

the following officials of the Department of Transportation, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary), during any period in which the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, and the officials designated by the Secretary pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 102(e) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, until such time as the Secretary or one of the officials listed above is able to perform the duties of that office:

- (a) Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration;
- (b) Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration;
- (c) Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration;
- (d) Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration;
- (e) Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration;
- (f) Administrator of the Maritime Administration;
- (g) Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;
- (h) Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration;
- (i) Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration;
- (j) Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation;
- (k) Regional Administrator, Southern Region, Federal Aviation Administration;
- (l) Director, Resource Center, Lakewood, Colorado, Federal Highway Administration; and
- (m) Regional Administrator, Northwest Mountain Region, Federal Aviation Administration.

Sec. 2. Exceptions. (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this section.

(b) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 shall act as Secretary unless that individual is otherwise eligible to so serve under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by law, to depart from this order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 3. This order supersedes the President's Memorandum of March 19, 2002 (Designation of Officers of the Department of Transportation).

Sec. 4. This order is intended to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 9, 2009.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 13, 2009]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Executive Order 13486— Strengthening Laboratory Biosecurity in the United States *January 9, 2009*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States that facilities that possess biological select agents and toxins have appropriate security and personnel assurance practices to protect against theft, misuse, or diversion to unlawful activity of such agents and toxins.

Sec. 2. Establishment and Operation of the Working Group. (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Defense for administrative purposes only, the Working Group on Strengthening the Biosecurity of the United States (Working Group).

(b) The Working Group shall consist exclusively of the following members:

- (i) the Secretary of State;
 - (ii) the Secretary of Defense, who shall be a Co-Chair of the Working Group;
 - (iii) the Attorney General;
 - (iv) the Secretary of Agriculture;
 - (v) the Secretary of Commerce;
 - (vi) the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who shall be a Co-Chair of the Working Group;
 - (vii) the Secretary of Transportation;
 - (viii) the Secretary of Energy;
 - (ix) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
 - (x) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
 - (xi) the Director of National Intelligence;
 - (xii) the Director of the National Science Foundation; and
 - (xiii) the head of any other department or agency when designated:
 - (A) by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group with the concurrence of such head; or
 - (B) by the President.
- (c) The Co-Chairs shall convene and preside at meetings of the Working Group, determine its agenda, and direct its work. The Co-Chairs may establish and direct subgroups of the Working Group, as appropriate to deal with particular subject matters, that shall consist exclusively of members of the Working Group.
- (d) A member of the Working Group may designate, to perform the Working Group or Working Group subgroup functions of the member, any person who is a part of the member's agency and who is an officer of the United States appointed by the President, a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), or the equivalent of a member of the SES.
- Sec. 3. Functions of the Working Group.** Consistent with this order, and to assist in implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Working Group shall:
- (a) review and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness, with respect to Federal and nonfederal facilities that conduct research on, manage clinical or environmental laboratory operations involving, or handle, store, or transport biological select agents and toxins, of the following:
 - (i) existing laws, regulations, and guidance with respect to physical, facility, and personnel security and assurance; and
 - (ii) practices with respect to physical, facility, and personnel security and assurance;
 - (b) obtain information or advice, as appropriate for the conduct of the review and evaluation, from the following:
 - (i) heads of executive departments and agencies;
 - (ii) elements of foreign governments and international organizations with responsibility for biological matters, consistent with functions assigned by law or by the President to the Secretary of State; and
 - (iii) representatives of State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and other entities or other individuals in a manner that seeks their individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation; and
 - (c) submit a report to the President, through the Co-Chairs, not later than 180 days after the date of this order that is unclassified, with a classified annex as required, and sets forth the following:
 - (i) a summary of existing laws, regulations, guidance, and practices with respect to security and personnel assurance reviewed under subsection (a) of this section and their efficiency and effectiveness;
 - (ii) recommendations for any new legislation, regulations, guidance, or practices for security and personnel assurance for all Federal and nonfederal facilities described in subsection (a);
 - (iii) options for establishing oversight mechanisms to ensure a baseline standard is consistently applied for all physical, facility, and personnel security and assurance laws, regulations, and guidance at all Federal and nonfederal facilities described in subsection (a); and
 - (iv) a comparison of the range of existing personnel security and assurance programs for access to biological select agents and toxins to personnel security and assurance programs in other fields and industries.

Sec. 4. Duties of Heads of Departments and Agencies. (a) The heads of departments and agencies shall provide for the labor and travel costs of their representatives and, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Working Group such information and assistance as it needs to implement this order.

(b) To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Defense shall provide the Working Group with such administrative and support services as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

Sec. 5. Termination of the Working Group. Termination of the Working Group. The Working Group shall terminate 60 days after the date of the report submitted under subsection 3(c) of this order.

Sec. 6. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to a department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 9, 2009.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 13, 2009]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

January 10, 2009

Good morning. This week, I gave my official farewell speech to the men and women of America's Armed Forces in a ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia. For the past 8 years, I have had no higher honor than serving as the Commander in Chief of these brave patriots. And when Laura and I depart for Texas later this month, we will take with us many inspiring memories of the valor that we have seen these brave Americans display time and again.

We saw their valor on September the 11th, 2001, in service members rushing into smoke-filled corridors to save their colleagues at the Pentagon and in planes patrolling the skies above New York City and Washington, DC.

We saw their valor in the days after that attack, when Americans crowded into recruiting centers across our country, raised their hands to serve, and pledged to defend our people and our freedom.

We saw their valor in the forces who deployed to Afghanistan within weeks of 9/11, closed down the terrorist training camps, and drove the Taliban from power.

We saw their valor in the fearless troops who stormed across the Iraqi desert and destroyed a regime that threatened America.

We saw their valor in battle-tested warriors who signed up for a second or third or fourth tour and made the troop surge in Iraq that I announced 2 years ago today one of the great successes in American military history.

America's Armed Forces have liberated more than 50 million people around the world and made our Nation safer. They have taken the fight to the terrorists abroad so that we have not had to face them here at home. And the world has seen something that almost no one thought possible: More than 7 years after September the 11th, there has not been another terrorist attack on American soil. This is no coincidence.

In addition to our military, many other Americans have worked tirelessly to ensure our safety in the years since 9/11. Law enforcement officials have worked to secure our country and remained watchful against future attacks. Intelligence analysts have