



# EIB World Trade Headlines

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## Pentagon official says CMMC changes will be finalized 'very soon'

Justin Doubleday@jdoubledayWFED  
September 14, 2021 11:58 am

The Pentagon will finalize and announce changes to its Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification program "very soon," as it looks to strike a balance between increasing the security of the defense industrial base and addressing cost concerns about the cybersecurity auditing program, according to a Defense Department acquisition official.

Christine Michienzi, chief technology officer for the deputy assistant secretary of defense for industrial policy, said DoD is continuing to revise the CMMC program based on feedback from industry and "internal government activities."

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks launched a wide ranging review of the program earlier this spring.

"We are, again, including feedback from industry on that to make sure that this is the system that is going to be the best system for the department and for industry, to make sure our intellectual property and our advances are protected, but not be over burdensome to industry, because we need to make sure we're partnering and fighting cybersecurity risks, but make sure that it is done in a way that benefits of us all," Michienzi said Monday during a conference hosted by AFCEA and the Intelligence and National Security Alliance in National Harbor, Maryland.

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The CMMC program is aimed at certifying the cybersecurity practices of potentially hundreds of thousands of industrial base companies. Firms would have to meet a required cybersecurity “level” before they could win a contract. DoD planned to begin rolling it out this year prior to the review.

The program entails several levels of cybersecurity, ranging from basic security practices at level one to advanced cybersecurity at level five. The Pentagon has signed a contract with an independent, third-party CMMC “Accreditation Body” made up of industry officials to oversee the auditors who will certify a business’s cybersecurity practices.

But Michienzi suggested every aspect of the program is being reconsidered as part of the review.

“Everything is currently under review to make sure that that is the best mechanism that we can use, the independent auditors versus [the Defense Contract Management Agency] versus self certification at the different levels, and what those levels need to be because the initial levels that were rolled out maybe need to be revisited,” she said.

Contractors have raised concerns about the opacity of the review process. The Information Technology Industry Council, the National Defense Industrial Association and the Professional Services Council banded together to send a letter to the Pentagon last week on the future of the CMMC program and related cybersecurity regulations affecting the defense industrial base (DIB).

“The lack of clarity during the review process has increased uncertainty throughout the DIB and among commercial vendors seeking to provide covered commercial items,” they wrote. “Changes to CMMC, for example, would conceivably impact the timeline, scope and manner of implementation for program requirements. Considering this uncertainty, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers may defer substantial investments pending communication and greater certainty about the program’s requirements.”

Asked whether companies should change what they’re doing as they await the results of the review, Michienzi said they shouldn’t make “any major changes” with guidance coming out shortly.

“We will be finalizing any changes to CMMC very soon, and we will be transmitting that to you,” she said. “But I would just continue on the way you are until that time comes, because there is going to be still the need to have cybersecurity practices in place, to have them verified and validated some in some way.”

## Secretary Raimondo Calls for More Vaccinations in Meeting with U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Media Contact:  
Office of Public Affairs, [publicaffairs@doc.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@doc.gov)

WASHINGTON – Today, Secretary Raimondo met with the [U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board](#) (TTAB) to discuss how to accelerate the recovery and growth of the travel and tourism industry. The Secretary was joined by White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients, who provided an update on the Administration’s plan to drive additional vaccination progress this fall and accelerate our path out of the pandemic.

The Administration is taking swift action consistent with TTAB’s previous recommendations and the strategic goals of the U.S. government, including the allocation of \$750 million of EDA’s American Rescue Plan funds to support travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation. Utilizing public, private, and international channels, the Department of Commerce is bringing back jobs; developing a new, public health-focused system for travel; and revitalizing the economy. Among the Secretary’s updates, she highlighted the Department’s efforts to expedite safe resumption of cruise services, bringing vital economic recovery to hard hit communities.

The Secretary also highlighted actions to support international students applying for visas this fall semester, which is critical to American jobs, enhances diversity, and contributes \$39 billion to the U.S. economy annually. The Secretary charged TTAB with developing additional recommendations to inform a new National Travel and Tourism Strategy, including new visitors arriving to the U.S. and industry spending goals. She also emphasized the importance of employers requiring proof of vaccination for employees and encouraged the industry to think creatively about how to incentivize customers to get vaccinated in order to further accelerate the sector’s recovery.

A copy of the Secretary’s remarks as prepared for delivery can be found:

<https://www.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2021/09/secretary-raimondo-calls-more-vaccinations-meeting-us-travel-and-tourism>

# BOSTON LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 9/11 MEMORIAL

## STATEMENT OF DESIGN INTENT

The Boston Logan International Airport 9/11 Memorial (the "Airport Memorial") acknowledges the profound impact of the events of September 11, 2001 ("9/11") on the airport community. The Airport Memorial honors the passengers and crew of American Flight 11 and United Flight 175 and recognizes the compassion and professionalism of Logan Airport employees, many of whom lost colleagues, friends, and family, for their dedication to duty during that difficult time. The intent was to create a place of reflection and remembrance for all those affected by the events of 9/11. Significant themes that reflect the experiences of 9/11 were identified in interviews with airport employees and friends and families of some of the passengers and crew of the two airlines. These themes are reflected in the design for the Airport Memorial's approximately 2.5 acre site. A visitor first engages the Airport Memorial at the Point of Departure that serves as a gathering place for groups or individuals and a place to talk and share stories. The Point of Departure is the connection to the every-day and the threshold or entrance to the Airport Memorial experience.

Two paths emanate from the Point of Departure. The paths traverse meandering routes over a slight incline that ascends over a lawn, through a grove of Ginkgo trees and past fieldstone walls to converge at the glass Sculpture, the Place of Remembrance. The trees, lawn, and the fieldstone walls evoke a New England landscape that will change with the seasons and mature over time. The landscape mirrors the continual experience of life: its cycles of growth and renewal and its complications. The walking movement along the paths through the landscape reflects how each of us was confronted by the unexpected on 9/11. As visitors approach the Sculpture, the Ginkgo trees coalesce into a tight grid, as individuals came together on 9/11 and found strength in support and help from others.

As visitors emerge from the trees into a clearing, the glass Sculpture rises before them and shifts focus from the earth to the sky. As each individual experienced an unexpected and unprecedented shattering of the expected on September 11, 2001, the visitor now experiences a moment when his view is refocused. As the visitor moves into the Sculpture, the landscape view is transformed by translucent glass. From inside one sees the world differently. Looking up, the sky also is changed, fractured by a prism of reflective panels. At night the Sculpture glows like a lantern illuminated from within. Inside the Sculpture, glass "steles" or panels bear departure times of the American and United aircraft that departed Logan on 9/11.

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The panel's reverse side lists the names of each airline's passengers and crew, etched in the glass as these people are in the hearts and memories of the Logan Airport community.

The visitor returns down the paths through the trees to the Point of Departure, and reengages with the everyday airport world. The words "Remember this Day" are inscribed in the granite paving as an indelible reminder of how the events of 9/11 have forever changed each of us.

[www.massport.com](http://www.massport.com)



## On the Death of ISIS-GS leader Adnan Abu Walid Al-Sahrawi

09/17/2021 05:33 PM EDT

Ned Price, Department Spokesperson

The United States welcomes the announcement from our partner and ally France that its troops killed Adnan Abu Walid Al-Sahrawi. We commend France's continued commitment to countering terrorism and protecting civilians in West Africa in coordination with our African partners.

As the leader of ISIS in the Greater Sahara, Walid Al-Sahrawi bears responsibility for the violence that has taken the lives of countless civilians and military personnel in the Sahel, including the October 4, 2017 attack on a joint U.S.-Nigerien patrol in the region of Tongo Tongo, Niger that resulted in the deaths of four U.S. soldiers and four Nigerien soldiers.

The United States is committed to continuing to support the efforts of our African partners, France, and the international community to improve the safety and well-being of civilians in West Africa.

## Apple issues emergency security updates to close a spyware flaw

By **Nicole Perlroth** New York Times, **Updated** September 13, 2021, 5:52 p.m.

Apple on Monday issued emergency software updates for a critical vulnerability in its products after security researchers uncovered a flaw that allows highly invasive spyware from Israel's NSO Group to infect anyone's iPhone, iWatch, or Mac computer without so much as a click.

Apple's security team has been working around the clock to develop a fix since Tuesday, after researchers at Citizen Lab, a cybersecurity watchdog organization at the University of Toronto, discovered that a Saudi activist's iPhone had been infected with spyware from NSO Group.

The spyware, called Pegasus, used a novel method to invisibly infect an Apple device without the victim's knowledge for as long as six months. Known as a "zero click remote exploit," it is considered the Holy Grail of surveillance because it allows governments, mercenaries, and criminals to secretly break into a victim's device without tipping them off.

Using the zero-click infection method, Pegasus can turn on a user's camera and microphone, record their messages, texts, e-mails, calls — even those sent via encrypted messaging and phone apps like Signal — and send it back to NSO's clients at governments around the world.

[https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/09/13/business/apple-issues-emergency-security-updates-close-spyware-flaw/?rss\\_id=section\\_rss\\_full&s\\_campaign=bg:full:rss:section&t\\_rid=1876204030&s\\_campaign=businessheadlines:newsletter](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/09/13/business/apple-issues-emergency-security-updates-close-spyware-flaw/?rss_id=section_rss_full&s_campaign=bg:full:rss:section&t_rid=1876204030&s_campaign=businessheadlines:newsletter)

## Planned Closure of the OSCE Border Observer Mission

09/17/2021 05:49 PM EDT

Ned Price, Department Spokesperson

The United States deeply regrets the decision by the Russian Federation to block consensus to extend the OSCE Border Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, which was announced by the OSCE Chair in Office, in Vienna yesterday. The OSCE Border Observer Mission plays a valuable role in providing transparency on movements of people and material between the Russian Federation and areas in eastern Ukraine, controlled by Russia-led forces. This small mission has been in operation since July 2014, and its work is fundamentally connected to the commitment Russia made when it signed the Minsk Protocol in September 2014, which "ensure permanent monitoring on the Ukrainian Russian state border and verification by the OSCE." Russia's objection to continuing the Border Observer Mission's mandate raises deep concerns about its intentions to fulfill its international commitments and engage constructively with Ukraine. We continue to call on Russia to allow the Border Observer Mission mandate to be extended, cease its ongoing aggression against Ukraine, and contribute to a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

## Business Opportunities in Central America Webinar Series

- [Doing Business in Costa Rica](#)
- [Doing Business in El Salvador](#)
- [Doing Business in Honduras](#)
- [Doing Business in Guatemala](#)
- [Doing Business in Belize](#)
- [Doing Business in Nicaragua](#)
- [Trade Mission to Central America and Business Conference](#)

Trade Mission to Central America and Business Conference  
The U.S. Commercial Service has organized a Central America webinar series focused on highlighting business opportunities and key projects in the region's best prospect sectors including agriculture, food processing and packaging equipment, automotive parts/accessories/service equipment, construction equipment and building materials, architecture and engineering services, safety and security equipment, energy, water resources equipment, and travel and tourism.

Market Highlights will include: Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, Nicaragua and Panama.

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Central America is a growing market for U.S. companies seeking to expand their global presence where U.S. products and services enjoy high receptivity and are known for quality and innovation. Central America markets combined represent more than 53 million potential customers that import over \$25 billion in U.S. products and services.

Webinar participants will have the opportunity to hear directly from U.S. diplomats, local government officials, subject matter experts, and resource partners and receive valuable input for crafting market entry strategies.

Your organization can participate in one, two or more webinars. The cost for each webinar is \$30 and for the entire series only \$120.

For questions regarding this program, please contact Isabel Davila at [isabel.davila@trade.gov](mailto:isabel.davila@trade.gov)

## Washington

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States, Britain and Australia said on Wednesday they would establish a security partnership for the Indo-Pacific that will involve helping Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines, as Chinese influence over the region grows.

Under the partnership, announced by President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the United States will provide Australia with the technology and capability to deploy nuclear-powered submarines, senior U.S. administration officials told reporters.

The three leaders outlined the deal in a three-way virtual announcement from each of their capitals.

“We all recognize the imperative of ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific for the long term,” said Biden.

Morrison said the submarines would be built in Adelaide in close cooperation with the United States and United Kingdom. Australia will not be fielding nuclear weapons, he said.

“We will continue to meet all our nuclear non-proliferation obligations,” he said.

Johnson called it a momentous decision for Australia to acquire the technology. He said it would make the world safer. “This will be one of the most complex and technically demanding projects in the world,” he said.

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In coordination with his co-conspirators, Ansari obtained and attempted to obtain parts that had dual-use military and civilian capability and could be used in such systems as nuclear weapons, missile guidance and development, secure tactical radio communications, offensive electronic warfare, military electronic countermeasures (radio jamming) and radar warning and surveillance systems. The equipment Ansari helped try to obtain could be used to test these other weapon systems.

“Ansari and his co-conspirators attempted to profit from a far-reaching, extensive scheme to evade U.S. sanctions on Iran. They repeatedly lied to numerous U.S. suppliers and illegally obtained very sensitive dual-use items,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Mark J. Lesko of the Justice Department’s National Security Division. “As demonstrated by this prosecution, DOJ pursues those who threaten U.S. national security, even years after their original crimes.”

“The Iranian Trade Embargo serves an important purpose in the protection of the United States and our allies,” said U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff for the Western District of Texas. “As prosecutors tasked with enforcing federal law, we will continue to identify, investigate and pursue violations of the IEEPA.”

“Those who are contemplating violating U.S. laws designed to keep sensitive technology out of the hands of our adversaries should take note; the FBI has a long memory and will engage with all its partners, including those overseas, to bring subjects to justice,” said Assistant Director Alan E. Kohler Jr. of the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division. “We urge anyone with information about violations of sanctions on Iran to contact the FBI.”

“This case is an example of the hard work and diligence over the course of many years on behalf of the FBI and our federal partners to ensure those who would threaten our national security will be brought to justice,” said Special Agent in Charge Christopher Combs of the FBI’s San Antonio Field Office. “Without the support and actions of the Republic of Georgia, it is possible Mr. Ansari would not have had to face the consequences of his actions, so we are grateful and thankful for their help.”

“This case reaffirms Homeland Security Investigations’ (HSI) resolve and commitment in securing the homeland by targeting foreign actors attempting to procure sensitive technology by exploiting the U.S. export laws,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Craig Larrabee for the HSI San Antonio Field Office. “This effort reflects the commitment of U.S. law enforcement to identify, investigate, and apprehend criminals regardless of where they are in the world and bring these individuals to justice. HSI will continue to work with its law enforcement and government partners to address critical vulnerabilities which threaten the country’s national security.”

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“This sentencing is the result of a highly successful joint investigative effort with our law enforcement partners and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Texas,” said Special Agent in Charge Trey McClish of the U.S. Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security, Office of Export Enforcement (OEE) Houston Office. “OEE is fully committed to protecting national security by disrupting efforts by our adversaries to violate U.S. export controls and procure sensitive military technology.”

On May 7, a San Antonio federal jury convicted Ansari of one count of conspiracy to violate the Iranian Transaction Regulations (ITR), one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Department of the Treasury and two counts of aiding and abetting the making of false statements. Evidence presented during trial revealed that Ansari attempted to transship testing equipment obtained from the U.S. by co-defendants Taiwanese citizen Susan Yip, aka Susan Yeh, and Iranian citizen Mehrdad Foomanie, aka Frank Foomanie, using Ansari’s companies, Gulf Gate Sea Cargo LLC and Global Merchant LLC, located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

From Oct. 9, 2007 to June 15, 2011, Yip and Foomanie obtained or attempted to obtain from companies worldwide over 105,000 parts valued at approximately \$2,630,800 involving more than 1,250 transactions. The defendants conducted 599 transactions with 63 different U.S. companies in which they obtained or attempted to obtain parts from U.S. companies without notifying the U.S. companies these parts were being shipped to Iran or getting the required U.S. government license to ship these parts to Iran. The defendant’s main role was to get one particular set of parts from a Central Texas company that was key for the Iranian government’s testing of all other parts.

At no time did Yip, Foomanie or Ansari, individually or through any of their companies, ever apply for or receive either a required U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) license or Department of Commerce export license to ship any item listed in this indictment to the Republic of Iran.

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*“If you focus on results, you will never change. If you focus on change you will get results.” – Jack Dixon*

Iranian Transaction Regulations prohibit, among other things, the exportation, re-exportation, sale or supply, directly or indirectly, to Iran or the Government of Iran, of any goods, technology or services from the U.S. or by a U.S. person. The embargo also prohibits any transaction by any U.S. person or within the U.S. that evades or avoids, or has the purpose of evading or avoiding, any prohibition set forth in the Executive Orders.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Mark J. Lesko for the Justice Department’s National Security Division; U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff for the Western District of Texas; Special Agent in Charge Christopher Combs of the FBI’s San Antonio Field Office; Acting Special Agent in Charge Craig Larrabee of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); Special Agent in Charge Michael Mentalvos of Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) Southwest Field Office; and Acting Special Agent in Charge Trey McClish of the U.S. Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security’s Office of Export Enforcement, Dallas Field Office made today’s announcement.

In October 2012, Yip was sentenced to two years in federal prison after pleading guilty to conspiring to violate the ITR by acting as a broker and conduit for Foomanie to buy items in the U.S. and have them unlawfully shipped to Iran. Mehrdad Foomanie remains a fugitive.

FBI, HSI, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service investigated this case.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mark Roomberg, William R. Harris and Kelly Stevenson prosecuted this case.

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