GOVERNOR GARY R. HERBERT (Governor of Utah): Well, welcome everybody. We appreciate you being here and we welcome members of the press here on what I consider to be a very significant announcement today. And we’re going to introduce some special guests here with us in a minute and give everybody an opportunity to speak.

We want to recognize Glenn Gaffney, who’s the deputy director of national intelligence for collection. Here with us today are two good senators: Sen. Orrin Hatch and Sen. Robert Bennett. Congressman Rob Bishop has joined with us, as well as Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet. So with that, I want to turn the time directly over to Glenn Gaffney.

MR. GLENN GAFFNEY: Gov. Herbert, thank you. Sen. Hatch, Sen. Bennett, Congressman Bishop, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us today on the announcement of this important national security partnership between the federal government and the state of Utah to protect our nation’s national information infrastructure.

The Director of National Intelligence is now in its fourth year and is responsible for the coordination and integration of the 16 federal organizations that make up the Intelligence Community. As the Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Collection, my job includes oversight for our cyber activities. The Intelligence Community has an important mission in protecting the U.S. cyber infrastructure.

This information infrastructure, which includes our telecommunications, computer networks and systems and the data that is resident in those systems, is critical to our way of life, from our national security to our economic well-being. This infrastructure is increasingly being targeted for exploitation and potentially for disruption or destruction by a growing array of state and non-state actors, who are growing more sophisticated in their intelligence collection and in their targeting the private sector to gain economic competitive advantage.
In response to the growing cyber threat, President Bush in 2007 directed the Director of National Intelligence to develop a plan to improve the cybersecurity of the U.S. government, while also protecting the privacy and civil liberties of our citizens. The DNI established the National Cyber Study Group from over 20 federal government departments and agencies to review our defensive capabilities, strategies and policies and devise a series of recommendations for the President.

One of the most important recommendations was the creation of the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative designed to strengthen policies and programs for protecting U.S. government information systems, to clarify roles and responsibilities of federal agencies and explore how the public and private sectors could partner to better protect our critical cyber infrastructure.

The Cyber Study Group quickly realized that these goals could not be achieved without strengthening the key strategic capabilities within our government. The initiative includes funding for federal law enforcement, the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense to enhance key functions such as criminal investigations, intelligence collection, processing and analysis and information assurance critical to enabling national cybersecurity efforts.

President Obama’s Cyberspace Policy Review, conducted earlier this year through the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council, provided the President with further recommendations to improve U.S. cybersecurity and the initiative will play a key role in achieving many of these recommendations.

In the recently published 2009 National Intelligence Strategy, Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair identifies enhancing cybersecurity as one of the Intelligence Community’s top priorities. Leveraging partnerships inside and outside the Intelligence Community and strengthening IC-wide mission management processes are primary objectives of the strategy as a whole.

The new data center we are announcing today will support the Intelligence Community’s mission in providing foreign intelligence about cybersecurity threats and information assurance support to DOD networks, or the dot-mil networks, as we refer to them. It will also provide technical assistance to the Department of Homeland Security, and its mission of securing federal civilian networks, or the dot-gov networks.

By better understanding the threat, we will also learn valuable lessons that will assist the private sector, dot-com and dot-org, in securing their own networks. This data center will be a critical asset in each of these missions and we will accomplish this in full compliance with the U.S. Constitution and federal law and while observing strict guidelines that protect the privacy and civil liberties of the American people.

Working with an interagency team of experts from the Intelligence Community and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best location for the data center, the ODNI used a rigorous methodology that included private industry and government-wide best practices that chose Camp Williams as the best location for the data center. The location offered an abundant availability of low cost power, robust communications infrastructure and the space that was needed.
I’d like to thank Utah’s congressional delegation, whose efforts helped make this data center a reality and for their dedicated support to our national security: Sen. Hatch, who serves on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Bennett, who serves on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and Congressman Bishop, a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

I’d also like to thank all of state and local officials who have been very supportive every step of the way on this project. Utah has a well-established history of supporting important national security programs, including the Manhattan Project at Wendover Army Field and today at facilities such as Hill Air Force Base and Tooele Army Depot. In 1862, Fort Douglas was established to protect our overland mail route and our telegraph lines along the central overland route. And today’s Utahans will again be protecting vital information with the Camp Williams Data Center.

The ODNI is pleased with the selection of Camp Williams as the site of the new data center and looks forward to working closely with the state of Utah on this important project. Cybersecurity is among the most pressing of our national security concerns that we face and Utahans are going to play an important role in this mission protecting America’s interests. Thank you. (Applause.)

GOV. HERBERT: Well, thank you, Deputy Director Gaffney. We appreciate you being here and with this exciting news announcement. And let me just echo what he said. We thank you all those who’ve been a part of this in putting this together. This has not been an easy thing to do. It’s taken the work of many people – our congressional delegation, our national guard, our local state officials here – in putting this together and we appreciate this effort.

I’ve talked about there are good things happening in Utah. In spite of the economic challenges and the bumps we have in the road, there are some good things happening. This is a significantly, really good thing that is happening here in Utah today. This is a win-win. This is good for the federal government; this is really good for Utah. On the economic development front, we’re talking about a project the size of City Creek. This is $1.5 billion of construction. It will employ 4,000 to 5,000 different people throughout our state. The ripple effect of that is going to be significant as it impacts our economy for the good.

So it’s a great economic engine for us in our state at a time that’s critical for us – to be able to have this happen is really a godsend. So this is a great thing. When this is completed it will employ a couple of hundred people out there at the Camp Williams site. So this data center and what goes along with it is going to help us employ a lot of Utahans, employ our resources here and help jump-start our economy and help us get through this difficult time. So I applaud all those who have made this possible, this is a great day for the state of Utah. With that, I’d like to turn over the podium, now, to Sen. Orrin Hatch. (Applause.)

SENATOR ORRIN HATCH: Thank you, Governor. We appreciate your leadership on this matter and I want to thank my fellow members of the Utah congressional delegation and, of course, Gen. Tarbet and so many others who have participated in this. It’s an honor to be with all of you here today. As the Cyberspace Policy Review recently stated, the globally interconnected digital information and communications infrastructure known as cyberspace underpins almost every facet
of modern society and provides critical support for our economy, for our public safety and for our national security.

However, the review also stated the architecture of the nation’s digital infrastructure based upon the Internet is not secure or resilient. Without major advances in the security of these systems or a significant change in how they are constructed or operated, it is doubtful that the United States can protect itself from a growing threat. Now, these are sobering words. Yet, as the longest-serving member on the Senate Intelligence Committee, I can confirm without equivocation the threats to our nation’s digital infrastructure are real. And they’re growing.

In fact, a Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team reported in January that cyber attacks against U.S. government computer systems increased by 40 percent between 2007 and 2008. Make no mistake: Hacking into computer systems is not just the problems of benign teenagers with nothing better to do. Cyber attacks are being utilized by sophisticated organized networks and have even become the instruments of war.

Recently, criminal organizations, many from Eastern Europe, have been successful in stealing the financial information of many Americans. In addition, in the spring of 2007, during a dispute between Estonia’s government and members of its ethnic Russian population, Estonia was subjected to a vigorous denial-of-service attack on its government’s computer systems. In fact, since Estonia is a NATO member, the United States and other NATO allies and experts sent computer security experts to that nation to assist in their restoration effort.

This phenomenon reappeared in August of 2008 during the conflict between Georgia and Russia, when many of Georgia’s government Web sites came under cyber attack. But these attacks are not just on foreign countries. As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently stated, “Our nation is under cyber attack virtually all of the time.” Undoubtedly, these are some of the reasons why Gen. Kevin Chilton, a commander of the United States Strategic Command, has concluded cyberspace has emerged as a global war-fighting domain – a domain that is as critical to ensuring our national security as its companion: domains of land, sea, air and space.

Recognizing this threat, President Bush established in January of 2008 the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative – called CNCI – to better coordinate the defense of our nation’s vital networks. The Obama administration is continuing to refining this effort, which brings us to this announcement. The data center, which Director Gaffney announced today, will support CNCI.

We are so grateful to have him here and for the work that he does on a daily basis. The National Security Agency is the executive agent of the project. The men and women of the NSA are committed public servants who are dedicated to protecting all of our people here in the United States. They deserve our thanks and they deserve our respect – and not just the United States, all over the world. I know all Utahans will be proud to call them neighbors. [Deputy] Director Gaffney? There you are.

MR. GAFFNEY: Thank you.
SEN. HATCH: I didn’t think you looked like Gen. Tarbet. (Laughter.) Thank you for joining us today. You and the entire Intelligence Community will always be welcome in our home state of Utah. I would also like to thank Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet and Col. Scott Olson of the Utah National Guard. Over two years ago, Gen. Tarbet, with the support and backing of then-Gov. Huntsman, came to me seeking my support for this project. All of Utah owes the general and the colonel a debt of gratitude for their hard work and their service.

Now, a special thanks also to my good friends Dr. Harvey Davis, Troy Lang, and David Winberg for their extraordinary efforts in making this project a reality. We really appreciate that. My colleagues in Congress – Sen. Bennett who is a respected voice in the United States Senate leadership and a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and on the Homeland Security Committee has been a very good, vital advocated for this project. We are very fortunate to have him as our senator. The same is true for Congressman Bishop. Nothing gets by Congressman Bishop. His land bill and the work on the House Armed Services Committee is one of the major reasons why we’re here today.

And finally, I’d like to thank, personally, our Gov. Herbert for quickly realizing the wisdom of this project and seeing it through to the end and as then-lieutenant governor, helping us to get it through. We’re very proud of him and the work that he’s doing as governor and I’m very, very pleased to stand here with all of these other, really top-flight leaders as we talk about this today. Thank you, guys.

GOV. HERBERT: Thank you, Orrin. Give him a hand. (Applause.) We’ll go Sen. Bennett, Congressman Bishop and then Gen. Tarbet.

SENATOR ROBERT BENNETT: I’ve been interested in this subject for over a decade. As some of you may remember, I was chairman of the Y2K Committee – we focused on what would happen to our economy if all the computers failed by accident. And as we were going through that and getting the remediation in place to see that it didn’t happen, it occurred to me we need to think about what would happen to our economy if the computers failed on purpose.

And I began to go around and talk to people about the challenges we have with cybersecurity. Eighty-five percent of the critical infrastructure that runs this country is in private hands, so that was the first place that we focused, was trying to get businesses, trade associations and others connected with the private sector to understand the vulnerability that they have, because whether it’s power companies, telephone companies, financial companies –

What would happen if the Fed wire went down? I’ve posed that question to a number of people and they say, well, the damage to the economy, if somebody hacked into the Fed wire, that’s the electronic backbone of all financial transactions that take place in the country. If somebody hacked in and took down the Fed wire, the impact on the economy would be more severe than if an atomic weapon went off in Manhattan.

I’ve been trying to get my arms around this ever since I had that realization, and I periodically go to the places where they track the threat. And every time I go, I am completely blown away by how different it was from the last time I went. I get a level of understanding, stay away for six to 12
months, go back, and everything is different. The speed with which this world is changing is breathtaking. Well, now I’m delighted that the next time I get into it, I won’t have to go anyplace but to Camp Williams. (Laughter.)

I went out to Camp Williams to train in the dear, dead days beyond recall. Out there each summer with the rattlesnakes and the gnats and the rest of that, that are out there. Now, I can go out as part of the effort to stay up on this issue to what will be probably the most sophisticated center in the world to keep track of this threat. Orrin is exactly right: It has replaced many of the traditional threats we think of as the most significant potential threat we could have. And we do know that it is not just hackers; it’s not just criminals. There are nation-states that are in the business of getting into cyberspace and doing their very best to try to position themselves in case there is any kind of international conflict to take down the computer situation of any other country.

We are, by far – this is the thing I learned in Y2K when we didn’t have a problem – I missed my projection as to how big a problem the rest of the world would have. And it turned out the rest of the world didn’t have much of a problem, either. The reason is that they are nowhere near as advanced as we are with respect to the Internet and our cyber capability.

So the flipside of being the very best in the world – it means that we are potentially the most vulnerable in the world to this kind of attack. (Coughs.) To have this facility in Utah – (coughs). I’m getting a signal that I’m through. (Laughter.) Thank you very much. (Applause.)

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT BISHOP: [Deputy] Director Gaffney illustrated the irony of the situation that when Fort Douglas was established, Utah became a key player in defending the modern communication of that era. Once again, Utah becomes a key player in defending communications here, as well.

Utah was selected in no small part because of the caliber of citizenry we have here, and the ability of the state to work to try and come up with the land that was necessary for this facility. I’m very grateful for Gen. Tarbet and his staff, especially Col. Olsen (ph), who spent a great deal of time in Washington explaining the significance of the proposals that we had up there to facilitate this, as well as the state of Utah who stood out as an equal partner in making this thing take place.

In our economy in Utah, we’re much better off than the rest of the nation. However, probably the construction industry is the one that is hardest hit in the state of Utah, with a significantly higher unemployment rate in that particular section. So with Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Davis and some of the others here, I am very excited about this project, and want to encourage you hire as many Utahans in this construction process as is feasible because it is going to be a major impact for the state of Utah, especially at this particular time.

I am grateful for this opportunity to be here; I am grateful for this project coming to Utah; I am grateful for the part that Utah has played in it; and it bespeaks the caliber of individuals we have here in this particular state. Thank you. (Applause.)

MAJOR GENERAL BRIAN TARBET (Adjutant General, Utah National Guard): This is a great day for Camp Williams. It assures its position as one of the nation’s premiere Department of
Defense establishments, and now we welcome a new neighbor and a new partner. I’m grateful to a lot of people. I’m grateful to our colleagues from the federal intelligence establishment who have been tireless, to members of our congressional delegation, who have done a superb job, and have just worked tirelessly to assure that this came; to their staffers, who give great, great cache to the term “public servants” – they’ve been extraordinary; to members of my staff, who have worked so very hard to see this happen; and to Gov. Herbert and his predecessor, Amb. Huntsman, who midwifed this project.

What does this mean to us? It’s an important thing as we establish this link in the intelligence chain that ultimately protects the lives of our citizens; protects the lives of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines; and it also allows us to identify the innocents and to target and eliminate the threats. This is a great day for us, a great day to be in the garden, and a great day to be Utahan. Thanks very much. (Applause.)

GOV. HERBERT: Well, thanks to everybody. Again, we appreciate the media being here to cover, again, what we believe is a significant event, a good partnership between the federal government and Utah, and a great opportunity.

Now we’ll take some time, so if there are any questions – we’ve got about five minutes – you can ask some questions to the group here if you have anything you’d like to have clarification on. Richard?

QUESTION: Mr. Gaffney, really quickly, I thought I had read that part of the reason that you were relocating to Camp Williams is an effort to decentralize centers like this. In other words, you don’t want all the people doing intelligence work located in one place, say, in Alexandria or something; you want to spread it out. Can you tell a little bit about that process and talk then, again, how you selected Camp Williams as one of those sites?

MR. GAFFNEY: Yes, there is truth in that statement for a couple of reasons. One: It is important for us to – when we’re looking at a national security program that affects the entire nation – I think it’s a great thing to look at some of the key underpinnings for that strategy, like this data center is, and look at how we do that outside the Washington, D.C., you know, East Coast area; it’s important.

It’s a national-level issue and to the extent that we involve the best and the brightest across the nation to work that problem, it’s absolutely a good thing. And as I mentioned, the process that we went through was a rigorous process looking at multiple sites and Utah quickly rose to the top.

GOV. HERBERT: Another question?

QUESTION: (Inaudible, off mike) – the land and everything else, what about the reports that say there’s going to be a huge drain in our power infrastructure in the state for those who are here – in Utah and the West?

GOV. HERBERT: Yeah, as far as – I have not heard that; I don’t believe that that’s the case. We have, actually, in Utah, significant energy sources. In fact, we have so much that we’re selling it
outside our borders. So again, I expect that we’ll need to work with our power suppliers and make sure we’ve got it aggregated correctly and appropriately. But we are an energy producer and exporter of energy in Utah, so that shouldn’t be a problem.

(Off-side conversation.)

GOV. HERBERT: Congressman Bishop was just reminding me that the quality of energy was one of the reasons and one of the criteria that went into our selection.

QUESTION: Gov. Herbert, you called this a really good thing of win-win. I guess I’m not accustomed to hearing those good-news-story terminology used along with combinations of reassurances like Deputy Director Gaffney stated, all operations are going to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the United States. What does it say about our new neighbors that such assurances even have to be made?

GOV. HERBERT: Well, I think there’s always the question of whether the encroachment of government on civil liberties is there or not. Particularly you in the media understand the watchdog aspects that we have in our society and our checks and balances, I think this is a reassurance that we’re going to make sure that that kind of separation and appropriate activity is conducted according to constitutional law.

That being the case, the win-win is that we certainly have a need, unfortunately in this world today, for this kind of an institution. And for us in Utah, we’re happy to be a partner and a participant at Camp Williams in that effort. National security should be everybody’s concern, particularly in today’s climate. And for us in Utah, particularly the benefit on the economic development side cannot be overstated; it’s a $1.5 billion project! We’ll employ 5,000 people on that project just in the construction phase, and 200 people after that will be permanently stationed here in Utah with good, paying jobs. So, man, talk about win-win; it’s win-win-win.

QUESTION: When does that “win” start, once a contractor’s hired? And who’s the architect of the project, and when do those jobs – I mean, when do we start hammering in nails and –

GOV. HERBERT: Timeline, chronological – Glenn?

MR. GAFFNEY: So the National Security Agency will be the executive agent for this project. I believe there’s an industry day scheduled on November 5th, and that will kick off the beginning of the contracting process for the build-out of the center.

QUESTION: Who’s the architect on the project?

GOV. HERBERT: Architect – has an architect been selected?

MR. GAFFNEY: No, hasn’t been selected.

QUESTION: (Cross talk) – of the project, sir?
GOV. HERBERT: Timeline for completion?

MR. GAFFNEY: 2 years.

QUESTION: Could you talk a little bit about what kind of data will be screened at the center? How does it work?

MR. GAFFNEY: I can’t get into some of the specific details of the kind of work that will go on at the center because it is a critical aspect of the way we are looking at doing cybersecurity going forward. I can say that it is – the reason why we are doing the center is because of the deep level of technical expertise that’s needed to understand the nature of the threats. And then how we use that understanding of that threat throughout the Intelligence Community, Homeland Security, the Defense Department, in order to better secure the nation’s infrastructure.

QUESTION: And if we can’t understand what you’re doing, how do we know that you’re not infringing on personal freedoms?

MR. GAFFNEY: Okay, well, one of the key ways, as the governor talked about – the checks and balances. You have a fantastic set of elected representatives and senators who provide oversight through the committees that we talked about.

The level of trust that is established between the Intelligence Community, the entire cybersecurity community, in working with Congress and working with the Senate, that is the key linkage because we are sharing with them and working with them on the details about what we need to do to secure the nation’s infrastructure.

They’re laser-focused on securing this nation. And their partnership with us, and the trust that you place in them, is absolutely critical. So that when your elected representatives stand up and say, we have provided oversight, and we know that this is being done consistent with our laws and with our liberties, that’s what makes government work. So I cannot thank these men enough.

QUESTION: Isn’t our technology moving faster than our analysts can keep up right now? Because we already have an overload of information coming in and not enough analysts to take care of it. I understand there’s information that are not in analysis centers.

SEN. BENNETT: Let me answer that again from my experience over the years looking at this. And to put it in historic terms, it is a constant sword-and-shield battle; the sword on the part of the bad guys who want to hack into our system and steal everything – including your personal information.

They don’t stop at the government if they think you have something they might want – universities, think tanks, everything – they come in with as big a vacuum cleaner as they possibly can. And this country responds with a shield to try to prevent that sword from cutting too deeply. And as soon as the shield works, they invent a new sword, which means inventing a new shield, which means inventing a new sword, which means inventing a new shield, and so it goes.
And so you have the experience I have described; that every time I visit one of these, I find it a completely different kind of experience. And I think that’s exactly the kind of battle – and battle is the only word to describe it – that is going on around the world now.

So if we were to try to get an answer as to exactly what is going to be done in Camp Williams, the specifics would probably be obsolete within six months after we got it. And that, to me, is very comforting because it shows just how good these people really are.

QUESTION: Can someone speak to the political climate in Utah and how that factored into selection this? Obviously, the congressional delegation, the governor and his predecessor are pretty much in favor of this project despite some controversies surrounding it. How important was that in the decision-making process – the politics here?

MR. GAFFNEY: In my entire interaction in the selection process, I never once heard the political climate come up. It was all about the issues that we talked about earlier – the quality of power, the space that was available and the great track record that we have had in partnering with the state of Utah in working on other projects similar to this.

GOV. HERBERT: One last question, okay?

QUESTION: Thank you, I wanted to follow up with that. Were you concerned as you looked at some of the other sites – maybe you can tell us what those were – that it might not be accepted there as it would be here in Utah?

MR. GAFFNEY: No, and I don’t have a list of all the sites that were considered. I know from the time that I entered in on the project, again, it was never discussed; I never heard a concern about it politically. It was strictly on the merits of what we needed in terms of building this center and staffing it appropriately.

GOV. HERBERT: Thank you, everybody. Thank you.

(END)
Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Glenn A. Gaffney (Center), speaks at the Utah State Capitol on Friday, October 23, 2009. From left, Congressman Rob Bishop; Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert; Senator Bob Bennett; Senator Orrin Hatch; and Major General Brian Tarbet.