



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 20, 2026

Colonel Freeman Martin
Texas Department of Public Safety
5805 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78752

Interim Executive Director Tony Sauerhoff
Texas Department of Information Resources
1711 San Jacinto Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78701

Vice Admiral Timothy James "TJ" White, USN (Ret.)
Chief, The Texas Cyber Command
National Security Collaboration Center
506 Dolorosa Street – San Pedro 1 Building
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Dear Colonel Martin, Interim Director Sauerhoff, and Chief White:

In December 2022, I directed the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) to develop a Model Security Plan for Prohibited Technologies ("model plan") that prohibited certain malicious technologies on state networks and devices. I established this dynamic structure knowing that foreign adversaries would continue to develop new technologies that could target Texas state employees in the hopes of exfiltrating sensitive or personal data, or breaching cybersecurity defenses. This list was updated in January 2025 to add more technologies created by companies with ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

In recognition of this escalating cyber threat, during the 89th regular legislative session, I prioritized the creation of the [Texas Cyber Command](#) (TXCC). The purpose-built agency's sole mission is to operationally meet and counter the ever-growing cyber threat and wholistically enhance the state's cybersecurity posture, coordination, and strategy.

Since his appointment as cyber chief, Admiral TJ White has made rapid progress in starting up and implementing the TXCC. Given the Command's specialized operational capacity and its mission to defend against the threats contemplated by the model plan, effective immediately I am naming

Colonel Martin, Interim Director Sauerhoff, and Chief White

January 20, 2026

Page 2

TXCC the lead agency in achieving the primary objective of my original directive, to incorporate additional technologies, including any “apps, services, hardware, or software.” DIR and DPS will maintain their current roles and assist TXCC in identifying emerging threats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" being more prominent than the last name "Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:dmm