

Steven Cooper

Member, Board of Advisors

*Founding Partner, [Stratinvest](#) &
First CIO of U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security*

Steven I. Cooper is a founding partner of Stratinvest (www.stratinvest.com), a firm focused on identifying emerging technologies applicable to homeland security and emergency response and preparedness, assisting in the development of “go-to-market” actions, and in providing management advisory services for business strategy and business development, competitive intelligence, and the strategic use of information and communications technology for competitive advantage.

In November 2007, Mr. Cooper joined Fortified Holdings Corporation (www.fortifiedholdings.com) as President. Fortified Holdings is a diversified holding company focused on the development and delivery of solutions to improve situational awareness across the homeland security and first responder communities. In addition to operational responsibilities, he is focused on identifying acquisition targets for the company and helping its business units expand their market reach in effectively delivering its product solutions to emergency management organizations like the Federal Emergency Management Agency, local municipalities, first responders, and government and military agencies, to include the Department of Homeland Security, the US Army, and the US Coast Guard.

From May 2005 to July 2007, he was senior vice president and chief information officer (CIO) of the American Red Cross. Mr. Cooper was responsible for the information technology (IT) assets of the Red Cross and leveraging them to support the humanitarian organization’s 35,000 employees and the 300 million Americans they serve. He guided the introduction of a first ever national call center during Hurricane Katrina to provide emergency assistance to the more than 4 Million people displaced from their homes and led the strategic sourcing of the ARC’s primary data center.

In February 2003, he was appointed by President George W. Bush as the first CIO of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). His accomplishments include the implementation of a Homeland Secure Data Network to enable the exchange of classified homeland security information among federal civilian agencies and with the Department of Defense; in partnership, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the deployment of a Homeland Security Information Network to share sensitive information with state and local agencies; first responders, and private sector entities who own critical infrastructure; in developing the department’s first IT Strategic Plan, and in standing up the ‘day one’ IT operations of DHS. Mr. Cooper testified frequently before Congress on matters related to Cyber and Information Security, and the use of Information Technology to achieve homeland security mission objectives.

Earlier, in March 2002, Mr. Cooper was appointed Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and also served as senior director for information integration in the White House Office of Homeland Security. In this role, he initiated the integration of the terrorist watch lists, and launched the development of the National Enterprise Architecture for Homeland Security to address information integration within the federal government and the sharing of homeland security information with state, local, and relevant private-sector entities.

Mr. Cooper was named one of the Top 100 CIOs in America by CIO Insight in 2007. He previously was honored by Government Computer News as the Government Civilian Executive of the Year; by the Northern Virginia Technology Council as a Titan of Technology; was a recipient of the Fed 100 Award recognizing the 100 most influential people in Federal Government Technology; and was named by the Washington Post as One of the Five to Watch while serving in the White House.

Mr. Cooper has remained active in his support of the NGO and Not-for-profit sector. Continuing work he did with the Department of Homeland Security in public safety interoperability through his current role as a Board Member of ComCARE (www.comcare.org), he is currently participating in the ComCARE Alliance's Core Services Initiative to provide a nationwide Enterprise Provider Access Directory and Identity Management services for all members of the emergency response community.

As a Board Member of NetHope (www.nethope.org), he is working to extend Information and Communication Technology capability, infrastructure, and innovation across the globe on behalf of NetHope's members, the 23 largest global humanitarian organizations, to 'wire the global village'.

Mr Cooper serves as an executive board member of the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue, and as a board member of AFCEA International, both not-for-profit organizations dedicated to addressing matters of disaster preparedness and national security at all levels of government and for each citizen and family.

As the first Executive-on-Grounds at the University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce, Mr. Cooper brings "real-life" experience in applying technology to the students in the Masters program in the Management of IT.

Prior to his federal government service, Mr. Cooper spent more than twenty years in the private sector as an IT professional and holds a BA degree from Ohio Wesleyan University. He is a former Naval Air Reserve petty officer who served during the Vietnam conflict. He is married and states that being the father of four daughters, and the brother of four sisters, remains the toughest job he's ever had.