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Implementing Cyber Security into an Existing National Nuclear Non-Proliferation Program –A Case Study

Cyber threat profiling and risk mitigation is critical to any nuclear state organization and should be considered as part of any comprehensive nuclear security program. Defining and evaluating the impact of the cyber threat to mission can be challenging. An existing national nuclear nonproliferation organization undertook an effort to incorporate cyber security activities into its program to address cyber risk. One of the primary goals of this endeavor was to develop a set of prioritized recommendations for organizational follow-through. The organization dedicated subject matter expert resources in the form of a cyber task force to support this goal. Opportunities were identified where cyber security could be built into each program including office level strategies and tools. Of course, no new identified threat vector is easily considered and incorporated into existing programs without impact. There are many obstacles to be overcome. Technically literate subject matter experts are difficult to find, management has comparatively less experience applying cyber security into their programs, and trying to change the culture to consider cyber security risk at policy and programmatic levels takes time and management attention. As an outcome of this process, a roadmap for program integration was developed including the establishment of a cyber support team. This paper will discuss the challenges and successes associated with establishing such a team.

Gender

Male

State

United States

Authors: Mr ANDERSON, Robert (Idaho National Laboratory); Mr HANLEY, Tim (US DOE NNSA); Mr VANDYKE, Shayne (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory); Mr HOFFMAN, Rob (Idaho National Laboratory); Mr GODWIN, Scott (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)

Presenter: Mr ANDERSON, Robert (Idaho National Laboratory)

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