

BOARD OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023
1:30 TO 3:00 PM
GEMA/HS HEADQUARTERS
TRAINING ROOM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

James Stallings, Vice Chairperson
MG Thomas Carden
Richard Woods
Tyler Harper
Kyle Sapp (WebEx)
Bill Cowsert
Alan Powell (WebEx)

Board Members Absent:

Col. Chris Wright
Chris Carr
Michael Register
Mark Williams
Kathleen Toomey
Russell McMurry
Shawnzia Thomas

Representatives Present:

Lt Col. William Hitchens
Wright Banks (WebEx)
Cynthia Adkins
Col. Thomas Barnard
Leah Hoffacker (WebEx)
Emily Fish
Steve Hodges (WebEx)

The Board of Homeland Security held the board meeting on May 3, 2023 at the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. A List of Attendees, the Agenda, and the Board Presentations are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2, and #3. Vice Chairperson James Stallings called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

All board members are present except Attorney General Chris Carr with the Georgia Department of Law, Director Michael Register with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Commissioner Mark Williams with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner Kathleen Toomey with the Georgia Department of Public Health, and Commissioner Russell McMurry with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Vice Chairperson James Stallings welcomed everyone to the GEMA/HS Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes:

Vice Chairperson James Stallings postponed the approval of the February 1, 2023 meeting minutes since a quorum was not present.

New Business:

Vice Chairperson James Stallings opened the floor for discussion on any new business.

a) Implementation of School Safety Act

On April 13, 2023, the Safe Schools Act (Georgia House Bill 147) was signed into law providing new protocols to equip schools, teachers, and staff to keep themselves and students safe. The Safe Schools Act requires all public schools to submit school safety plans to their local emergency management agency, local law enforcement agency, and GEMA/HS for approval. Georgia schools must conduct an intruder drill every academic year by October 1st. Every school is encouraged to work with your local first responders and emergency managers to design a drill which takes into consideration your local security environment.

b) Foreign Social Media and State Owned Devices

Jonathan Baugh with the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) provided a briefing on Georgia's Social Media App Restrictions. On December 1, 2022, GTA created a state policy that prohibits software and services on state devices. This policy covers the banning of WeChat, Telegram, and TikTok. Governor Brian Kemp also issued a directive shortly after. These apps were created in countries viewed as adversarial towards the United States. Governor Kemp signed SB 93 on May 2, 2023 to restrict the use of certain social media platforms on state equipment.

b) Intelligence Update

Dave Ritz with DHS provided an intelligence update from the federal level. Linda Criblez provided an intel briefing on what the GEMA/HS Intelligence Unit have been working on.

c) 2023 School Safety Conference

Chris Allen with GEMA/HS announced the 2023 School Safety Conference on June 19th to the 21st at The Classic Center in Athens, GA. As of May 1st, we have 544 attendees and 29 vendors registered. All trainings at the conference are POST Certified and there will be 22 hours of Chiefs Executive Credit. Some of the key speakers will be Col. Eric Toller with the Georgia Cyber Center, Judy Pal, Lisa Hamp, and Dr. Gene Deisinger.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chairperson James Stallings adjourned the meeting at 2:34 PM.

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda
3. Board Presentations

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Representatives:

Lt Col. William Hitchens
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Cynthia Adkins
Col. Thomas Barnard
Leah Hoffacker (WebEx)
Emily Fish
Steve Hodges (WebEx)

Others Attending:

Chris Allen
Jonathan Baugh
Anna Burton
Linda Criblez
Steve Hodges
Katina Hopper
Tina Piper
Harlan Proveaux
Dave Ritz
Ashley Seay LaDuron
Warren Shepard



Board of Homeland Security Meeting

AGENDA

May 3, 2023

1:30 - 3:00 P.M.

GEMA/HS Headquarters

Training Room

Atlanta, GA

WebEx/Conference Call

gema.webex.com OR call 1-855-282-6330

Meeting Number: 2423 181 4214

Access Code: HS050323

<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Call to Order	James C. Stallings, Vice Chairperson GEMA/HS
Roll Call	Linda Criblez, GEMA/HS
Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2023	
New Business	
a) Implementation of School Safety Act	Linda Criblez, GEMA/HS
b) Foreign Social Media and State Owned Devices	Jonathan Baugh, GTA
c) Intelligence Update	Dave Ritz, DHS
d) 2023 School Safety Conference	Chris Allen, GEMA/HS
Adjournment	



Georgia's Social Media Ban

Jonathan W. Baugh
GEMA/HS & GTA OIS Cyber Security Analyst
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OUR VISION
*A transparent,
integrated enterprise
where technology
decisions are made
with the citizen in mind*

OUR MISSION
*To provide technology
leadership to the state
of Georgia for sound IT
enterprise management*

May 2023

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Agenda

- **Introduction to the ban**
- **WeChat**
- **Telegram**
- **TikTok**
- **Threat Analysis**

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Georgia Social Media App Restrictions

- On 12/1/2022 GTA created state policy **SS-22-002** which focuses on Prohibiting Software & Services on state devices.
- This policy covers the banning of WeChat, Telegram, and TikTok on state devices.
- Georgia's Governor also issued a directive shortly after, that banned the aforementioned applications on devices for the state.
- The targeted apps were created in countries viewed as adversarial towards the United States.
- In 2022 Congress banned TikTok from being accessed on federal government devices and networks.



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WeChat Application Breakdown



Notable Permissions Needed:

- Read Contacts
- Network-based location
- GPS Location data
- SMS/MMS text reading
- USB Reading/modifying
- Camera & Microphone
- Download files without notification
- Access and pair Bluetooth devices

WeChat is a China based instant messaging and mobile payment app.



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Telegram Application Breakdown

Telegram is a globally accessible, cloud-based instant messaging service created in Russia.



Notable Permissions Requested:

- Read Contacts
- Camera & Microphone
- Location Data
- Photos & Videos
- Nearby Devices

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TikTok Application Breakdown



Notable Permissions Needed:

- Read Contacts
- Network-based location
- GPS Location data
- Camera & Microphone
- Photos & Videos
- Music & Audio

TikTok is a short video hosting service, that allow videos ranging from 3 seconds to 10 minutes created in China.



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Threat Analysis of Foreign Based Application

- *WeChat* is deeply ingrained in the critical infrastructure of China and is used to track the work progress of foreign nationals while abroad.
- *TikTok* data centers are housed in Singapore & Los Angeles, California.
- *TikTok* Source code remains compliant with Chinese information gathering mandates.
- Each application has the capacity to be utilized as a tool for espionage because of the permissions required for use.

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Questions?

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Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

2023 Georgia School Safety & Homeland Security Conference

Chris Allen
Threats, Hazards, & Special Projects Manager

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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



GASchoolSafety.com



FEATURING:

- Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Gang Awareness
- Cybersecurity
- Social Media Threats
- Emergency Planning

SIGN UP TODAY!

“ The information and connections gained are invaluable ”

-2022 conference attendee

JUNE 19-21, 2023

The Classic Center
Athens, GA

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2023 GSSHSC

- All trainings are POST Certified
- 22 Hours of Chiefs Executive Credit
- Eric Toller, Exec Dir. - Georgia Cyber Center
 - Empowering School Districts to Help our Nation Win in Cyberspace
- Judy Pal, Chief of Staff – Baltimore PD (ret.)
 - Countering the Counter-Narrative
- Lisa Hamp & Dr. Gene Deisinger
 - The Mass Casualty Incident at Virginia Tech
 - Lessons from a Virginia Tech Survivor
 - Lessons Learned & Confirmed from a Behavioral Analysis of the Perpetrator
- Registration Update (as of May 1st)
 - Attendees
 - 544
 - Vendors
 - 29

