

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

Thursday, March 16, 2023

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Jen Easterly, Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Stop 0380
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane
Washington, D.C. 20528-0380

Dear Director Easterly,

I write to bring to your attention and encourage your organization's participation in the annual NATO Locked Shields Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Exercise coordinated by the West Virginia National Guard at the Morgantown Readiness Center from April 17-21, 2023.


As outlined in the President's 2023 National Cybersecurity Strategy, the defense of our country's critical infrastructure is among our strongest priorities. This includes supporting public-private collaboration to ensure that such infrastructure is developed at the speed and scale necessary. Further, we must invest in a resilient future, which includes developing a diverse and robust national cyber workforce. This annual exercise not only promotes collaboration between public and private actors, but it also provides an opportunity for cyber security experts to enhance their skills by utilizing a Red Team vs. Blue Team approach to test in simulations meant to mimic real cyber-attacks.

The Locked Shields exercise (the Exercise) is the only international critical infrastructure protection exercise in existence, and is hosted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) in Tallinn, Estonia. The Exercise enables cybersecurity experts to enhance their skills in defending national IT systems and critical infrastructure under real-time attacks. Mission partners from the West Virginia National Guard, along with National Guard participants from Alabama, Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina; educational institutions, including West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Marshall University, the University of Hawaii, and the University of Maryland Global Campus; and Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), will be participating as Coalition partners in the Exercise. It is designed to foster strategic partnerships between nations, DISA, the United States European Command (EUCOM) and the National Guard while enhancing Coalition interoperability, developing NATO capabilities, and advancing workforce development.

The West Virginia National Guard will continue to lead the charge in coordinating and managing the participation of the U.S. team in the Locked Shields exercise and I would welcome your support in attending this year's event.

If staff from your organization are able to participate, I request that they contact West Virginia National Guard Major William J. Keber at william.j.keber.mil@mail.mil.

Warmest Regards,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator