

Rosalind Nester Heid

250 S. President Street #701
Baltimore, MD 21202-4462
410.625.9262
paulheid@msn.com

August 30, 2018

Mr. Thomas Kilgannon, President
Freedom Alliance
22570 Markey Court, Suite 240
Dulles, VA 20166

Re: Commission on Military, National and Public Service

Dear Mr. Kilgannon:

Please read my attached letter about cyber warfare. It's based on a Wall Street Journal article relating to the situation that grows more intense all the time. As someone who experienced the massive power failure in New York City during the 1970's, I know what can happen when vital infrastructure fails. Today, with our total dependence on the internet and electronic communication, a similar incident would mean a complete breakdown of our way of life.

Note that I sent a copy of my letter to the Commission on Military, National and Public Service, of which you are a representative. The efforts of this organization are impressive, and I'm in favor of national service for all. HOWEVER, in spite of my many letters to your Chairman and other members, there has been no response. I fail to comprehend how you can attempt to inspire Americans when no one will respond to queries or reply to mail. Furthermore, when I looked at your website hoping to find contact information, there was none. Except for an email address regarding jobs, nothing else was available.

I believe we are living at a time where our way of life could be destroyed in an instant due to a crippling cyber-attack. I'm no expert on security, however the article in the Wall Street Journal was alarming. I've read about other instances where vital infrastructure was taken down and apparently it's not that difficult to do. Whoever was behind those crimes remains a mystery as no names are ever divulged. It might be the Russians, the Chinese, the Israelis, or who knows the actual source.

The Selective Service could play a vital role in the event of infrastructure failure, and this has been my reason for writing the Commission. Sadly my correspondence is ignored and my ideas dismissed as unimportant. I fail to understand how you can encourage service, yet cannot respond when someone wants to come on board. A copy of my most recent letter to chairman Heck is enclosed as an example of material that's gone missing as no response was ever received by this writer.

Sincerely



Rosalind Nester Heid

Attachments

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paulheid@msn.com

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Letters to the Editor
The Wall Street Journal
wsj.ltrs@wsj.com

Re: America Goes on the Cyberoffensive, Opinion, August 29, 2018

To the Editor:

And so the cyber war begins! But what about people like me, the folks who depend on the massive infrastructure that could be taken down in an instant? The horrible details about Russia's weapon *Not Petya* are frightening. The public has been kept in the dark about this weaponizing of all things cyber, and it's doubtful this will change. Top secret is always top secret!

I recall the massive power failure in New York City of decades past and understand what can happen when the systems that make our lives possible fail. I consider today's culture the most vulnerable of all times. If some unknown entity were to access the power grid, our way of life would grind to a stop. Back in 1977, after 8 hours without electricity things began falling apart, today an 8-hour cyber-attack would wreak havoc on everything.

This country desperately needs a defense system to protect citizens in the event of a crippling denial of service incident. We need people trained to handle all eventualities and provide human back up when infrastructure platforms are compromised. We already have the Selective Service System and that's where I'd assign that responsibility. The organization maintains massive files of civilians who can be called in time of warfare. Now that warfare has taken on a horrifyingly new dimension. Cyber warfare is here to stay and this country should be prepared for any and all eventualities. It's time citizen details are created and trained and if needed, on call. The Selective Service System should contemplate the future of war and stop revisiting what went wrong in the Vietnam era.

Rosalind Nester Heid

Cc:

Mr. Donald M. Benton, Director of Selective Service
Honorable Dr. David Heck, Chairman, Commission on Military, National and Public Service
General Paul Nakasone, Commander, United States Cyber Command

-It's time you all thought about the civilians who would suffer in the event of a cyber war.

Rosalind Ellis Heid

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June 18, 2018

The Honorable Dr. David Heck (UNANSWERED)
Chairman
National Commission on Military, National and Public Service
2530 Crystal Drive - Suite 1000 – Box 63
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: My letter to General Paul Nakasone, United States Cyber Command

Dear Sir:

Please see attached letter to United States Cyber Command. I believe the Selective Service is missing in action when it comes to a “cyber Pearl Harbor.” Furthermore, I’m appalled the Selective Service is only interested in men if and when they need to spring into action.

I hope you read “*We can’t stop the Hackers.*” in Sunday’s New York Times. If it is true, and I have every reason to believe it is, American is asleep at the switch. When it comes to strategy in the event of a major cyber-attack, the article points out that “...the United States’ problem isn’t toughness – it’s an absence of strategy.” This should make everyone sleep better at night (not).

Based on research, I learned your “...Commission's mission is to listen to the public and learn from those who serve to recommend ideas to foster a greater ethos of military, national, and public service to strengthen American democracy. The Commission hopes to ignite a national conversation around service and, ultimately, develop recommendations that will encourage every American to be inspired and eager to serve.” Bravo for these fine ideals!

I’d love to attend any and all hearings open to the public in the Washington area. As you see from my letter to General Nakasone, I have had experience in a major infrastructure debacle years ago and can only imagine what would happen if such were to occur today with our total dependence on the internet. For that reason, I believe the Selective Service must be brought up to speed and recognize we’re no longer fighting 19th Century wars.

Last year I wrote to many members of your organization but never had any acknowledgement. You really must be more willing to listen to concerned American citizens. Also, your website fails to provide a USPS mailing address, which is a problem. Considering the nature of my communications, I do not want them to fall into the wrong hands.

America is woefully unprepared for a “cyber Pearl Harbor” and the best way to remedy this is to have “boots on the ground” should such a horror take place. This is where the Selective Service would play a vital role. I’d love to discuss the matter further with your committee members.

Respectfully,

Rosalind Ellis Heid

Attachments