

Congressional Testimony

CCC Leadership in Science Policy Institute

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Congressional Testimony

- Committee on Science and Technology, Research and Science Education Subcommittee, hearing June 10, 2009 on **Cybersecurity R&D**. (Schneider)
- Committee on Science and Technology, Technology and Innovation Subcommittee, hearing October 22, 2009 on **Cybersecurity Activities at NIST's Information Technology Laboratory**. (Schneider)
- Armed Services Committee, Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities Subcommittee, hearing February 25, 2010 on **Private Sector Perspectives on Department of Defense Information Technology and Cybersecurity Activities**. (Schneider)
- Committee on Science and Technology, Research and Technology Subcommittee, hearing on Oct 28, 2015 on **A review of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program**. (Hager)

A Congressional Hearing

Mechanics of being a witness...

- Discussion with Cmte Staff
 - Invitation only after they have heard your views
 - You pay for travel etc.
- Submit written statement
 - CRA and other orgs can help you with polishing and details
- Deliver 5 min oral statement
 - Likely different from your written statement
- Q+A with Cmte (5 min / member)
- Respond to post-hearing written questions.

The Big Day: Presentation

Acknowledgment: Gene Spafford, Purdue Univ.
<http://spaf.cerias.purdue.edu/usgov/testimony.html>

- Read bio and testimony of other panelists
- Practice (reading) your 5 min speech.
And again. And again. And again. ...
With a stop watch.
- 5 minutes is a hard deadline.

The Big Day: Logistics

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- Read the *Washington Post* that morning
- Dress appropriately
- Visit the rest room.
- Members will come and go. Ignore it.

The Big Day: The Question Period

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Question period: 5 minutes per member

- Short answers help to cover more ground
 - Good responders ultimately get more air time.
 - Don't interrupt. But happily embrace interruptions.
- You can't explain the nuances, so don't try.
- You are not obligated to answer. Or you can promise data / details in a written follow-up
- Questions are often written by staff. Make the best of the question. (“The premise makes no sense...” is the wrong answer.)
- This is not a debate. Do not direct comments to other witnesses and do not respond to the points they have made.