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Seven Days in August NICE leadership engages in activities around the country to promote and advance the goals and vision of the initiative. During a recent particularly busy period in response to invitations from various organizations the NICE Lead participated in three important events.

First up on Friday the 20th of August on the last day of the 6th Annual Government Forum of Incident Response and Security Team: GFIRST National Conference, a breakout session was held focused on the present and future state of the cybersecurity workforce of the nation. The conference itself ran from August 15th to the 20th and was held at the JW Marriot in San Antonio, Hill Country, TX. The theme for GFIRST6 was Building Today, Shaping Tomorrow – Ensuring an Effective Response Capability to Manage Risks in Cyberspace and details of the event can be found at:

<http://www.cybersecuritymarket.com/2010/03/24/6th-annual-gfirst-national-conference-august-15-20-2010-jw-marriot-san-antonio-hill-country-tx/>

DHS and a representative of a local cybersecurity company completed the panel for this breakout session. After a brief presentation from each panelist we responded to questions from the moderator and then the audience. The session was schedule to last just one hour however so much interest had been generated that the audience remained engaged with the panelists for an additional hour past the scheduled ending for the session. The conference focus was on operations, practitioners, and cybersecurity professional currently in the workforce. This group was particularly interested in not only their own career paths but the future of the field in terms of how the next generation will be recruited, educated, trained, and sustained has the field continues to evolve.

The next event during this exciting period was very different. On Monday the 23rd of August at the historic NASA Beach House on the beach at the Kennedy Space Center, FL. an all day strategic planning session was held entitled: Architecting the Global Institute for Cybersecurity and Research: A Public/Private Collaborative Partnership. The house is historic because NASA has maintained the facility for the astronauts and their families to enjoy prior to missions into space. The iconic views and sense of adventure generated there was amazing and formed the back drop for this event. Two sessions were conducted, in the morning a group of government agencies (DHS, NSA, NASA, NICE, Space Florida) and the Center for Technology Innovation (CTI) which is a non-profit organization that hosted the event and is heavily involved in the development of the proposed Global Institute for Cybersecurity and Research (GICSR), discussed plans for the institute and its focus on education. KSC will be losing a significant part of its workforce as space shuttle operations come to an end this year. One of the goals for GICSR is to provide an opportunity of many of these workers to retrain and stay in the

community. The afternoon session brought in members of the local academic community and others (Florida Institute of Technology, Brevard Community College, TechAmerica, CompTIA, (ISC)², Cyberwatch) which extended the discussion and began the process of partnership formation. Here NICE leadership was able to describe our national plans and how GICSR potential could be leveraged and used as a model for other areas of the country.

On the seventh day, Thursday 26 August, at the National Press Club in downtown Washington DC the Government Executive Media Group and SANS Institute co-produced the Government Executive Cybersecurity Insider Series: Monthly Discussion with Leading Edge Insiders. This breakfast briefing was entitled: Building the Cyber Workforce Federal Agencies Need Now and consisted of a moderated panel discussion in a "Meet the Press" style format followed by questions from the audience. The panel was moderated by the Allan Holmes, Executive Editor of Nextgov and Alan Paller, the Director of Research, SANS Institute. Joining the NICE Lead on the panel were Michael Assante, Present and Chief Executive Officer, National Board of Information Security Examiners and Richard Schaeffer, Former Director, Information Assurance, National Security Agency. Another historic setting, the 13th floor National Press Club Ballroom, with about one hundred people in attendance a very lively discussion was followed by many questions from the audience. Once again the Q&A extended well beyond the two hours scheduled for the entire event. Although largely federally focused the relationship to the larger national issues were a large part of the discussion.

These three very different events are representative of the scope and complexity of the NICE initiative. Interest across the country seems to be high and the plans for NICE are being very well received. As NICE continues to evolve and mature many more events of this type are anticipated. The opportunity to engage the larger community, the nation as a whole, and effect positive change in the overall cybersecurity status of the country through education and training is the challenge that NICE has embraced.