Nominator's Information

1. NAME OF NOMINATOR: Nicole Melcher, Director, Office of the China Economic Area

2. NOMINATOR'S AREA CODE AND PHONE NUMBER: 202-482-2515

3. NOMINATOR'S BUSINESS UNIT: MAC

4. NOMINATOR'S IMMEDIATE OFFICE: Office of the China Economic Area

Nominee's Information

1. NAME OF NOMINEE: IT Security Group

   Group Members:

MAC	Ms. Jenny May
	Mr. Bryan O'Byrne
MAS	Ms. Heidi Hijikata
	Mr. Jon Boyens
CS	Mr. Mark Lewis
	Ms. Shi Huiling
OGC	Ms. Gwenann Manseau
NIST	Mr. Ajit Jillavenkatesa
	Mr. William (Curt) Barker
	Ms. Donna Dodson
	Mr. Arnold Johnson
	Ms. Patricia Toth

2. NOMINEE'S BUSINESS UNIT: MAC, MAS, CS, OGC, NIST

3. NOMINEE'S IMMEDIATE OFFICE: MAC -- Office of the China Economic Area, Office of the Trade Compliance Center, MAS -- Office of Technology and Electronic Commerce, Office of Standards Liaison, CS – CS Beijing, OGC – Office of International Commerce, NIST

4. NOMINEE'S LOCATION: HCHB, U.S. Embassy Beijing, NIST

5. IS THE NOMINEE(S) CURRENTLY PERFORMING AT A RATING LEVEL OF AT LEAST A LEVEL 3? Yes. All group members are performing at a level 3 or above.

   Please note that the nominee(s) must be performing at a level 3 or above.

6. CATEGORY OF AWARD: Outstanding Group (2 or more individuals)

7. SALUTATION: (MR., MRS., MISS, MS.) FOR INDIVIDUALS; (MESDAMES, MESSIEURS) FOR GROUPS: Mesdames May, Hijikata, Huiling, Manseau, Dodson, and Toth, and Messieurs O'Byrne, Boyens, Lewis, Jillavenkatesa, Barker, and Johnson.

8. PRONUNCIATION: FULL NAME WITH ACCENTED SYLLABLES IN UPPER CASE

   JENny MAY
   BRYan o'BYRNE
   HEIdi 'HiJIkata
   JON BOYens
   MARK LEWis
   SHI HUIling
   GWENann manSEAU
   aJIT JillaVENkatesa
   WILliam BARker
   DONna DODson
   ARnold JOHNson
   paTRIcia TOTH

9. NOMINEE'S AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER:

Ms. Jenny May	202-482-5681
Mr. Bryan O'Bryne	202-482-0705
Ms. Heidi Hijikata	202-482-8164
Mr. Jon Boyens	202-482-0573
Mr. Mark Lewis	86-10-8531-3420
Ms. Shi Huiling	86-10-8531-3419
Ms. Gwenann Manseau	202-482-5219
Mr. Ajit Jillavenkatesa	301-975-5089
Mr. William (Curt) Barker	301-975-8443
Ms. Donna Dodson	301-975-3669
Mr. Arnold Johnson	301-975-3247
Ms. Patricia Toth	301-975-5140

10. CERTIFICATE CITATION: (up to 150 characters including spaces)

    For outstanding teamwork in eliminating China's proposed information security requirements that would have negatively impacted U.S. products.

11. PROGRAM CITATION: (maximum of 300 characters including spaces)

    This award recognizes the group, including MAC, MAS, CS Beijing, OGC, and NIST, that crafted and implemented a successful strategy that resulted in China cancelling proposed IT security requirements for commercial sales and ensuring that China's market remained open to U.S. products.

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: 6/18/09

Approval of DAS or Equivalent: _____ Date: 6/18/09

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JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVES:

- Group Nomination

Nomination of IT Security Group for Bronze Medal

In August 2007, China's Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) proposed compulsory testing and certification for a broad range of information technology (IT) products, significantly impacting China's commercial market valued at an estimated $5 billion. Most countries, including the United States, do not regulate or require mandatory testing and certification for commercially sold IT products. The proposed requirements would significantly limit market access for U.S. IT exports.

Gravely concerned with China's proposed measures, U.S. industry met with senior ITA officials to request Commerce's assistance. Subsequently, a group of ITA and NIST specialists in Washington and CS Beijing, formed to strategize regarding how best to address this concern and to achieve the ITA goal of identifying and resolving unfair trade practices. The group's efforts led to the accomplishment of a major initiative to obtain changes in a foreign government's policies affecting American business interests.

As a first step, the team identified CNCA as Commerce's primary interlocutor on this issue. To effectively utilize all resources, the group used a two-pronged approach to engage China at the technical and policy levels. At the technical level, a NIST-led team held two bilateral technical meetings via videoconference at which U.S. and international approaches to information security were explained, including the reasons for the effectiveness of such approaches. These technical discussions enabled the group to gather previously unavailable information about China's proposed approach and to develop arguments to convince China that the current international standards were sufficient for protecting information security and that commercial applications should not be regulated.

Building on the technical discussions, senior MAC and MAS officials, with support from CS Beijing and OGC, held seven rounds of bilateral policy meetings, urging China to refrain from adopting any requirements that would mandate information security certification and testing for commercial products. The group members worked together to develop talking points for each meeting. In 2007 and 2008, MAC, MAS, and OGC worked together to raise this issue in several multilateral fora, including four WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee meetings at which the U.S. Government successfully obtained third-party support from the EC, Japan, Korea, and Canada. Leading up to the annual U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) high-level meeting in September 2008, the team developed a strategy that urged China to suspend implementation of the proposed requirements. After 13 months of tireless efforts, China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan committed at the September 2008 JCCT meeting to postpone implementation of the requirements until May 1, 2009, pending further consultations with industry.

Immediately after the JCCT, MAC and MAS coordinated extensive outreach to industry as well as interagency efforts with USTR to monitor China's further development of the proposed requirements, leading up to the May 1 implementation date. MAC, MAS, and OGC worked together to take advantage of Secretary Locke's first meeting with Chinese Minister of Commerce Chen Deming on April 27, 2009, by providing talking points for Secretary Locke's use to urge the suspension of these proposed requirements.

On April 29, 2009, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), Ministry of Finance and CNCA permanently cancelled implementation of the requirements for commercial sales but maintained the requirement only for products procured by the government. U.S. industry was pleased with this outcome, which ensured that U.S. companies could continue to access China's estimated $5 billion IT security market. As a result of the group's efforts, ITA, OGC and NIST provided an unusually significant direct contribution to the achievement of ITA's important goal of identifying and resolving unfair trade practices