Inside Cybersecurity Quotes
Stewart Baker on DHS Succession
August 19, 2020

Overview
Inside Cybersecurity quoted Stewart Baker in an article titled “GAO Legal Finding on Succession Casts Doubt on Leadership of Department of Homeland Security.” The article, published August 14, discusses how the Trump administration has twice named individuals as “acting secretary” since the resignation of former Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen in 2019. According to a report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the appointments of Acting Secretary Chad Wolf and his predecessor violated the law covering DHS succession.

Baker, who served as DHS policy chief during the George W. Bush administration, characterized the GAO assessment as “hypertechnical.” He says: “I can’t defend the administration’s failure to nominate and confirm political appointees, or its slippery use of the vacancies rules, but the GAO analysis strikes me as not just hypertechnical but almost willfully obstructive. All that said, I think most people who care about cybersecurity are glad that Chris Krebs wasn’t thrust into the acting secretary meat grinder. We need him where he is.”

The full article can be read at Inside Cybersecurity.

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