

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson*****Examining the Mission, Structure, and Reorganization Effort of the National Protection and Programs Directorate***

October 7, 2015 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies subcommittee hearing entitled “Examining the Mission, Structure, and Reorganization Effort of the National Protection and Programs Directorate”:

“NPPD works to lead Federal efforts to protect and enhance the resilience of the nation’s physical and cyber infrastructure. Since its inception in 2007, NPPD’s authorities, programs, and budget have expanded and its workforce has grown from a few hundred to over 3,000. In response to these changes, I understand that Secretary Johnson has asked for a plan to reorganize the component.

I am supportive of Secretary Johnson’s plans to achieve Unity of Effort within the Department – an effort to establish structures to improve performance across the Department. The Joint Requirements Council and the Border Security Taskforces are good examples of reforms that fall short of requiring a full reorganization of components or offices.

Mr. Chairman, since I have been a member of this Committee, the Department has been reorganized several times. Some of these reorganizations were done haphazardly as solutions to problems that had not been identified and at times, these realignments did not live up to the promise of enhancing the Department’s mission.

NPPD’s homeland security mission is critical the nation’s security, economic welfare, public health, and safety. Consequently, realignment of this component will have effects both within the Department and outside of the federal government.

It is imperative that any reorganization of NPPD be done with a well-developed plan that includes best practices from the federal government and input from all stakeholders. Today, I want to learn why a major reorganization is necessary.

Second, I am interested in hearing why a wide-scale reorganization is preferred over directing subcomponents to work together to collaborate through such mechanisms as taskforces or coordinating councils.

Third, NPPD is currently operating under a strategic plan for fiscal years 2014-2018, I am interested in hearing how critical this reorganization is to achieving the improvements in performance and mission-execution that are set forth the current strategic plan?

Finally, I want to know how the Department has planned for the inevitable challenges, particularly personnel challenges, associated with major organizational shakeups. I look forward to the Under Secretary’s answers to these questions today. I also look forward to hearing from Mr. Currie on the factors that both Congress and the Department need to consider when implementing an organizational change.”

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