It’s a great honor to be able to open the Cyber Operations Panel for the second year in a row. It’s such a critically important topic, and in fact all the more important now that the national threat assessment has listed cyber as the No. 1 threat that we face as a nation across the board. That actually is a game-changer when you begin to think about that, and I think it raises the prominence and elevates the need for us to act better and more effectively against the cyber threat than ever before.

Vice Admiral Jan Tighe was chairing the panel, moderating, and she opened the panel with an outstanding talk about this, where this was heading, and the role that cyber’s gonna have to play into the future. The panel itself had a wide-ranging set of discussions, ranging from the big issues that we all face around talent, and recruitment, and retention of people necessarily in order to solve the problem across the board, to the effective engagement of defense and industry together in order to solve the problems themselves.

I thought it was most telling that General Reynolds, for example, commented specifically about the fact that this is not something that we can do separately, it’s something that we have to act together to solve. And I think that is really a very important, salient point that we have to take forward.

This actually fits really well with the position that we’ve been taking for a long time in cyber security within Accenture Federal Services, which is that we have to find a way to act differently and deliver differently in order to solve the problems and get ourselves ahead of the threats that are there. The basis of the Moonshot paper, as everybody knows, is that we’re not doing this well together. We need to begin to change our actions and engage in a different manner in order to drive forward and change the balance of power in the cyber threat space.