

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE WM. LACY CLAY  
AT THE HEARING ON  
COMPUTER SECURITY**

**JUNE 24, 2003**

Thank you Mr. Chairman for calling this hearing. I have asked my staff to put up the poster that is from the last computer security hearing held by the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The majority staff working from the same agency reports that are the basis of the OMB report issued last month created this report card. However, the story this report card tells is quite different from the more optimistic tone laid out by the administration.

Twelve of the 24 agencies examined showed no improvement in computer security, and eleven of those agencies had a grade of F in both 2001 and 2002. Those agencies include the General Services Administration (which had a grade of D both years); the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Interior, Justice, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs; the Agency for International Development; the Office of Personnel Management; and the Small Business Administration.

Other agencies showed dramatic decline in grade. For example, the National Science Foundation went from

a B+ in 2001 to a D- in 2002. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration went from a C- to a D+; the Environmental Protection Agency went from a D+ to a D-; the Department of State went from a D+ to an F; the Federal Emergency Management Agency went from a D to an F; and the Department of Housing and Urban Development went from a D to an F.

However, if we look at the chart on page 11 of the administration's report, the government is improving on nearly every indicator. One conclusion might be that the agencies have done a lot of work between last November and now. Unfortunately, this report card, and the OMB report are drawn from the exact same agency reports.

Last week, I sent my staff over to the Department of Transportation, which according to this report card is one of the failing agencies, and they came back with a report of an agency that was making significant improvement in computer security. In fact, the Department of Transportation may well be a leader in implementing the requirements of the Federal Information Security Management Act.

I hope today we can learn why we have such different summaries of the same agency reports.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman, and my thanks to the witnesses for taking their time to be here today.

