a former US deputy attorney general -- will lead the effort along with Michael Chertoff, a member of the council who was secretary of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Nina – I look forward to discussing.

I think we should aim to get whatever docs we are going to be discussing circulated tomorrow so that folks have time to digest.

Let’s discuss this afternoon.

Sam

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 6:53 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
Cc: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA, DASKAL, JENNIFER, FAUSSETT, ANDREW, Kozey, Elizabeth
Subject: Revisiting DGB Board Meeting Agenda and Docs

Hi all,

With everything that happened over the last week I have revisited and revised our suggested agenda for the Board meeting. Looking forward to discussing the below with you tomorrow.

Changes to Agenda:
I think that’s everything on my mind. Thanks and looking forward to hammering out the plan!
Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

@hq.dhs.gov
@dhs.spov.gov
@dhs.ic.gov

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2022 9:02 PM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT
Cc: VINograd, Samantha; Daskal, Jennifer
    >; Fauset, Andrew
    >; Kozey, Elizabeth

Subject: DGB Board Packet for Review
Dear Rob,

Great to see you at the happy hour last night!

As promised, here is the completed Board Packet for your review. Once you give the go ahead I am happy to work with Quann to get the Board meeting on the calendar for the 25th or 26th, before you depart for the Bay Area.

Sam, Jen and I would also like to carve out some time on your calendar next week to prep for the Board meeting and update you on the irregular migration case study.

Let me know if you have any questions and hope you enjoy a lovely holiday weekend.

Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sender:

JANKOWICZ, NINA

SILVERS, ROBERT

Recipient: DASKAL, JENNIFER

FAUSETT, ANDREW

Kozey, Elizabeth
From: ULLOA, ISABELLA  
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 2:10 PM  
To: PECK, SARAH; WATERS, ERIN; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; SEIDMAN, RICKI; DASKAL, JENNIFER; SILVERS, ROBERT; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; Swartz, Neal 
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA  
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?  

Made some edits. Then we should be good to go.

Isabella Ulloa  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: PECK, SARAH  
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:59:28 PM  
To: WATERS, ERIN; ULLOA, ISABELLA; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; DASKAL, JENNIFER; SEIDMAN, RICKI; SILVERS, ROBERT; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; Swartz, Neal  
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA  
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?  

Here is a sharepoint link,
04262022 - ROLLOUT - Disinformation Board.docx (sharepoint.com)

From: WATERS, ERIN
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:53 PM
To: ULOOA, ISABELLA, CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
    Seidman, Ricki, Daskal, Jennifer
    Silvers, Robert, Vinograd, Samantha
    Espinosa, Marsh, Swartz, Neal
Cc: Bailey, Maria, Peck, Sarah
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

Sending a shared doc momentarily

From: ULOOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:52 PM
To: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE, Seidman, Ricki
    Daskal, Jennifer, Silvers, Robert, Vinograd, Samantha
    Espinosa, Marsh, Swartz, Neal
Cc: Bailey, Maria, Peck, Sarah
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

I am going to send some edits shortly

Isabella Ulloa
Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: ULOOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:30:55 PM
To: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE, Seidman, Ricki
    Daskal, Jennifer, Silvers, Robert, Vinograd, Samantha
    Espinosa, Marsh, Swartz, Neal
Cc: Bailey, Maria, Peck, Sarah
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Isabella Ulloa
Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:30:06 PM
To: SEIDMAN, RICKI
WATERS, ERIN
ROBERT
ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA
PECK, SARAH
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

From: SEIDMAN, RICKI
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:14 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER
ULLOA, ISABELLA
SILVERS, ROBERT
SAMANTHA
Swartz, Neal
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA
PECK, SARAH
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:09 PM
To: WATERS, ERIN
CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
SILVERS, ROBERT
ESPINOSA, MARSHA
SEIDMAN, RICKI
Swartz, Neal
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA
SEIDMAN, RICKI
SARAH
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Please see edits below.
Thanks,
Jen

From: WATERS, ERIN
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 12:13 PM
To: ULOA, ISABELLA; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
        >; SILVERS, ROBERT
        SAMANTHA
        ESPINOSA, MARSHA
SEIDMAN, RICKI
Swartz, Neal
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER
    BAILEY, MARIA
    PECK, SARAH
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

Hi all: Sarah is offline for a bit. Here is the information our press team has been providing to reporter inquiries on background. This is the fact sheet that we prepared.
From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 11:59 AM
To: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE ; SILVERS, ROBERT
     VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; SEIDMAN, RICKI
     MARSHA ; Espinosa, ; swartz, neal
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; SEIDMAN, RICKI ; WATERS, ERIN
     BAILEY, MARIA ; PECK, SARAH
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Adding Erin and Sarah to please share (1) what we have shared publicly re the board, and (2) the draft fact sheet and any other materials for potential public release that have been prepared.

From: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 11:57 AM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA ; SILVERS, ROBERT
     VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; SEIDMAN, RICKI
     ESPIÑOSA, ; Swartz, Neal
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; SEIDMAN, RICKI
     BAILEY, MARIA
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

Happy to take a look. Can someone share anything we have already put out?

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:56 AM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT

Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER

Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

 KC, Marsha, and Ricki: thoughts?

From: SILVERS, ROBERT

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:51:57 AM

To: ULOO, ISABELLA

Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER

Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Thoughts on
Got it.

From: Swartz, Neal
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 5:31:26 PM
To: Sawyer, Stephanie
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: Fwd: Time for a quick call tonight?

Stephanie,
Please see below re discussion at 6.
I will not be able to make 6.
Thank you,
Neal

Sent from my DHS iPhone

*** Warning *** Attorney/Client Privilege *** Attorney Work Product

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 4:20 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER; PECK, SARAH
      WATERS, ERIN
      ; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
      ; SEIDMAN, RICKI
      ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
      ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA
      Swartz, Neal
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Isabella Ulloa
Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 3:39:31 PM
To: PECK, SARAH <waters.erin@icir.org>; ULLOA, ISABELLA <canegallo.kristie@icir.org>; SEIDMAN, RICKI <silvers.robert@icir.org>; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <espinosa.marsha@icir.org>; Swartz, Neal <swartz_neal@icir.org>
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA <bailey.maria@icir.org>
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Inputted a few more small changes.

From: PECK, SARAH
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:59:28 PM
To: WATERS, ERIN <waters.erin@icir.org>; ULLOA, ISABELLA <canegallo.kristie@icir.org>; SEIDMAN, RICKI <silvers.robert@icir.org>; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <espinosa.marsha@icir.org>; Swartz, Neal <swartz_neal@icir.org>
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA <bailey.maria@icir.org>
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

Here is a sharepoint link,

04262022 - ROLLOUT - Disinformation Board.docx (sharepoint.com)

From: WATERS, ERIN <waters.erin@icir.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:53 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA <canegallo.kristie@icir.org>; SEIDMAN, RICKI <silvers.robert@icir.org>; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <espinosa.marsha@icir.org>; Swartz, Neal <swartz_neal@icir.org>
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA <bailey.maria@icir.org>; PECK, SARAH <waters.erin@icir.org>
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

Sending a shared doc momentarily.

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA <canegallo.kristie@icir.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:52 PM
To: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE <canegallo.kristie@icir.org>; SEIDMAN, RICKI <silvers.robert@icir.org>; WATERS, ERIN <waters.erin@icir.org>
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER <daskal.jennifer@icir.org>
I am going to send some edits shortly

Isabella Ulloa
Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:30:06 PM
To: SEIDMAN, RICKI ; DASKAL, JENNIFER
   ; WATERS, ERIN ; ULLOA, ISABELLA ; SILVERS, ROBERT
   ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; Swartz, Neal
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA ; PECK, SARAH
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

From: SEIDMAN, RICKI
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:14 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; WATERS, ERIN
From: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:09 PM
To: WATERS, ERIN
Cc: BAILEY, MARIA
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Please see edits below.

Thanks,
Jen

From: WATERS, ERIN
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 12:13 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?
Hi all: Sarah is offline for a bit. Here is the information our press team has been providing to reporter inquiries on background. This is the fact sheet that we prepared.

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA <
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 11:59 AM
To: CANEGALLO, KIRSTIE < 
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA < 
MARSHA < 
SEIDMAN, RICKI < 
ESPINOSA, Swartz, Neal <
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER < 
SEIDMAN, RICKI < 
WATERS, ERIN < 
PECK, SARAH <
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

Adding Erin and Sarah to please share (1) what we have shared publicly re the board, and (2) the draft fact sheet and any other materials for potential public release that have been prepared.

---

From: CANEGALLO, KIRSTIE <
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 11:57 AM
To: ULOOA, ISABELLA < 
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA < 
MARSHA < 
SEIDMAN, RICKI < 
ESPINOSA, Swartz, Neal <
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER < 
SEIDMAN, RICKI < 
BAILEY, MARIA <
Subject: RE: Time for a quick call tonight?

Happy to take a look. Can someone share anything we have already put out?

---

From: ULOOA, ISABELLA <
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:56 AM
To: SILVERS, ROBERT < 
ESPINOSA, MARSHA < 
SEIDMAN, RICKI <
Swartz, Neal <
Cc: DASKAL, JENNIFER < 
SEIDMAN, RICKI < 
BAILEY, MARIA <
Subject: Re: Time for a quick call tonight?

KC, Marsha, and Ricki: thoughts?

---

From: SILVERS, ROBERT <
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:51:57 AM
To: ULOOA, ISABELLA < 
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA < 
ESPINOSA, MARSHA < 
SEIDMAN, RICKI <
Swartz, Neal <
Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border – HSGAC Hearing
Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:13am

TESTIMONY OF
Acting Assistant Secretary Blas Núñez-Neto
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

For a Hearing

BEFORE

U.S. Senate
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

ON

“Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border”

May 5, 2022
Washington, DC
Jen,
Do you have a minute?
I would like to discuss one point if you have a few minutes this morning.

Thank you,
Neal
Cell:

*** Warning *** Attorney/Client Privilege *** Attorney Work Product ***
This message and any attachments may contain attorney-client communications, attorney work product, and agency deliberative communications, all of which may be privileged and not subject to disclosure outside the agency or to the public. Please consult with the Department of Homeland Security, Office of General Counsel before disclosing any information contained in this email.

From: LUGO, ALICE <name>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 7:55 AM
To: SEIDMAN, RICKI; ESPINOSA, MARSHA; DASKAL, JENNIFER; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA; ULOA, ISABELLA; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE; SILVERS, ROBERT; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN; CARNES, ALEXANDRA; Swartz, Neal
Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: SEIDMAN, RICKI
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 7:24 AM
To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA ; DASKAL, JENNIFER
    VINograd, Samantha ; LUGO, Alice
    ulloa, isabella ; canegallo, kristie
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT ; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN
    CARNES, ALEXANDRA ; SSwartz, Neal
Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:22:03 AM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER ; VINograd, Samantha
    LUGO, Alice ; SEIDMAN, RICKI
    ulloa, isabella ; canegallo, kristie
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT ; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN
    CARNES, ALEXANDRA ; SSwartz, Neal
Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 11:33 PM
To: VINograd, Samantha ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA
    LUGO, Alice ; SEIDMAN, RICKI
    ulloa, isabella ; canegallo, kristie
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT ; BURRIESCI, KELLI ANN
    CARNES, ALEXANDRA ; SSwartz, Neal
Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

+ Neal
Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Should we include:

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 10:12:24 PM
To: LUGO, ALICE <SEIDMAN, RICKI - ULLOA, ISABELLA >; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE CANEGALLO, KRISTIE ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT - ; DASKAL, JENNIFER BURRIECI, KELLI ANN -; CARNES, ALEXANDRA

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

+Kristie

Here are the main points I think he can use:

From: LUGO, ALICE <SEIDMAN, RICKI - ULLOA, ISABELLA >; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 9:41 PM
To: ESPINOSA, MARSHA -; SEIDMAN, RICKI
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT <DASKAL, JENNIFER <BURRIESECI, KELLI ANN <CARNES, ALEXANDRA

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

What are we packaging up for purposes of S1’s hearing tomorrow where this will likely come up?

Alice Lugo
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA <Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:27 PM
To: SEIDMAN, RICKI <LUGO, ALICE >; ULLOA, ISABELLA ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT <DASKAL, JENNIFER <BURRIESECI, KELLI ANN <CARNES, ALEXANDRA

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

From: SEIDMAN, RICKI <Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:20 PM
To: LUGO, ALICE <ULLOA, ISABELLA ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT <DASKAL, JENNIFER <BURRIESECI, KELLI ANN <CARNES, ALEXANDRA

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Question for Marsha –

From: LUGO, ALICE <Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:05 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA <VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT <DASKAL, JENNIFER <BURRIESECI, KELLI ANN <SEIDMAN, RICKI <CARNES, ALEXANDRA

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback
Agree Isa. Need a few points given the below narrative.

Biden Official Tapped To Head DHS's New 'Disinformation' Board Peddled Disinformation | The Daily Caller

Alice Lugo
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

---

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:46 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT <; LUGO, ALICE <; ESPINOSA, MARSHA <; DASKAL, JENNIFER <; BURRIESECI, KELLI ANN <; SEIDMAN, RICKI <
Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Smaller group.

---

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:37:58 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <; ULLOA, ISABELLA <
Cc: WATERS, ERIN <; DASKAL, JENNIFER <; ESPINOSA, MARSHA <; PECK, SARAH <; SEIDMAN, RICKI <; MAYER, JASON <; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE <; Kozey, Elizabeth <; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) <; Lamote, Jason <; LUGO, ALICE <; SHENKLE, ABBY <; CARNES, ALEXANDRA <; Himmel, Chloe <; SILVERS, ROBERT <
Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Thanks all - we have really solid content already which we compiled ahead of the rollout.

Nina thanks for chatting / standing by to discuss and review talkers.

---

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:34:21 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA <; WATERS, ERIN <; DASKAL, JENNIFER <; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <; ESPINOSA, MARSHA <; PECK, SARAH <; Clemens,
Thanks, working with team DGB on talkers now

Nina Jankowicz  
Executive Director  
Disinformation Governance Board  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA <  
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:34 PM  
To: WATERS, ERIN <  
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <  
; ESPINOSA, MARSHA <  
; Clemens, Ruth <  
; JANKOWICZ, NINA <  
; PECK, SARAH <  
; JANKOWICZ, NINA <  
; MAYER, JASON <  
; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE <  
; FAUSSETT, ANDREW <  
; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) <  
; LUGO, ALICE <  
; SHENKLE, ABBY <  
; CARNES, ALEXANDRA <  
; HIMMEL, CHLOE <  
; SILVERS, ROBERT <  

Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Plus Rob.

We will also need to develop a few TPs for S1 hearings. OLA, please take for action in coordination with OPA and PLCY.

From: WATERS, ERIN <  
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:19 PM  
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER <  
; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <  
; ESPINOSA, MARSHA <  
; JANKOWICZ, NINA <  
; PECK, SARAH <  
; Clemens, Ruth <
Hi all, consolidating some chains/chats and adding @CANEGALLO, KRISTIE & @ULLOA, ISABELLA for visibility.

Marsha to chime in on anything else.

Thank you all,
Erin

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:02 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Cc: Kozey, Elizabeth <

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Ditto
Here to support as well only if helpful thx

Thank you, that sounds good to me. Let me know how you would like to handle- I have personal relationships with all those highlighted, but happy to follow your lead.

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: WATERS, ERIN
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 4:21 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA
    PECK, SARAH
    ESPINOSA, MARSHA
    Clemens, Ruth
    SEIDMAN, RICKI
    MAYER, JASON
Cc: Kozey, Elizabeth
    Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
    DASKAL,
    SHENKLE, ABBY
    HIMMEL, CHLOE

Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback
Hi Nina, thanks for bringing this to our attention. We are seeing a lot of the traffic on social backend as well. Adding others in OLA on your last msg.

Sarah/Ruth can advise, but we also have a media inquiry now.
FYSA, there are multiple Members of Congress now tweeting about this, some from their official accounts.

**Nina Jankowicz**
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

---

**From:** JANKOWICZ, NINA
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 3:19 PM
**To:** ESPINOSA, MARSHA <Clemens, Ruth <SEIDMAN,
RICKI >;
PECK, SARAH >;
WATERS, ERIN >;
C: Kozey, Elizabeth <Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) <DASKAL,
JENNIFER >;
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA >;
Lamote, Jason <
Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

FYSA, there are multiple Members of Congress now tweeting about this, some from their official accounts.

**Nina Jankowicz**
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

---
Hi all,

Thanks again for all the work in getting the public announcement of the Board out the door. I've gotten a lot of positive notes today, which are always nice to read.

This afternoon I did start receiving a fair amount of blowback (accusing DHS of being the "Ministry of Truth" etc., lots honing in on 'Russia' in the Politico blurb) and some abuse (which I expected and I'm used to).

Happy to jump on a call to chat through if you'd like.

Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sender: Swartz, Neal,
Will call you in a bit w some background

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:02:37 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; ULLOA, ISABELLA ; WATERS, ERIN ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA ; PECK, SARAH ; Clemens, Ruth ; SEIDMAN, RICKI ; MAYER, JASON ; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE ; Lamote, Jason
Cc: Kozey, I ; FAUSETT, ANDREW ; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) ; LUGO, ALICE ; SHENKLE, ABBY ; CARNES, ALEXANDRA ; HIMMEL, CHLOE ; SILVERS, ROBERT

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

I have edited the TPs below - apologies for not focusing on them before, if I had seen them, but we need to focus on the governance issue.

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:53 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; ULLOA, ISABELLA ; WATERS, ERIN ; DASKAL, JENNIFER ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA ; PECK, SARAH ; Clemens, Ruth ; SEIDMAN, RICKI ; MAYER, JASON ; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE ; Lamote, Jason
Cc: Kozey, Elizabeth ; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) ; FAUSETT, ANDREW ; LUGO, ALICE ; SHENKLE, ABBY ; CARNES, ALEXANDRA ; HIMMEL, CHLOE ; SILVERS, ROBERT

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback
Hi folks,

Here's what we put together from the mats we've churned out over the past few weeks,
Thanks all - we have really solid content already which we compiled ahead of the rollout.

Nina thanks for chatting / standing by to discuss and review talkers.

Thanks, working with team DGB on talkers now.

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 3:34 PM
To: WATERS, ERIN <; DASKAL, JENNIFER <; ESPINOSA, MARSHA <; PECK, SARAH <; Clemens, Ruth <; SEIDMAN, RICKI <; MAYER, JASON <; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE <
Cc: Kozy, Elizabeth <; FAUSETT, ANDREW <; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) <; Lamote, Jason <; LUGO, ALICE <; SHENKLE, ABBY <; CARNES, ALEXANDRA <; SILVERS, ROBERT <

Subject: Re: FYSA - DGB announcement blowback
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA <
Clemens, Ruth <
<
MAYER, JASON <

CC: Kozey, Elizabeth <
Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) <
Lamote, Jason <
LUGO, ALICE <
CARNES, ALEXANDRA <
SILVERS, ROBERT <

Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Plus Rob.

We will also need to develop a few TPs for S1 hearings. OLA, please take for action in coordination with OPA and PLCY.

From: WATERS, ERIN <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:19 PM
To: DASKAL, JENNIFER <
VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
<
JANKOWICZ, NINA <
ESPINOSA, MARSHA <
<
PECK, SARAH <
Clemens, Ruth <
<
SEIDMAN, RICKI <
<
MAYER, JASON <
<
CANEGALLO, KRISTIE <
<
ISABELLA <

CC: Kozey, Elizabeth <
FAUSETT, ANDREW <
dhs.gov >
LUGO, ALICE <
HIMMER, CHLOE <
CARNES, ALEXANDRA <

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Hi all, consolidating some chains/chats and adding @CANEGALLO, KRISTIE & @ULLOA, ISABELLA for visibility.
Marsha to chime in on anything else.

Thank you all,

Erin

From: DASKAL, JENNIFER <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:02 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA < JANKOWICZ, NINA
    ; WATERS, ERIN <
    ; PECK, SARAH
    ; SEIDMAN, RICKI <
    > ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA
    ; Clemens, Ruth
    > ; MAYER, JASON
Cc: Kozev, Elizabeth <
    ; FAUSETT, ANDREW
    ; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
    ; Lamote, Jason
    ; LLGO, ALICE <
    ; SHENKLE, ABBY
    ; CARNES, ALEXANDRA
    ; HIMMEL, CHLOE
Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Ditto

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 4:40 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <
    ; WATERS, ERIN
    ; PECK, SARAH
    ; SEIDMAN, RICKI <
    > ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA
    ; Clemens, Ruth
    > ; MAYER, JASON
Cc: Kozev, Elizabeth <
    ; FAUSETT, ANDREW
    ; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
    ; DASKAL, JENNIFER <
    ; Lamote, Jason
    ; LLGO, ALICE <
    ; SHENKLE, ABBY
    ; CARNES, ALEXANDRA
    ; HIMMEL, CHLOE
Subject: Re: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

Here to support as well only if helpful thx

From: JANKOWICZ, NINA <
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 4:25:11 PM
To: WATERS, ERIN <
    ; ESPINOSA, MARSHA
    ; PECK, SARAH <
    ; Clemens, Ruth
    ; SEIDMAN, RICKI <
    > ; MAYER, JASON
Cc: Kozev, Elizabeth <
    ; FAUSETT, ANDREW
    ; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him)
    ; DASKAL, JENNIFER <
    ; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <
    ; LLGO, ALICE <
    ; SHENKLE, ABBY
    ; CARNES, ALEXANDRA
    ; HIMMEL, CHLOE
Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

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Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
C:

From: WATERS, ERIN <EATWATERS5@DHS.GOV>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 4:21 PM
To: JANKOWICZ, NINA <NINA.JANKOWICZ@DHS.GOV>; PECK, SARAH <SARAH.PECK@DHS.GOV>; SEIDMAN, RICKI <RICKI.SEIDMAN@DHS.GOV>; MAYER, JASON <JASON.MAYER@DHS.GOV>
Cc: Kozey, Elizabeth <ELIZABETH.KOZEY@DHS.GOV>; FAUSETT, ANDREW <ANDREW.FAUSETT@DHS.GOV>; Fischer, Sebastian (He/Him) <SEBASTIAN.FISCHER@DHS.GOV>; DASKAL, JENNIFER <JENNIFER.DASKAL@DHS.GOV>; VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA <SAMANTHA.VINOGRAD@DHS.GOV>; Lamote, Jason <JASON.LAMOTE@DHS.GOV>; LUGO, ALICE <ALICE.LUGO@DHS.GOV>; SHENKLE, ABBY <ABBY.SHENKLE@DHS.GOV>; CARNES, ALEXANDRA <ALEXANDRA.CARNES@DHS.GOV>; HIMMEL, CHLOE <CHLOE.HIMMEL@DHS.GOV>

Subject: RE: FYSA- DGB announcement blowback

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Nina

Nina Jankowicz
Executive Director
Disinformation Governance Board
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
C: | O:

VINograd, Samantha
Sender:
Daskal, Jennifer/
Recipient:
Sent Date: 2022/04/27 18:03:03
Delivered Date: 2022/04/27 18:03:05
NINA JANKOWICZ

www.wiczipedia.com • Twitter: @wiczipedia

EXPERIENCE

WILSON CENTER
Disinformation Fellow
Washington, DC
September 2019-Present

- Testified before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on “Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories Online” to provide lawmakers with whole-of-society policy solutions to foreign interference and content moderation issues;
- Regularly briefed Members of Congress, USG, and Wilson Center staff, Board, and Global Advisory Council on technology regulation and Russian and domestic disinformation in order to raise awareness about the national security threat these challenges pose;
- Led and organized a 25-participant multilateral workshop for Members of Congress, foreign parliamentarians, and their staff on recognizing and responding to disinformation campaigns, building cross-border connections and policy proposals for counter-disinformation regulation;
- Published paper on comparative approaches to social media regulation in service of comprehensive democratic and human rights-based counter-disinformation policy;
- Researched and analyzed gendered and sexualized disinformation in the 2020 election campaign to understand disinformation’s unique effects on women’s participation in politics and public life;
- Provided expert commentary on disinformation, Ukraine, and Russia in print, on radio, and on television; served as PBS disinformation analyst during the 2020 and 2018 election periods to shape public discourse around disinformation and refocus on solutions; since 2017, published over 35 articles and op-eds; appeared on radio, television, and was quoted in news sources over 250 times.

Global Fellow & George F. Kennan Fellow
August 2017- September 2019

- Testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on “Election Interference: Ensuring Law Enforcement Is Equipped to Target Those Seeking to Do Harm” and before the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Committee on “U.S. Efforts to Counter Russian Disinformation and Malign Influence,” leading to legislative proposals on media literacy and changes in counter-disinformation funding priorities;
- Won Pulitzer Center grant to report on Russian disinformation in the 2019 Ukrainian Election;
- Completed and sold manuscript for first book, How to Lose the Information War;
- Identified and analyzed trends, policies, and strategies regarding Russian disinformation for briefings to the highest levels of government.

UKRAINIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Fulbright-Clinton Public Policy Fellow
Kyiv, Ukraine
September 2016-July 2017

- Served as advisor to the Spokesperson, Press Service, and Policy Office of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on strategic communications and countering disinformation;
- Prepared op-eds, statements, talking points, blogs, and briefing materials for the Spokesperson and the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Liaised and coordinated with foreign policy advisors across the Ukrainian government and from allied governments to formulate and implement a rebranding campaign for Ukraine;
- Researched and published a policy paper on Western support of and coordination around European anti-disinformation initiatives.
THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE
Government Relations and Communications Officer
Washington, DC
November 2015-July 2016

- Coordinated a team to craft Congressional outreach and communications policy for the Institute;
- Conceptualized and carried out social media campaigns, including for launches of events and initiatives;
- Led an International Women’s Day social media campaign (#NotTheCost) that became a trending topic on Twitter and produced a video viewed over 60,000 times on Facebook, resulting in increased awareness of online misogyny and its effect on women’s democratic participation;
- Wrote and pitched opinion pieces for NDI’s senior staff; Wrote and edited featured stories for NDI’s printed materials, website, and social media properties.

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE
Eurasia Program Officer
Washington, DC
2013-2015

- Developed and managed over $6 million/year in grants supporting NDI’s democracy assistance to Russia and Belarus, leading a fast-paced, multi-continent team;
- Designed programs; wrote and edited periodic reports and other publicly distributed materials. Provided analysis of regional political developments to NDI executives;
- Organized public events and private meetings with high-level stakeholders in the DC policy community and abroad in order to coordinate responses to Russian “undesirable foreign organization” policy;
- Supervised project assistant; managed two field offices composed of 10-15 local and expatriate staff.

EDUCATION

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, School of Foreign Service
Master of Arts in Russian and East European Studies
Washington, DC
May 2013
Departmental scholarship, Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) and Title VIII Award recipient.
Thesis: The Effect of the Eastern Partnership Program on Polish-Russian Bilateral Relations

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Russian, magna cum laude
Bryn Mawr, PA
May 2011
Thesis: The Influence of the Catholic Church on Polish Anti-Communist Movements

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Academic and Policy Papers
- How to Lose the Information War: Russia, Fake News, and the Future of Conflict (Bloomsbury, July 2020)
- “Avoiding the Band-Aid Effect in Institutional Responses to Disinformation and Hybrid Threats,” Alliance for Securing Democracy, German Marshall Fund of the United States, August 2019
- “The Disinformation Vaccination,” The Wilson Quarterly, January 31, 2018
- “Defining and Mitigating Gendered and Sexualized Disinformation,” The Wilson Center, forthcoming
Newspaper and Magazine Articles

- The New York Times
  “Republicans Spin Impeachment While Ukrainians Suffer,” January 30, 2020
  “Russian Trolls Are Only Part of the Problem,” January 25, 2018
  “The Only Way to Defend Against Russia’s Information War,” September 25, 2017

- The Washington Post
  “No matter who wins the election, disinformation will still poison our democracy,” October 28, 2020
  “Yes, Trump released the aid to Ukraine. But the damage was already done.,” November 15, 2019
  “Five myths about Ukraine,” September 26, 2019
  “It’s time to start regulating Facebook,” November 15, 2018
  “Why dictators love Facebook,” April 13, 2018
  “Our biggest mistake in the fight against fake news,” March 31, 2017

- The Atlantic
  “Trump’s Version of Poll-Watching Sounds Like Thuggery,” October 7, 2020
  “Estonia Already Lives Online—Why Can’t the United States?,” May 27, 2020
  “Ukraine’s Election is an All-Out Disinformation Battle,” April 17, 2019

- WIRED
  “Facebook’s Kill Switch Solves the Wrong Problem,” August 21, 2020
  “Facebook Groups are Destroying America,” with Cindy Otis, June 17, 2020

- POLITICO Magazine
  “How an Anti-Trump Flash Mob Found Itself in the Middle of Russian Meddling,” July 5, 2020
  “The Ukrainian President Isn’t Trump’s Stooge,” September 26, 2019

- The New Republic
  “Available in Helsinki: the Fate of Eastern Europe,” July 13, 2018
  “At What Point Can We Say Trump Is Sabotaging Russia Policy?,” March 28, 2018

SELECT PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, MISSIONS, AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- Board Member, Zinc Network, Open Information Partnership (London, UK, January 2020-Present)
- Advisory Board Member, CSIS Project on Foreign Disinformation (Washington, DC, 2019-2020)
- Keynote Speaker, Public Relations Society of America, October 2020
- Keynote Speaker, Yale University Human Rights Workshop, February 2020
- Speaker, Government of Canada, Adversarial Intent Symposium, November 2019
- Keynote Speaker, America House Vienna/US Embassy Vienna, October 2019
- Speaker, Canadian Department of National Defense Guest Speaker Program, June 2019
- Panelist, “National Security Counter-Disinformation Conference,” UK Cabinet Office, Oct 2018
- Panelist, Social Science Research Council/Stanford University Workshop, April 2018
- Panelist, Wilton Park/UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Conference on Computational Propaganda, March 2018
- Short-term Election Observer, OSCE/ODIHR Mission to Russian Presidential Elections, March 2018
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/DELIBERATIVE

DHS Disinformation Governance Board Charter
DHS Disinformation Governance Board Charter
Disinformation Governance Board Rollout
Talking Points
Disinformation Governance Board Rollout
Talking Points
Disinformation Governance Board Rollout
Talking Points
January 31, 2022

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Robert Silvers
Under Secretary
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

Jennifer Daskal
Acting Principal Deputy General Counsel

SUBJECT: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Purpose: To obtain your approval of the charter for the Disinformation Governance Board.

Background: On September 29, 2021, you directed headquarters and Component leadership to pursue a governance board model to coordinate efforts to counter mis-, dis-, and mal-information (MDM) across the Department. You emphasized the need for clarity as to the Department’s policies, standards, and best practices related to MDM work. You also concluded that operational efforts to counter MDM should largely be carried out by Components, which would be responsible for their respective mission areas subject to the oversight of the governance board.

Based on that guidance, we developed the attached charter for a DHS Disinformation Governance Board (“the Board”) to execute this critical work. The Board will ensure Departmental efforts to counter MDM are coordinated, deconflicted, and harmonized. The Board’s primary roles are to develop and support the implementation of best practices, policies, and protocols that support the identification, assessment, response, and resilience to MDM threats, and that do so in a way that ensures respect for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. The Board will also support and coordinate, in conjunction with the relevant Components, MDM work with other departments and agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental actors. In addition, the Board will support research and development efforts to understand the MDM threat to homeland security.

The Board will be co-chaired by representatives of the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY) and the Office of the General Counsel. Members will include components engaged in

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1 This model is presented as Option 2 in the September 13, 2021 memorandum "Organizing DHS Efforts to Counter Disinformation."
counter-MDM activities or that provide oversight and support for such activities. Members will be represented by the principal or deputy for their respective Component/Offices.

The Board will meet no less than once per quarter for the first two years of its existence. It will be supported by a Steering Group, consisting of representatives designated by each Member. A senior official from within PLCY will serve as Executive Director for the Board and Chair of the Steering Group, to be supported by an Executive Secretariat comprised of staff detailed or assigned to PLCY. As we build, we may enlist your office's support in obtaining detailees or other staffing.

The Charter has been coordinated with all DHS components that will be Members of the Board.

For your awareness, we attach a copy of the MDM Playbook that PLCY, together with components, developed for countering MDM in a unified way across the Department in the context of the current situation in Ukraine. We are enthusiastic about the further work that the Disinformation Governance Board can accomplish.

**Timeliness:** We request your signature of the charter as soon as practicable.
Subject: Disinformation Governance Board Charter
Page 3

Recommendation: Approve the charter for the Disinformation Governance Board.

Approve/date ______ Disapprove/date ______

2/4/22

Modify/date ______ Needs discussion/date ______

Attachments:
A. Disinformation Governance Board Charter
B. Ukraine MDM Playbook
C. ‘Organizing DHS Efforts to Counter Disinformation’ (September 13, 2021)
DHS Disinformation Governance Board
Charter

Section 1. Purpose

The DHS Disinformation Governance Board ("Board") will guide and support the Department's efforts to address mis-, dis-, and mal-information that threatens homeland security ("MDM"). Whereas Department Components will lead on operational responses to MDM in their relevant mission spaces, the Board will ensure DHS efforts are coordinated, deconflicted, and harmonized, both within DHS and across the interagency, to ensure efficiency, unity of effort, and promotion of applicable compliance and best practices.

The Board will focus on the following four cross-functional lines of effort to counter MDM, many of which are already underway ("lines of effort"); (1) identifying MDM ("Identification"); (2) assessing and analyzing the risk that such MDM poses to homeland security ("Risk Assessment"); (3) responding to these MDM threats ("Response"); and (4) building resilience to MDM ("Building Resilience").

With respect to each of these lines of effort, the Board will develop and support the implementation of governance policies and protocols that, among other issues, protect privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties; harmonize and support coordination with other departments and agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations; and support research and development efforts to assess and combat MDM.

Section 2. Members

The Board will be co-chaired by representatives of the Office for Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY) and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC). Standing Board members will be representatives of the following DHS Components: the Management Directorate (MGMT); Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A); Science and Technology Directorate (S&T); Privacy Office (PRIV); Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL); Office of Public Affairs (OPA); Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Representatives shall be the Principal or Deputy for their respective Component. Other Components may be invited to either join the Board or participate on an ad hoc basis, as appropriate and needed.

Section 3. Structure

The Board will be supported by a Steering Group, which will consist of a representative from each Component participating in the Board. Each representative will be selected by their respective Board member.
The Board co-chairs will designate a DHS senior official to serve as the Executive Director for the Board and Chair of the Steering Group. The Executive Director will be detailed or assigned to PLCY, where they will be supported by an Executive Secretariat for the Board comprising staff detailed or assigned to PLCY. The Executive Director will attend and may participate in all Board meetings.

Section 4. Board Responsibilities

Components will lead on MDM-related operational responses and other efforts to counter MDM in their relevant mission spaces. The Board will serve as the central forum in the Department to ensure consistent governance and coordination of such efforts, and adherence to applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory authorities and obligations.

The Board’s initial responsibilities will include a review of existing MDM governance policies and practices across the Department, including:

- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards to ensure compliance with applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory obligations;
- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards to ensure appropriate privacy and civil rights and civil liberties protections;
- policies, procedures, practices, plans, and standards for interactions with the private, nonprofit, and academic sectors; and,
- relevant procurement policies and practices.

Based, in part, on the findings from its initial review, the Board will be responsible for developing MDM-related guidance, best practices, and recommendations regarding:

- compliance with applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory obligations;
- standards for and implementation of appropriate privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections;
- procurement guidelines for contracting or funding third parties to support the Department’s MDM efforts;
- grant funding and cooperative agreements;
- development and implementation of new technological and data management tools; and,
- any other applicable guidance, best practices, and recommendations to guide the aforementioned four lines of effort.

The Board also will coordinate, deconflict, and harmonize departmental efforts to address MDM, including by:

- receiving regular and routine updates from DHS Components, the Intelligence Community, and other interagency partners on MDM;
- harmonizing and deconflicting activities by DHS Components regarding the lines of effort;
- harmonizing, deconflicting, and coordinating, in conjunction with relevant Components, the Department’s external engagement regarding MDM;
serving as the Department's internal and external point of contact for coordination with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, the private sector, and non-governmental actors regarding MDM; and,

serving as the Department's internal and external point of contact for receiving, coordinating, responding to, and interacting with interagency partners, including the Executive Office of the President, for policy matters generally related to mis-, dis-, and mal-information, but not related to the performance of intelligence activities.

Section 5. Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

The co-chairs of the Board will:

- convene the Board as needed;
- approve the agenda for Board meetings;
- preside over Board meetings;
- approve summaries of conclusions reached during the Board meetings;
- communicate Board decisions and activities to the Secretary and other DHS leadership, as appropriate;
- represent the Board to external audiences; and,
- take all other actions necessary and proper for the execution of the Board's responsibilities.

The Board Members will:

- represent the perspectives of their respective Components at Board meetings;
- review any proposals submitted to the Board; and,
- ensure that their respective Components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

The Executive Director will:

- propose agenda items and discussion topics for the Board following Steering Group review;
- communicate the positions taken at the Steering Group concerning proposals before the Board;
- propose summaries of conclusion for each Board and Steering Group meeting;
- implement and execute Board decisions through the Steering Group;
- supervise the activities of the Executive Secretariat; and,
- represent the Steering Group and, where appropriate and in coordination with the co-chairs, the Department to external audiences on MDM-related matters.

The Steering Group Members will:

- represent the perspectives of their respective Components at Steering Group meetings;
- review and discuss any proposals to be submitted to the Board;
- communicate their considerations of Board proposals to their respective Board Members, the Executive Director, and other members of the Steering Group;
review and approve summaries of conclusions of Steering Group meetings; and,
subject to the direction and guidance of their respective Board Members, help ensure that
their respective Components implement, execute, and follow Board decisions.

Section 6. Processes & Procedures

The Board will meet regularly at the discretion of the co-chairs and no less than once per quarter
for the first two years of the Board’s existence. The Steering Group will meet at the discretion of
the Board or Executive Director. Issues raised and proposals submitted to the Board will be
resolved by consensus to the greatest extent possible. Where there is a disagreement amongst the
Board members, the Board will resolve the matter before it by majority vote. In the absence of
consensus, any Board member may elevate, in the form of a written memorandum, an issue to
the Secretary or Deputy Secretary where they believe that a decision made by the Board
implicates their statutory or other assigned authorities.

The Steering Group is not a voting body. Instead, its members will discuss all issues brought
before it and make their recommendations to the Board. Steering Group members will support
the development of consensus recommendations to the Board to the greatest extent possible.

Section 7. Relationship to Other Departmental Governance Bodies

The Board will serve as the departmental forum for governance of DHS policies, plans,
procedures, standards, and activities pertaining to MDM that threatens homeland security. As
such, all DHS-wide or Component-specific proposals for funding related to efforts to counter
MDM should be appropriately coordinated with the Board, including in advance of submitting
any final funding proposals. Matters raised before the Board may implicate other departmental
governance fora already in existence. Where that occurs, the Board will coordinate its activities
with those respective fora through the Executive Director.

Section 8. Effective Date

This charter will go into effect when signed by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Section 9. Signature

Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Date
Feb. 24, 2022