The Homeland Security Secretary's Morning Briefing

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2011 5:00 AM EDT

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Top DHS Cybersecurity Official Resigns "Unexpectedly." [Politico](#) (7/26, Martinez, 25K) reports that Randy Vickers, director of the government agency in charge of coordinating the country's response to cyberattacks, "resigned unexpectedly on Friday, according to an email sent from a Department of Homeland Security official obtained by POLITICO." Vickers, who led the US Computer Emergency Readiness Team, or US-CERT, "resigned on Friday, according to an email sent to some agency employees on Friday by Bobbie Stempfley, acting assistant secretary for cybersecurity and communications." DHS "declined to comment further because it is a personnel issue, an agency official told POLITICO."

In an article cited by AFP (7/26) and National Journal's (7/25, Smith, Subscription Publication) "Tech Daily Dose" blog, InformationWeek (7/25, Montalbano) reported Vickers "has resigned abruptly in the wake of a spate of hacks against government networks." According to InformationWeek, "Vickers' departure comes at a critical time for the organization, as federal networks have come under a barrage of attacks lately by a series of hacker groups--including Anonymous, LulzSec and AntiSec--that specifically are targeting government networks." It is noted, however, that DHS "has not provided a reason for Vickers' sudden departure."

The Federal Times (7/25, Reilly, 40K) reports that "replacing" Vickers "until a new director is named will be CERT's deputy director, Lee Rock. Rock has served in that post for more than a year, Stempfley said, adding that 'we are confident that our organization will continue its strong performance under his leadership.'"

The Hill's (7/26, Nagesh) "Hillicon Valley" blog, Reuters (7/25), and Yahoo News' (7/26, Mogg) "Digital Trends" blog also cover the story.