

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Advisory Council Meeting – Open Session

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

September 29, 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11:23 a.m. to 2:06 p.m.

The meeting of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) was convened on September 29, 2015 from 11:23 a.m. to 2:06 p.m. at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open to members of the public under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), P.L. 92-463 and 5 U.S.C. § 552b.

The following individuals were in attendance:

HSAC Members

Judge William Webster, <i>Chair</i>	Ms. Carie Lemack
Commissioner Bill Bratton, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Mr. Wilson “Bill” Livingood
Mr. Stephen Adegbite	Mr. John Magaw
Admiral Thad Allen	Mr. David A. Martin
Hon. Ron Barber	Mr. Jeffrey “Jeff” Miller
Mr. Richard Danzig	Mr. Jeff Moss
Ms. Elaine C. Duke	Mr. Ned Norris, Jr.
Mr. Marshall Fitz	Ms. Farah Pandith
Mr. Paul Goldenberg (via telephone)	Mr. John Pistole
Hon. Elizabeth “Liz” Holtzman	Mr. Robert Rose
Hon. Jim Jones	Mr. Ali Soufan
Ms. Juliette Kayyem	Mr. Paul Stockton
Mr. Gary Kelly	Mr. John Chaussee (proxy for Gary Kelly)

Department Leadership and Other Attendees

Alejandro Mayorkas, Deputy Secretary, DHS
Christian P. Marrone, Chief of Staff, DHS
Russ Deyo, Under Secretary for Management, DHS
Suzanne P. Spaulding, Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, DHS
General Francis X. Taylor, Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, DHS
Brodi Kotila, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, DHS
R. Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
Brian Kamoie, Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Michael G. Masters, Executive Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Cook County, Illinois

Welcome by HSAC Leadership

William Webster, Chair of the HSAC, called the open session of the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m. The members introduced themselves. Chair Webster acknowledged HSAC Executive Director Sarah Morgenthau and Vice-Chair Bratton.

Vice-Chair Bratton began by saying he felt honored to serve on the Council, and praised the work being done by the group.

CBP Integrity Advisory Panel Progress Report and Discussion

R. Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner, CBP, began the discussion with the HSAC members with stating that Secretary Jeh Johnson has granted the agency's Office of Internal Affairs law enforcement authority with the ability to investigate allegations of corruption and excessive use of force. CBP currently has 120 internal investigators and is working on a plan that will allow more hiring. The internal affairs office is now led by former Metropolitan Police Department Deputy Chief Matt Klein. Since then, CBP has issued an integrity and personal accountability strategy to all employees.

CBP has publicly released a report by the Police Executive Research Forum, a nonprofit organization, on the use of force. CBP has completely revised its use of force policy. The new policy stresses the preservation of human life and both the safety and security of personnel and innocent individuals. A new training program created from the new policy emphasizes scenario-based decision-making and the use of less lethal technology.

The Commissioner passed on the Secretary's encouragement for CBP to be more open with the press and nongovernmental organizations. Within two hours of a serious incident, CBP will issue an acknowledgement of the incident occurring and, within 24 hours, a command level individual will host a press conference.

CBP has established a complaints process through its website. The site includes information in Spanish and four bilingual individuals have been hired to staff the complaints process.

Member Jones asked the Commissioner to comment on the body camera issue. The Commissioner said body cameras were valuable, but they tended to last about 90 days in the environments CBP agents normally work in. The agency is looking for ways to improve the quality and extend the life of the cameras.

Member Barber said he welcomed CBP's new policy of openness with the press. Member Martin asked if the new efforts with internal affairs were having an effect. The Commissioner said he thought CBP was making headway in building trust with local prosecutors and law enforcement.

Member Moss asked how many more internal investigators CBP wanted to hire. New York Police Department Commissioner Bratton stated that for their 52,000 employees, they have 600

personnel assigned to the internal affairs function. The CBP Commissioner said there was a workload staffing model, but that he would prefer between 400 and 550 new investigators.

DHS Grant Review Task Force Discussion

Brian Kamoie, Assistant Administrator of FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate, provided a status report to the members and introduced his presentation with stating DHS grant programs provide about \$2.3 billion a year to 56 primary grantees and thousands of sub-grantees including state, local, territorial and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and ports and transit agencies.

The Task Force issued two preliminary recommendations to FEMA at the last HSAC in-person meeting on May 21, 2015. The first recommendation called for DHS/FEMA to encourage grant recipients to purchase equipment from federal contracts or use federal schedules as a similar timeline for purchasing. Assistant Administrator Kamoie said FEMA is currently encouraging recipients to follow the first recommendation where it is permissible by state and local procurement laws. The second recommendation was to ensure grant recipients were aware of best practices through a web-based tool. He confirmed that DHS has a number of mechanisms to share such information, including the Lessons Learned Information System, Homeland Security Digital Library storing case studies, and a toolkit already provided to all grantees.

The Task Force will evaluate DHS on six action items on issues including standardizing assessments, de-conflicting grant life cycles, reviewing current policies and procedures imposed by grantees on sub-grantees, and developing better two-way communication between DHS and grant recipients.

Member Pistole asked if there were any noticeable recent trends within the grant programs. Assistant Administrator Kamoie replied that more fiscal discipline by FEMA and grant recipients has led to a reduction in unspent grant money from \$8.6 billion to less than \$1 billion.

Member Miller asked if any controls or restrictions had been put in place to require better regional coordination. Assistant Administrator Kamoie mentioned the creation of Urban Area working groups and the requirement that grantees participate in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Member Holtzman expressed concern that DHS grants could facilitate the militarization of equipment by police departments based on the recent events. Assistant Administrator Kamoie assured her that these funds do not allow the purchase of ammunition or weaponry, and that the Administration has worked closely with law enforcement and other stakeholders to implement the President's Executive Order on equipment and grant support to local law enforcement.

Michael Masters, a Co-Chair of the Grant Review Task Force, said the Task Force is continuing its outreach with grant communities. Since it began, the Task Force has worked with various

entities within FEMA and DHS to better understand particular grant programs.

Mr. Masters continued announcing that Dr. Ned Norris of the Tohono O'odham Nation will spearhead the engagement and outreach with tribal nations and facilitate issues related to tribes and their experiences with the preparedness grant programs.

The work of the Task Force has been divided into three subtaskings to focus its efforts on specific areas of the tasking. The subtaskings address: What are the outcomes the grant process are intended to achieve? What mechanisms are best suited to achieving the desired outcomes? How does a whole community approach impact this effort?

Foreign Fighter Task Force Subcommittee Report Discussion

Francis X. Taylor, the Department's Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, and Dr. Brodi Kotila, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, led the discussion. Under Secretary Taylor began by stating that one of the report's recommendations called for robust leadership engagement and Secretary Johnson has reorganized the Counterterrorism Advisory Board (CTAB) to address these recommendations. The CTAB, which includes the senior leadership of the Department and its Components, meets weekly on a range of issues concerning the Department, particularly aviation security, cybersecurity, border security, and preventing terrorist attacks.

The DHS strategy to implement the Task Force's recommendations relies primarily on an exchange of intelligence and information among Federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and international partners. This includes a strategy for identifying foreign fighters and individuals who express interest in attacking the U.S. Homeland, improving the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, and sharing secret and unclassified information with state and local partners.

Under Secretary Taylor appreciates the Task Force's recommendations on DHS's data framework. The Department has many disparate data sets, most of which do not talk to each other, diminishing the ability to use data analytics to find intelligence and other important leads. The Secretary and Deputy Secretary support the integration of 22 data sets into a framework and a general recommendation by the Task Force to add more sets by the end of FY2016.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kotila spoke about the Task Force's recommendations on countering violent extremism. The Task Force's report recognized the importance of empowering local communities to partake in early detection, prevention, and intervention, calling for DHS to assist with building trust and security between law enforcement and community leaders at the local level as well as improve research and training efforts and identify best practices.

Dr. Kotila noted that the Department appreciates the report, and noted that Secretary Johnson recently issued an internal memo entitled "Building Community Partnerships to Counter Violent Extremism," which addresses many of the recommendations from the Foreign Fighter Task

Force. One of the most important changes will be the consolidation of Department resources into a new office to support community-based efforts to counter violent extremism. DHS will build on existing field-based community engagement through the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and DHS components. The new office will develop a digital engagement strategy to support innovative practices. DHS intends to review its grant programs and make funds more accessible to support community-based efforts to counter violent extremism. The Science and Technology Directorate will work with the new office to identify research and development gaps for these efforts. Also, FEMA and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center will enhance training for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement to help them support community efforts to counter violent extremism. The Director of the new office will provide a progress report on these and other efforts to the Secretary annually. The Secretary has tasked the HSAC to establish a subcommittee that will focus on efforts to counter violent extremism.

Member Pandith asked whether the new office plans to engage with partners in Europe, how large the Department's FY2017 budget would be to address violent extremism, and if it would be concerned with threats that may emerge down the road, rather than threats already known. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kotila answered that DHS representatives regularly engage with our international counterparts to discuss efforts to counter violent extremism, and noted that DHS has already been engaged with Europe and other countries overseas. The office's budget is under review.

Member Goldenberg, one of the Task Force co-chairs, stressed the importance of making sure state and local law enforcement officers are properly equipped to deal with these threats.

Member Rose asked how the Department was dealing with clearance issues. Under Secretary Taylor estimated 90 percent of the relevant data was unclassified and that the Department was trying to keep the classified label off anything that did not need it.

Member Lemack asked how DHS planned to engage other organizations and provide communities necessary resources to support efforts to counter violent extremism. She also asked whether DHS would share information on effective community partnerships with those organizations. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kotila said DHS is supporting efforts to build tools to assess the impact of programs designed to counter violent extremism and build community resilience, and to make those tools available to community groups.

Swearing-In of New Council Members

Executive Director Morgenthau introduced Alejandro Mayorkas, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Deputy Secretary Mayorkas swore in the new members of HSAC: Robert Rose, John Pistole, Marshall Fitz, and Jeffrey Miller.

DHS Employee Task Force Report Discussion

Russ Deyo, Under Secretary for Management, led the discussion. According to the 2015 Federal Employee View Point Survey, the engagement index for DHS employees decreased by one percent while engagement government-wide increased by one percent. Under Secretary Deyo voiced leadership's disappointment in the results; however, they are not discouraged. Under Secretary Deyo pointed out that several DHS component agencies and offices matched or exceeded the government-wide engagement increase, while other agencies appear to have stabilized. He added that survey results reveal 85 percent of DHS employees recognize their work is important and are willing to put in the extra effort.

Under Secretary Deyo confirmed there will be a fully-integrated, Department-wide employee engagement strategy. The strategy will have three pillars of focus: selecting and cultivating high-performing leaders, developing excellent leaders at all levels, and communicating in a way that connects and motivates the workforce. In addition, every component DHS office will implement a customized engagement plan. DHS leadership will provide the offices with overarching support and guidance, fill in gaps when necessary, and track and report progress as part of the priorities set by the engagement program.

DHS is creating a new position for a Chief Learning and Engagement Officer. This person will serve as the senior accountable official and will have dedicated resources and staff at his or her disposal. The job has been posted, and applicants are under consideration.

Member Thad Allen noted that DHS has experienced challenging labor-management relations and that a focus of efforts be the improvement of these relationships. Member Duke observed that the engagement and involvement of career Senior Executive Service (SES) members is critical to enhancing employee engagement. Member Pistole said part of the challenge is recognizing the difficult mission DHS deals with on a daily basis. Member Magaw pointed out the need to engage career SES in efforts to improve morale.

Member Moss asked if the Department was tracking satisfaction for employees versus contractors and if there was a way to identify low performers.

Under Secretary Deyo said DHS is concerned with both, but that the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey focused solely on federal employees.

Cybersecurity Subcommittee Roll-Out

This new Subcommittee is co-chaired by Member Adegbite and Member Moss and vice-chaired by Member Stockton and Member Kayyem. The Secretary has tasked the Subcommittee to focus on incident response and coordination with state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities. The Subcommittee will report on incident response in six to nine months, and on coordination in nine to twelve.

Member Thad Allen recommended visits to Centers of Excellence within the Department.

Member Pistole stressed the importance of layered defenses across the board, a risk and resilience based approach. Suzanne Spaulding, Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, said she was excited and grateful to the Subcommittee for its undertaking.

Member Holtzman asked if the Subcommittee was concerned with ensuring various agencies had mechanisms in place to respond to cybersecurity incidents.

Member Moss said he intended to get clarity on DHS authorities, roles, and responsibilities for appropriately informing the Subcommittee's efforts.

Public Session Ends

Executive Director Morgenthau adjourned the open session of the meeting at 2:06 p.m., and the Council returned to closed session.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Advisory Council Meeting – Closed Sessions

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

September 29, 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Closed Session: Morning Session

10:00 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.

HSAC Chairman Judge William Webster and Vice Chair Bill Bratton welcomed the HSAC Members to the meeting, and brought the morning closed session to order at 10:00 a.m.

Christian Marrone, Chief of Staff with the Department of Homeland Security, provided the members with an update on employee morale and the current efforts to raise morale.

Roy Bush, National Terrorism Advisory System Coordinator, provided the members with a national terrorism briefing focused on plans to counter violent extremism.

Judge Webster adjourned the morning session at 11:05 a.m.

Closed Session: Afternoon Session

2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

HSAC Chairman Judge William Webster brought the afternoon closed session to order at 2:15 p.m.

Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas provided the members with an update on the current issues surrounding the Department of Homeland Security.

Andy Ozment, Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity & Communications, provided the members with a briefing focused on cyber threats against the homeland.

Peter Neffenger, Administrator for the Transportation Security Administration, provided the members with a briefing on new training and equipment regarding aviation security.

Judge Webster adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

From:	White House Press Office (b)(6)
To:	"Morgenthau, Sarah </O= (b)(6)
Subject:	FACT SHEET: Unprecedented U.S.-ASEAN Relations
Date:	2016/02/12 15:13:47
Type:	Note

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2016

FACT SHEET: Unprecedented U.S.-ASEAN Relations

Engagement with Southeast Asia, a strategically important, economically dynamic region at the heart of the Asia-Pacific, is a central pillar of the U.S. Rebalance to Asia. Sitting astride some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is strategically important to U.S. interests, and is a key partner in addressing regional and global challenges. Collectively, the ten member states of ASEAN comprise the third-largest economy in Asia and the seventh-largest in the world, with a combined GDP of \$2.4 trillion. The ASEAN region is young and dynamic, with a combined population of 632 million people-- more than 65 percent of whom are below the age of 35. The United States and ASEAN share a strong interest in building and sustaining a rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific, one in which countries can pursue their objectives peacefully and in accordance with international law and norms.

Recognizing ASEAN's diplomatic, economic, and strategic importance to the United States, the Obama Administration has invested heavily in its relationship with ASEAN. In 2009, his first year in office, President Obama became the first U.S. president to meet all ten ASEAN leaders as a group; he has met ASEAN leaders a total of six times. He has made seven separate visits to the ASEAN region, more than twice the number of any previous U.S. president.

In 2009, the United States became a party to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia -- the bedrock diplomatic document of ASEAN -- opening the door for the United States to join the East Asia Summit (EAS). President Obama participated in the EAS for the first time in 2011 and has attended three of the four Summits since. With strong U.S. support, the EAS has become the Asia-Pacific's premier leaders-level forum on political and security issues, helping to advance a rules-based order and spur cooperation on pressing challenges, including maritime security, countering violent extremism, and transnational cyber cooperation. Secretary Kerry, Secretary of Commerce Pritzker, and other senior U.S. officials have also significantly expanded their engagement with ASEAN leaders, both in regional fora and through visits to ASEAN countries.

In 2010, the United States became the first non-ASEAN country to establish a dedicated diplomatic mission and appoint a resident Ambassador to the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

The Obama Administration also launched the Lower Mekong Initiative in 2009, creating a partnership between the United States and the countries of the Mekong sub-region -- Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam -- to support sustainable and responsible development, and to narrow the development gap by building capacity in ASEAN's least developed members.

Since 2010, the Obama Administration has provided \$4 billion in development assistance to ASEAN countries. This assistance directly supports our strategic Rebalance to Asia by promoting regional stability and sustainable development.

The United States is strengthening people-to-people links across ASEAN. In December 2013, President Obama launched the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), a network of people-to-people ties that will benefit U.S.-ASEAN relations for generations to come. YSEALI now engages more than 60,000 young leaders (aged 18-35) from across ASEAN and the United States. The initiative provides training, fellowships, and funding opportunities, as well as a platform to address regional issues, including entrepreneurship, environmental protection, and education. The United States is also working with ASEAN to strengthen women's leadership in the region by supporting emerging women leaders in the public and private sectors. In 2012, the United States launched the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Initiative, bringing academics from ASEAN countries to study in the United States, which adds to the more than 700 U.S. Fulbright scholarships awarded to ASEAN members annually. In 2014, the United States and ASEAN launched the Science and Technology Fellows Program, which connects young scientists in ASEAN with opportunities to solve real world challenges, like biodiversity, climate change, and alternative fuels. Today, three million Americans visit the ASEAN region annually and visitors from ASEAN countries spend over \$4 billion in the United States each year.

Our economic ties are strong, and growing stronger. ASEAN countries are collectively the United States' fourth-largest trading partner, with GDP growth that has exceeded the global average every year for the past 15 years. Trade in goods expanded 5 percent in 2015 and now tops \$226 billion. During the Obama Administration, trade in goods with ASEAN countries has expanded by 55 percent. More than 500,000 American jobs are now supported by trade in goods and services with ASEAN. U.S. companies have been the leading source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in ASEAN. With a stock of over \$226 billion, U.S. FDI in ASEAN has nearly doubled since 2008. FDI from ASEAN countries in the United States was \$24.2 billion in 2014.

We have expanded our trade ties with the region. Four ASEAN countries -- Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam -- are part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We also have Trade and Investment Framework Agreements or other formal trade dialogues with nine of the ten ASEAN countries and separately with ASEAN as an institution. These agreements and dialogues provide a mechanism to address trade and investment issues and deepen our economic ties. The United States collaborated with ASEAN countries to create the ASEAN Single Window, which facilitates customs processing and reinforces an efficient regional trade environment.

We have strengthened defense ties throughout the ASEAN region. Under the Obama Administration, we have significantly expanded our defense cooperation with ASEAN countries.

Since 2010, the Secretary of Defense has attended every ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+), an important forum for advancing security cooperation. In 2011, the United States became the first country to establish a dedicated Military Advisor/Liaison Officer at the U.S. Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta. The Secretary of Defense hosted his ASEAN counterparts in the United States for the first time for the U.S.-ASEAN Defense Forum in Hawaii in 2014 to discuss important strategic issues. In 2015, the United States announced a new Technical Advisor to ASEAN to support increased information-sharing on transregional threats. ASEAN members are important partners in global security efforts, including the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL (Malaysia, Singapore) and counter-piracy off the Horn of Africa (Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand).

We are partnering to address a growing number of shared global challenges. The United States and ASEAN pledged more than a year ago to achieve a new global climate change agreement, which we did with the rest of the world in Paris last December. The United States and ASEAN cooperate closely to create a low-carbon economic growth trajectory and build more climate resilient societies. U.S. assistance for climate change adaptation in Cambodia and the Philippines has strengthened the capacity of local authorities to mitigate the impacts of destabilizing disasters. In Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, U.S. climate change mitigation programs are promoting environmentally sustainable development strategies. The United States works with ASEAN institutions, like the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance, to improve disaster response coordination in support of the 'One ASEAN, One Response' initiative.

The ASEAN region has been at peace for 40 years, and ASEAN plays an active and positive role in the region and in the world. ASEAN countries collectively provide 4,866 personnel to U.N. peacekeeping efforts. Fifteen years ago, many feared that Southeast Asia would be the "second front" in the fight against terror. Instead, Southeast Asian nations have made major strides in dealing with terrorism, though it remains a threat as elsewhere.

We are committed to working together with ASEAN to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda around the world and in the region. Our economic development and governance programs in countries such as the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia have helped to generate jobs, increase incomes, and create a more reliable regulatory environment. The U.S. is also partnering with ASEAN to advance the Global Health Security Agenda. By accelerating capacity to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to infectious disease threats, we are saving lives and advancing peace and security.

Our investments in health and education in seven ASEAN countries are increasing prospects for expanded and more inclusive economic growth. The United States will continue to partner with ASEAN countries like the Philippines and Indonesia that are promoting good governance and transparency across the region, including through the Open Government Partnership. Our support for democracy programs in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Burma are building institutions that foster rules-based order and respect for human rights.

ASEAN's leadership is central to building and sustaining a rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific. Under the Obama Administration, the United States has strongly backed ASEAN's

central role at the heart of the evolving institutional architecture of the Asia-Pacific region, as demonstrated by our commitment to institutions like the EAS and ADMM+. ASEAN's leadership of regional institutions is founded on respect for international law and norms and peaceful resolution of disputes, principles the United States shares. In 2015, ASEAN formally launched the ASEAN Community to mark nearly 50 years of integration efforts. The United States strongly supports ASEAN's effort to realize a "rules-based" Community that serves the people of ASEAN and ensures human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by helping ASEAN integrate international human rights standards into legislative and judicial processes. The ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, endorsed in November 2015, is a landmark achievement and established a framework to effectively address human trafficking and ensure protection of people throughout the region. The United States will continue to support ASEAN's leadership in ensuring full implementation of the Convention.

The United States and ASEAN are taking their relationship to a new level. In November 2015, the leaders of the United States and ASEAN formally elevated their relationship to a strategic partnership. The Sunnylands Summit -- the first U.S.-ASEAN standalone Summit in the United States and the first Summit for the ASEAN Community -- marks a new milestone in our cooperation. The U.S.-ASEAN partnership has been important in addressing shared challenges on a diverse range of issues -- from combatting terrorism and pandemic disease, to upholding international law and standards in the South China Sea and in cyberspace, to taking meaningful action on climate change, inclusive economic growth, and trafficking-in-persons. The United States is firmly committed to the Asia-Pacific and to ASEAN as an essential pillar of the region.

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From:	White House Press Office (b)(6)
To:	"Morgenthau, Sarah </O= (b)(6)
Subject:	FACT SHEET: MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL
Date:	2016/01/15 11:16:37
Type:	Note

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2016

FACT SHEET: MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

Over the last year, the 65-member Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, led by the United States, has intensified the fight to liberate ISIL-controlled territory in Iraq and Syria and has made significant progress in its campaign to degrade and destroy this abhorrent terrorist group.

As we move into 2016, President Obama and the broader Administration remain fully committed to eliminating the threat posed by ISIL and will continue to pursue a strategy that strikes ISIL at its core, degrades its networks, and constrains its prospects for expansion. We must be patient and flexible in our efforts; this is a multi-year fight and there will be challenges along the way. But we are united with our Coalition partners and are making progress together to degrade and destroy ISIL.

Background

- In the summer of 2014 ISIL had surged into Iraq, directly threatening Baghdad and Erbil, including locations where U.S. personnel were located, and calling for the systematic destruction of the Yezidi people. We witnessed atrocities, beheadings, crucifixions, and immolations. ISIL is like no terrorist threat we have confronted before.
- ISIL has not had any major strategic victories in Iraq or Syria since May 2015. In fact, with the Coalition supporting local partners on the ground, ISIL has lost approximately 40 percent of populated territory it once controlled in Iraq and more than 10 percent of the populated territory it once controlled in Syria.
- ISIL is being defeated by brave local forces in Iraq and Syria who are reclaiming and defending their villages, cities, and ultimately, their countries, with the support of the United States and our Coalition partners. ISIL's freedom of movement across borders has been significantly reduced and we are making progress in cutting supply lines between ISIL strongholds in ar-Raqqah and Mosul.

Military Efforts

- **U.S. and Coalition military efforts to degrade and destroy ISIL have ramped up significantly throughout 2015.**

- Seventeen Coalition members have joined the United States in deploying military personnel to assist the Iraqi government in building partner capacity and train, advise, and assist missions. To date Coalition partners have trained nearly 17,000 Iraqi security forces.
- Twelve Coalition members have conducted over 9,500 air strikes in Iraq and Syria, including over 630 in support of the liberation of Ramadi by Iraqi Security Forces. These airstrikes have taken out over 3,450 ISIL vehicles and tanks, over 1,120 artillery and mortar positions, 1,170 oil infrastructure components to include tanker trucks, oil storage tanks, collection points, and well heads, and more than 13,500 fighting positions, checkpoints, buildings, bunkers, staging areas and barracks, including 39 training camps, in Iraq and Syria.
- In December 2015 alone, Coalition airstrikes killed dozens of senior ISIL leaders, including external operations planners, explosives facilitators, financial emirs, and other key positions.
- Most recently, the ongoing progress in Ramadi illustrates an empowered Iraqi military working side-by-side with local Sunnis to retake their city. While there is still a great deal of work to be done to secure and hold Ramadi, the Iraqi Security Force have dealt a blow to ISIL.
- In Syria, Kurdish and Arab groups aligned against ISIL seized Kobane, Tal Abyad, al-Hawl, and the Tishreen Dam, cutting ISIL's access to all but 98 kilometers of the Turkish border and helping to isolate ar-Raqqah.
- Nineteen Coalition nations have provided supporting aircraft, including transport, surveillance, and aerial re-fueling capabilities.
- We have made significant progress in degrading ISIL's ability to benefit from energy resources. The Coalition has conducted 68 airstrikes in Operation Tidal Wave II in Syria, targeting oil infrastructure, supply lines, and hundreds of tanker trucks that transit oil directly from ISIL. These strikes have taken out key fields in Deir-ez-Zour that once accounted for more than half of ISIL's monthly oil revenue. Coalition strikes have reduced ISIL oil revenues by about 30 percent since November 2015.

Political, Stabilization and Humanitarian Efforts

- The United States continues **to support the Iraqi government's progress toward effective and inclusive governance, stabilization efforts, and reconciliation.**
 - Over a dozen Coalition partners have collectively contributed over \$50 million to the Funding Facility for Iraq Stabilization.
 - The retaking of Tikrit in April 2015 and the successful return of 90 percent of its residents to date provided valuable lessons that will guide stabilization efforts in newly liberated areas.
 - The U.S. and our Coalition partners, working with the Iraqi government, have now retrained more than a thousand Iraqi police officers to provide security in liberated areas.
- The United States also continues **to be the largest single-country donor of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, providing more than \$5.1 billion to date.**
 - In Syria, the U.S. Government has provided more than \$4.5 billion to date and USAID is providing emergency assistance to 5 million Syrians every month,

- including 4 million people inside Syria. USAID is also providing food assistance to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.
 - In Iraq, the U.S. Government has provided more than \$603 million in life-saving humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people including critically needed relief items, food, shelter, clean water, and medical services.
- The United States continues to lead the international diplomatic effort to reach a negotiated political transition that **removes Bashar al-Asad from power and ultimately leads to an inclusive government that is responsive to the needs of all Syrians**. The Asad regime's continued brutality against the Syrian people drives the influx of foreign fighters who join extremists' ranks, including ISIL. Also, the Asad regime's purchase of oil from ISIL and its unwillingness to target extremists have helped ISIL and other terrorist groups to flourish.
 - So long as Asad remains, foreign fighters will continue to flow into Syria. This is why we have brought together partners in the region, Europe, Russia, and Iran to work towards a negotiated end to the conflict in Syria.
 - Members of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) have agreed to a notional timeline for a political transition, which was unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council in December 2015.

Civilian Efforts to Counter ISIL

- The United States and our Coalition partners have made progress **stemming the flow of foreign fighters, and disrupting ISIL's propaganda machine and its financial networks**.
 - The Counter ISIL Coalition Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (WGFTF), co-led by the Netherlands and Turkey, is working with member countries to implement the obligations and recommendations set forth in UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178. Today approximately 45 countries have enacted laws or amendments to create greater obstacles for traveling into Iraq and Syria, at least 35 countries have arrested foreign terrorist fighters or aspirants, and 12 countries have successfully prosecuted foreign terrorist fighters.
 - At least 50 countries plus the United Nations now contribute foreign terrorist fighter profiles to INTERPOL, a 400 percent increase over a two-year period. Fifty-two countries are sharing foreign fighter profiles through INTERPOL's Counterterrorism Fusion Center, and the United States has bilateral arrangements with 40 international partners for sharing terrorist travel information.
 - To counter ISIL's online propaganda and recruitment network, the State Department has launched a Global Engagement Center to integrate and synchronize our communications against violent extremist groups, including ISIL and al-Qa'ida. This new center will shift focus on countering violent extremist messaging away from direct messaging and toward a growing emphasis on empowering and enabling partners, both government and non-government, across the globe.
 - The Counter ISIL Finance Group (CIFG), which the U.S. co-leads with Italy and Saudi Arabia, is an integrated part of the broader Coalition and made up of 30 members worldwide focused on disrupting ISIL financing. As part of its ongoing work, the CIFG is specifically focusing on information exchange, targeting ISIL's

oil revenues, combatting the financing of ISIL affiliates, and addressing ISIL sales of antiquities, among other topics.

- The United States chaired a special meeting of the UN Security Council with finance ministers in New York on combating ISIL finance and all forms of terrorist financing. At this meeting, Security Council finance ministers unanimously adopted a Security Council resolution that improves the international community's ability to disrupt ISIL financing and to counter the financing of terrorism more broadly.

Domestic Efforts

- Since 2014, the Department of Justice and the FBI have arrested approximately 65 individuals in ISIL-related matters.
- Domestically, since the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) last February, the United States has strengthened our efforts to prevent extremists from radicalizing and mobilizing recruits.
 - The CVE Task Force announced in January 2016 will be a permanent interagency task force hosted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with overall leadership provided by DHS and the Department of Justice, with additional staffing provided by representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies. The CVE Task Force will (1) integrate whole-of-government CVE programs and activities; (2) leverage new CVE efforts (3) conduct ongoing strategic planning; and (4) assess and evaluate CVE programs and activities.
 - The DHS Office for Community Partnerships continues to find innovative ways to support communities that seek to discourage violent extremism and undercut terrorist narratives.
- In 2015 alone, the Treasury and State Departments sanctioned more than 30 ISIL-linked senior leaders, financiers, foreign terrorist facilitators, and organizations, helping isolate ISIL from the international financial system.
- The U.S. government worked closely with Iraqi authorities to ensure that approximately 90 bank branches within ISIL-controlled territory in Iraq are completely cut off from the Iraqi and international financial systems.
- Working with the Federal Reserve and the Central Bank of Iraq, we have put in place information exchanges and safeguards to deny ISIL access to U.S. banknotes. This led to the isolation of key exchange houses within Iraq that previously had access to several million dollars. As part of this effort, the Government of Iraq has prohibited over 100 exchange houses located in ISIL-controlled territory or associated with ISIL from accessing the currency auctions, disrupting one of ISIL's primary means of accessing and moving its funds.

Over the next six months we will continue to accelerate our counter-ISIL strategy across all of our lines of effort. We will work with Coalition partners to drive out ISIL from the remaining stretch of the Turkish-Syrian border it has seized; clear and stabilize the Euphrates River Valley; cut off the remaining connections between ar-Raqqah and Mosul; increase the number of Iraqi Sunnis in the fight against ISIL by integrating them into the army, local police, and tribal mobilization structures; as well as advance the stabilization of newly liberated areas, facilitating

the safe, voluntary return of thousands of internally displaced persons and restoring local communities.

For more information on the President's strategy to fight ISIL and the work the Global Coalition is doing, please visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/isil-strategy>.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2016

**FACT SHEET: The President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget: Overview
Meeting Our Greatest Challenges**

Under the President's leadership, we have turned our economy around and created 14 million jobs. Our unemployment rate is below five percent for the first time in almost eight years. Nearly 18 million people have gained health coverage as the Affordable Care Act has taken effect. And we have dramatically cut our deficits by almost three-quarters and set our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path.

Yet while it is important to take stock of our progress, this Budget is not about looking back at the road we have traveled. It is about looking forward and making sure our economy works for everybody, not just those at the top. It is about choosing investments that not only make us stronger today, but also reflect the kind of country we aspire to be – the kind of country we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

The Budget makes critical investments in our domestic and national security priorities while adhering to the bipartisan budget agreement signed into law last fall, and it lifts sequestration in future years so that we continue to invest in our economic future and our national security. It also drives down deficits and maintains our fiscal progress through smart savings from health care, immigration, and tax reforms.

The Budget shows that the President and the Administration remain focused on meeting our greatest challenges – including accelerating the pace of innovation to tackle climate change and find new treatments for devastating diseases; giving everyone a fair shot at opportunity and economic security; and advancing our national security and global leadership – not only for the year ahead, but for decades to come.

BUILDING ON OUR ECONOMIC AND FISCAL PROGRESS

The Budget makes critical investments while adhering to the bipartisan budget agreement signed into law last fall. It lifts sequestration in 2018 and beyond so that we continue to invest in our economic future and our national security. It also drives down deficits and maintains our fiscal progress through smart savings from health care, immigration, and tax reforms.

A Record of Job Growth and Economic Expansion. Under the President's leadership, the U.S. economy has become an engine of job growth and economic expansion, outpacing other advanced economies in recovery from the Great Recession. American businesses have added 14 million jobs over the past 71 months – the longest streak of job growth on record. Our unemployment rate is below five percent for the first time in almost eight years. And the economy added 903,000 new manufacturing jobs in the last six years – the first sustained job growth in the sector since the 1990s. Nearly 18 million Americans have gained health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and our high school graduation rate is at an all-time high.

Reflecting on Our Fiscal Progress. We have made remarkable economic and fiscal progress, showing what's possible when strategic investment to grow our economy is paired with smart reforms, for example to our health care system, that address the true drivers of our long-term fiscal challenges. Since 2009, under the President's leadership, Federal deficits have fallen by nearly three-quarters – the most rapid sustained deficit reduction since just after World War II. The annual deficit in 2015 fell to 2.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the lowest level since 2007, and well below the average of the last 40 years.

Building on Our Success for a Stronger Economy. The President's Budget continues that approach, investing in America's future and laying out a path to address our greatest challenges. It builds on the bipartisan budget agreement secured last fall, adhering to the discretionary levels provided for 2017, while also putting forward paid-for mandatory investments that are critical to building durable economic growth in the future and maintaining America's edge as the leader in innovation and cutting-edge science. The Budget proposes a number of reforms – including a detailed international tax reform plan – that would modernize the business tax code to make it fairer and more efficient, and to create jobs. The Budget also finishes the job the past two bipartisan agreements started by preventing the return of harmful sequestration funding levels in 2018 and beyond, replacing the savings by closing tax loopholes and reforming tax expenditures, and with smart spending reforms.

Investing in Economic Growth While Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility. The Budget more than pays for all new investments, achieving \$2.9 trillion of deficit reduction over 10 years, from health, tax, and immigration reforms, and other proposals. The Budget includes roughly \$375 billion of health savings that grow over time and builds on the ACA with further incentives to improve quality and control health care cost growth. The Budget achieves more than \$955 billion in deficit reduction from reducing tax benefits for high-income households, helping to bring in sufficient revenues to make vital investments while also helping to meet our promises to seniors. The Budget reflects the President's support for commonsense, comprehensive immigration reform along the lines of the 2013 bipartisan Senate-passed bill, which CBO has estimated would reduce the deficit by about \$170 billion over 10 years and by almost \$1 trillion over two decades.

The Budget keeps deficits below three percent of GDP while stabilizing debt and putting it on a declining path for most of the next decade – key measures of fiscal progress – showing that investments in growth and opportunity are compatible with putting the Nation's finances on a strong and sustainable path.

INNOVATION TO FORGE A BETTER FUTURE

The Budget invests in accelerating the pace of American innovation, so we can create jobs and build the economy of the future while tackling our greatest challenges, including addressing climate change and finding new treatments and cures for devastating diseases. The Budget includes investments in:

Building a 21st Century Transportation System. The Budget invests \$320 billion over 10 years in a multi-agency initiative to build a clean transportation system for the 21st Century that speeds goods to market while reducing America’s reliance on oil, cutting carbon pollution, and strengthening our resilience to the effects of the changing climate. Overall, the 21st Century Clean Transportation Plan will increase American investments in clean transportation infrastructure by roughly 50 percent above current levels while reforming the transportation investments already being made to move America to more sustainable, low-carbon investments.

Prioritizing Research and Development. The Budget sustains the Administration’s consistent prioritization of R&D with an investment of \$152 billion for R&D overall through both discretionary and mandatory funding proposals, a four percent increase from 2016.

- **Doubling Clean Energy R&D.** Since the President took office, the Administration has made the largest investments in clean energy in American history. The Budget provides \$7.7 billion government-wide, a 20 percent increase over 2016, for fundamental and transformative clean energy R&D across 12 agencies, a first step in support of Mission Innovation, the landmark agreement currently among 20 countries to double government funding for clean energy R&D over five years.
- **Supporting Basic Research.** The Budget provides \$14.6 billion in 2017, an increase of over \$900 million over the 2016 enacted level, for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which invest in basic research – the type of R&D that is most likely to have spillover impacts to multiple endeavors and in which the private sector typically underinvests.
- **Supporting a Cancer Moonshot.** During his 2016 State of the Union Address, President Obama called on Vice President Biden to lead a new, national “Moonshot” initiative to eliminate cancer as we know it. The Budget supports this effort with a \$1 billion initiative to provide the funding necessary for researchers to accelerate the development of new cancer detection and treatments. This includes \$195 million in new cancer activities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Fiscal Year 2016, \$755

million in mandatory funds in the 2017 Budget for new cancer-related research activities at both NIH and the Food and Drug Administration, and support from other agencies such as the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

- **Advancing Biomedical Research.** The Budget provides \$33.1 billion to support biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), providing about 10,000 new and competing NIH grants that will help us better understand the fundamental causes and mechanisms of disease, like the BRAIN Initiative and Precision Medicine.
- **Revitalizing American Manufacturing.** The Budget invests in coordinated, cutting-edge manufacturing R&D, while also expanding industry-driven workforce training and providing additional resources through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help America's small manufacturers access the technology and expertise they need to expand. It includes investments to grow the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation, a national network of innovative R&D centers to help keep U.S. manufacturing in the lead on technology.
- **Creating the Industries and Jobs of the Future.** The Budget invests in R&D that can help create the industries and jobs of the future, such as supercomputing, Big Data, robotics, advanced materials, nanotechnology, and synthetic biology. In addition, the Budget makes new investments to sustain America's leading edge in the development of autonomous vehicle technologies and self-driving cars.
- **Investing in Civil Space Activities.** The Budget provides robust funding to support space exploration, monitor the Earth's weather and climate from space, develop new space technologies, and partner with the private sector to reinforce the Nation's leadership and take the next step on the journey to Mars.
- **Addressing Challenges in Agriculture through R&D.** Recognizing the importance of science and technology to meet challenges in agriculture, the Budget invests in three major areas of agricultural R&D: the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive research grants; the Agricultural Research Service intramural research; and construction and renovation of key infrastructure investments based on the Department of Agriculture's facility modernization plan.

- **Simplifying and Expanding the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit.** The Research and Experimentation (R&E) Tax Credit is an important Federal incentive for private-sector research investments, and last year, the President signed legislation to make the credit permanent and expand the incentive for R&D investments by small businesses. The Budget simplifies and expands the tax credit for companies investing in innovation.

Protecting and Expanding the Nation’s Water Supply. The Budget supports the Administration’s two-part water innovation strategy to boost water sustainability and reduce the price and energy costs of new water supply technology to increase the resilience of our Nation’s water supplies to stressors like climate change and population growth, among others.

Supporting Adoption of Clean Energy. In addition to Mission Innovation funding, the Budget provides over \$1.3 billion to accelerate the adoption of clean energy sources such as solar, wind, and low-carbon fossil fuels, and energy-efficiency technologies.

Partnering with Communities to Tackle Climate Risk. The Budget invests in programs that advance our scientific understanding of projected climate impacts, including changes in droughts, wildland fires, and coastal and inland flooding; assist communities in planning and preparing for future risks; and support risk-reduction and adaptation projects on the ground.

Protecting and Preserving Public Lands and Oceans. The Budget includes robust funding to support proven programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund that allow Federal agencies and their partners to enhance the resilience of our lands and waters, and continue to preserve and share our cultural and historical identity.

Leading Global Efforts to Cut Carbon Pollution and Enhance Climate Change Resilience.

In support of the President’s Climate Action Plan, the Budget provides \$1.3 billion to advance the goals of the Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI) through important multilateral and bilateral engagement with major and emerging economies. This amount includes \$750 million in U.S. funding for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which will help developing countries leverage public and private financing to invest in reducing carbon pollution and strengthening resilience to climate change.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

As the President stated in the 2016 State of the Union Address, one of the Nation’s key challenges is how to give everyone a fair shot at opportunity and economic security. In today’s global economy, our competitiveness depends on tapping the full potential of all Americans. To address this challenge, the Budget supports education; training and support for workers and their families; access to health care; and other investments to ensure that all Americans contribute to and benefit from our economic growth.

Improving Access to High-Quality Child Care and Early Education. High-quality child care and early education for young children support parents in the workforce and help foster healthy child development and school readiness. The Budget aims to ensure that children have access to high-quality learning starting at birth by:

- **Expanding access to quality child care for working families.** The Budget ensures that all low- and moderate-income working families with young children have access to quality, affordable child care, as opposed to the small share of children who receive this help today. Overall, this will expand access to high-quality care for more than 1.1 million additional children under age four by 2026.
- **Cutting taxes for families paying for child care with a credit of up to \$3,000 per child.** The Budget triples the maximum Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) for families with children under age five and makes the full CDCTC available to families with incomes of up to \$120,000, benefiting families with young children, older children, and dependents who are elderly or have disabilities.
- **Increasing the duration of Head Start programs, while maintaining access to Head Start.** The Budget includes \$9.6 billion for Head Start, an increase of \$434 million over 2016 enacted. Within this total, the Budget provides an additional \$292 million in 2017 to increase the number of children attending Head Start in a full school-day and -year program, which research shows is more effective than programs of shorter duration and also helps meet the needs of working parents.
- **Supporting universal preschool.** The Preschool for All initiative, in partnership with the States, provides all four-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families with access to high-quality preschool, while encouraging States to expand those programs to reach additional children from middle-class families and establish full-day kindergarten policies. The Budget increases funding for Preschool Development Grants (PDGs), which lay the groundwork for universal preschool. With the support of Federal funding made available through the PDG program, 18 States are currently developing and expanding high-quality preschool programs in targeted, high-need communities.
- **Investing in voluntary, evidence-based home visiting.** The Budget extends and expands evidence-based, voluntary home visiting programs, which enable nurses, social workers, and other professionals to connect families to services to support children's healthy development and learning.

- **Invests in early learning for children with disabilities.** The Budget provides increased funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Preschools Grants and the IDEA Infants and Families program, an increase of \$80 million compared to 2016, including funding to help identify, develop and scale-up evidence-based practices for early identification of and intervention for learning and developmental delays.

Putting All Students on a Path to College and Careers. We have made significant progress in expanding educational opportunities and we are getting results: high school graduation rates are up, drop-out rates are down, and far more students are attending college than in 2008. But there's more we must do to ensure that all children get a high-quality education that allows them to reach their full potential. The Budget focuses on providing equity and opportunity for all students in elementary and secondary education and expanding college opportunity and quality by:

- **Helping Students Prepare for College and Careers.** The Budget increases funding for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, the cornerstone of Federal efforts to ensure that all students, including poor and minority students, students with disabilities, and English learners, graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.
- **Supporting Computer Science for All.** The Budget invests \$4 billion in mandatory funding over three years for the new Computer Science for All initiative, which would support State efforts to expand access for all students to computer science instruction and programs of study. The Budget invests discretionary resources in a Computer Science for All Development Grants program for school districts to promote innovative strategies to provide high-quality instruction and other learning opportunities in computer science.
- **Providing Tuition-Free Community College for Responsible Students.** The Budget funds America's College Promise (ACP), which would create a new partnership with States to make two years of community college free for responsible students, letting students earn the first half of a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree and acquire skills needed in the workforce at no cost. America's College Promise would also provide grants to four-year HBCUs and MSIs to provide first-time low-income students, including community college transfers, with up to two years of college at zero or significantly reduced tuition.
- **Strengthening Pell Grants.** Pell Grants are central to our efforts to help low- and moderate- income students afford college. The Budget supports and encourages on-time and accelerated completion through year-round Pell availability to low-income students who have completed a full-time course load and through a \$300 increase in the maximum

Pell Grant for students who take 15 or more credits. The Budget also continues to index the grant to inflation indefinitely for future generations. The Second Chance Pell proposal expands opportunity to incarcerated individuals eligible for release with the goals of helping them get jobs and strengthen their communities.

- **Simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.** The Budget eliminates burdensome and unnecessarily complex student aid application questions to make it easier for students and families to access Federal student aid and afford a college education.
- **Simplifying and expanding education tax benefits.** The Budget streamlines and expands education tax benefits by consolidating the Lifetime Learning Credit into an expanded American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), which would be available for five years and refundable up to \$1,500; exempting Pell Grants from taxation and the AOTC calculation; and eliminating tax on student loan debt forgiveness, while repealing the complicated student loan interest deduction for new borrowers.

Helping Workers Get the Skills They Need for the 21st Century Economy. A nation’s ability to ensure a steady and consistent pipeline of highly skilled workers is one key ingredient to helping its economy grow and thrive. One of the surest paths to ensuring that the economy works for everyone is to expand access to job training and education for in-demand skills. The Budget supports this agenda by:

- **Expanding Technical Training Programs for Middle Class Jobs.** The Budget proposes a new American Technical Training Fund to provide competitive grants to support evidence-based, tuition-free job training programs in high-demand fields.
- **Expanding the Proven Learn-and-Earn Strategy of Apprenticeship.** The Budget establishes a \$2 billion mandatory Apprenticeship Training Fund to help meet the President’s goal to double the number of apprentices across the United States, giving more workers the opportunity to develop job-relevant skills while earning a paycheck.
- **Creating a Talent Compact to Keep and Attract Jobs to the United States.** The Budget includes \$3 billion in competitive funding to create more than 50 “Talent Hotspots” across the United States that would prioritize a sector and make a commitment to recruit and train the workforce to help local businesses grow and thrive, attract more jobs from overseas, and fuel the talent needs of entrepreneurs. This proposal would produce a pipeline of about half a million skilled workers over the next five years.

- **Empowering Workers, Training Providers, and Employers with Better Information on Jobs, Skills and Training.** The Budget proposes a new Workforce Data Science and Innovation Fund that would recruit to the Department of Labor (DOL) a best-in-class team to help States find new ways to use technology and data analytics to improve training programs and consumer choice. And similar to HHS's Open Health Data Initiative, DOL would partner with the Department of Commerce to develop new open source data on jobs and skills to spur the creation of new products to help match workers to better jobs.
- **Opening Doors to a First Job for More Young Americans.** The Budget invests \$5.5 billion in mandatory funding to help more than one million young people gain the work experience, skills and networks that come from having a first job.
- **Creating Pathways to High-Growth Jobs.** The Budget builds on the progress in the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by funding the core DOL WIOA formula grants at their full authorized level and by investing \$3 billion in mandatory competitive funding for regional partnerships that bring together employers, education and training providers, and workforce boards with the goal of training a half million people and placing them into jobs in high-demand sectors.
- **Investing in Health Professions Education to Improve Access to Health Care Providers and Services.** The Budget invests in growing the health care workforce, including expanding and extending funding for the National Health Service Corps through FY 2020 to increase the number of providers serving in the areas across the country that need them most.

Helping Americans Thrive in the 21st Century Economy. The Budget invests in programs that help ensure workers in the 21st century economy can balance work and family obligations, stay healthy, save for retirement, and are protected during temporary periods of unemployment and upon return to work. The Budget also supports evidence-based efforts to reduce poverty and help those who are struggling to get back on their feet.

- **Tax Reform that Promotes Growth and Opportunity.** The Budget's tax proposals support work by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without qualifying children, and creating a Second Earner Tax Credit for married couples in which both spouses work.
- **Strengthening Efforts to Help Low-Income Families Succeed.** The Budget funds proposals designed to reduce poverty, assist families in deep poverty or experiencing a financial crisis, and improve efforts to help parents find and keep jobs. These proposals

include establishing an Emergency Aid and Service Connection Grants program, strengthening the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), creating a permanent Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children program, expanding opportunity for Native American Youth, and building on current efforts to better serve Native youth.

- **Expanding Paid Leave.** The Budget encourages States to establish paid leave programs, providing more than \$2 billion for the Paid Leave Partnership Initiative to help up to five States launch paid family and medical leave programs, as well as small grants to help States and localities conduct analyses to inform the development of paid family and medical leave programs. These investments complement the President's executive actions to expand paid sick leave for employees of Federal contractors.
- **Modernizing the Unemployment Insurance Safety Net.** The Budget proposes a cost-neutral set of reforms to strengthen and modernize the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program to reflect the modern economy and workforce. These reforms ensure more hardworking Americans have access to UI if they lose a job, provide new protections for workers who take a pay cut in order to get back into work, strengthen the program's connection to work, make the program more responsive to economic downturns, and ensure State programs have enough resources to protect workers in the midst of a recession.
- **Helping All Workers Save for Retirement.** The Budget includes a package of proposals aimed at increasing access to retirement plans and increasing the portability of retirement savings and benefits. These proposals aim to ensure near-universal access to workplace retirement savings accounts and test new approaches to making retirement benefits more portable across jobs.
- **Partnering with Communities to Expand Opportunity.** Initiatives such as Promise Zones, Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, Partnership for Sustainable Communities, and Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth have supported holistic, local responses to pressing issues. The Budget continues the Administration's place-based approach to coordinating programs that help create jobs and opportunity, promote resilience and sustainability, and implement local visions in communities across the Nation.
- **Ending Homelessness.** The Budget sustains funding to support programs dedicated to ending veteran homelessness, while also funding housing vouchers and rapid rehousing over the next ten years to reach and maintain the goal of ending homelessness among all of America's families in 2020. This significant investment is based on recent rigorous

research that found that families who utilized vouchers – compared to alternative forms of assistance to the homeless – had fewer incidents of homelessness, child separations, intimate partner violence and school moves, less food insecurity, and generally less economic stress.

Ensuring Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care. The Budget supports the Affordable Care Act, which is already providing coverage for millions of Americans through the Health Insurance Marketplaces, the delivery of financial assistance to make coverage affordable, and the expansion of Medicaid. It also supports:

- **Expanding Access to Mental Health Care.** One in five American adults experience a mental health issue at some point in their life, yet millions do not receive the care they need. The Budget includes \$500 million in new mandatory funding to help engage individuals with serious mental illness in care, improve access to care by increasing service capacity and the behavioral health workforce, and ensure that behavioral health care systems work for everyone.
- **Addressing the Prescription Drug and Heroin Overdose Epidemic.** More Americans now die every year from drug overdoses than they do in motor vehicle crashes. The Budget takes a two-pronged approach to address this epidemic. First, it includes \$1 billion in new mandatory funding over two years to expand access to treatment for prescription drug abuse and heroin use and help ensure that every American who wants treatment can access it and get the help they need. Second, it includes funding to continue and increase current efforts to expand State-level prescription drug overdose prevention strategies, increase the availability of medication-assisted treatment programs, improve access to the overdose-reversal drug naloxone, and support targeted enforcement activities.

Incentivizing Justice Reform with the 21st Century Justice Initiative. The Administration continues to support criminal justice reform that enhances public safety, avoids excessive punishment and unnecessary incarceration, and builds trust between the justice system and the community. The Budget includes a \$5 billion investment for a new 21st Century Justice Initiative that will focus on achieving three objectives: reducing crime, reversing practices that have led to unnecessarily long sentences and unnecessary incarceration, and building community trust.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Economic growth and opportunity can only be achieved if America is safe and secure. The Budget provides the resources to address security threats wherever they arise and continue to demonstrate American leadership around the world.

Destroying ISIL. The President's highest priority is keeping the American people safe. That is why the United States is leading the global coalition that will de-destroy the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The Budget provides over \$11 billion for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of State to support U.S. efforts to continue to hunt down terrorists; provide training and equipment to forces fighting ISIL on the ground; help stabilize communities liberated from ISIL in Syria and Iraq; disrupt ISIL's financing and recruitment; strengthen our regional partners, provide humanitarian assistance to those impacted by the conflict; and support a political solution to the Syrian civil war.

Countering Violent Extremism. The President's Budget includes funding for innovative, community-based approaches that seek to discourage violent extremism and to improve the ability of communities to identify potential extremists and intervene where necessary to thwart radical behavior that may lead to violence.

Securing the Digital Economy for All Americans Through Strengthened Cybersecurity. The Budget invests \$19 billion in overall Federal resources for cybersecurity to support a broad-based cybersecurity strategy for securing the Government, enhancing the security of critical infrastructure and important technologies, investing in next-generation tools and workforce, and empowering Americans. In particular, this funding will support the Cybersecurity National Action Plan, which takes near-term actions and puts in place a long-term strategy to enhance cybersecurity awareness and protections, protect privacy, maintain public safety as well as economic and national security, and empower Americans to take better control of their digital security.

Supporting the Transition in Afghanistan. The Budget includes resources to reinforce Afghanistan's security and development by supporting military training and assistance, as well as health, education, justice, economic growth, governance, and other civilian assistance programs necessary to promote stability and strengthen diplomatic ties with the international community. The Budget also supports the U.S. military mission to train, advise, and assist the Afghan National Security Forces and maintain a counterterrorism capability.

Countering Russian Aggression and Supporting European Allies. The Budget includes \$4.3 billion for political, economic, public diplomacy, and military support to build resilience and reduce vulnerabilities to Russian aggression among NATO allies and partner states in Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia. As part of that effort the Budget includes \$3.4 billion for the Department of Defense's European Reassurance Initiative (ERI).

Providing Further Support for the Central American Regional Strategy. The Budget provides necessary resources to further support the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America by investing in a long-term, comprehensive approach designed to address the root causes of migration of unaccompanied children and families from the region.

Advancing the Rebalance to Asia and the Pacific. The Budget supports the Administration’s commitment to a comprehensive regional strategy in Asia and the Pacific that reinforces a rules-based order and advances security, prosperity, and human dignity across the region. For instance, the Budget provides the necessary resources to implement the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) — a historic, high-standard trade agreement with 11 countries of the region that levels the playing field for American workers and American businesses.

Growing Partnerships in Africa. The Budget provides funding to ensure United States will uphold the commitments it made during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in 2014, including with respect to Power Africa, Trade Africa, the Security Governance Initiative (SGI), the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP), and the Early Warning and Response Partnership (EWARP). It also provides resources for implementing the peace agreement in South Sudan.

Preparing for the Future. In addition to addressing today’s changing security environment, the Budget makes significant investments to maintain our military’s superiority and ensure the United States always has an operational advantage over any potential adversary. The Budget does this by driving smart and essential innovation: pursuing new research and technology development; supporting updates and refinements to operational concepts and warfighting strategies; supporting capacity building among local partners; building the Force of the Future; and pursuing additional enterprise reform.

Sustaining the President’s Development and Democracy Agenda. The Budget continues to advance the Administration’s development and democracy initiatives and activities as it seeks to reduce extreme poverty, encourage broad-based economic growth, and support democratic governance and human rights – and to drive progress toward meeting the global development vision and priorities adopted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes investments in Feed the Future, the President’s food security initiative; development programs that mobilize the private sector to deliver tangible results and advance U.S. interests; food aid and other humanitarian assistance programs; the First Lady’s Let Girls Learn Initiative; and effective global health programs, including for the President’s Malaria Initiative and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Honoring Our Commitment to Veterans. The Budget ensures continued investment in the five pillars the President has outlined for supporting the Nation’s veterans: providing the resources and funding they deserve; ensuring high-quality and timely health care; getting veterans their earned benefits quickly and efficiently; ending veteran homelessness; and helping veterans and their families get good jobs, an education, and access to affordable housing. It also puts forward a proposal to fundamentally reform the broken appeals process for disability claims so that it can best serve our veterans.

A GOVERNMENT OF THE FUTURE

The President is committed to driving lasting change in how Government works – change that makes a significant, tangible, and positive difference in the economy and the lives of the American people. Over the past seven years, the Administration has launched successful efforts to modernize and improve citizen-facing services, eliminate wasteful spending, reduce the Federal real property footprint, improve the use of evidence to improve program performance, and spur innovation in the private sector by opening to the public tens of thousands of Federal data sets and innovation assets at the national labs.

Supporting the President’s Management Agenda. The Budget includes investments to continue driving the President’s Management Agenda by improving the service we provide to the American public; leveraging the Federal Government’s buying power to bring more value and efficiency to how we use taxpayer dollars; opening Government data and research to the private sector to drive innovation and economic growth; promoting smarter information technology; modernizing permitting and environmental review processes; creating new Idea Labs to support employees with promising ideas; and, attracting and retaining the best talent in the Federal workforce.

Supporting Digital Service Delivery for Citizens. In 2014 the Administration piloted the U.S. Digital Service, a unit of innovators, entrepreneurs, and engineers. This team of America’s best digital experts has worked in collaboration with Federal agencies to implement streamlined and effective digital technology practices on the Nation’s highest priority programs. This work includes collaborating with the Department of Education to launch the new College Scorecard to give students, parents, and their advisors most reliable national data to help with college choice and supporting the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) transition to launch the new myUSCIS which makes it easier for users to access information about the immigration process and immigration services. To institutionalize the dramatic improvements that this approach has demonstrated, the Budget supports the Administration’s aggressive goal of hiring and placing 500 top technology and design experts to serve in the Government by January 2017.

Strengthening Federal Cybersecurity. As outlined above, the Budget provides \$19 billion in resources for cybersecurity. This includes the creation of a new \$3.1 billion revolving fund, the Information Technology Modernization Fund (ITMF), to retire the Government’s antiquated IT systems and transition to more secure and efficient modern IT systems, funding to streamline governance and secure Federal networks, and investments to strengthen the cybersecurity workforce and cybersecurity education across society.

Building Evidence and Encouraging Innovation. The President has made it clear that policy decisions should be driven by evidence so that the Federal government can do more of what works and less of what does not. The Administration’s evidence-based approaches have resulted in important gains in areas ranging from reducing veteran homelessness, to improving educational outcomes, to enhancing the effectiveness of international development programs. The Budget invests in expanding evidence-based approaches, developing and testing effective practices, and enhancing government’s capacity to build and use evidence, in particular by expanding access to administrative data and further developing Federal, State, local, and tribal data infrastructure.