

**The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

**Opening Statement:**

*Science and Technology  
Fiscal Year 2012 Budget*

**Witness:  
Under Secretary Tara O'Toole**

**3:30 PM | Wednesday | March 30, 2011 | 2362-A RHOB**

Hearing is called to order [ *gentle strike of gavel* ] –

This afternoon we welcome Under Secretary Tara O'Toole in her second appearance before this Subcommittee, as we examine the President's fiscal year 2012 budget to fund the Directorate of Science and Technology.

A relatively young enterprise, S&T was established in 2003 with the new Department of Homeland Security, with its primary mission to ensure that DHS, its agencies, and the broader homeland security community can benefit from the application of science and technology. As it has evolved as a component of the Department, S&T has touched

on virtually all the activities within DHS, and has established an organizational structure that aligns with them.

We have had longstanding concerns about whether S&T is striking the right balance between long-term, basic research, and targeting near-term research for technologies that are ripe for deployment. There is no question some DHS research may not have a home anywhere else than DHS itself. It may not be a priority for other federal agencies; may have a long time horizon; or may lack a commercial market that could attract private funding. Still, such research may have value, and should be considered when looking at S&T's plans.

However, there seems to be an implicit consensus that S&T should concentrate on fielding technology its customers need, a view I believe you endorse, Dr. O'Toole. I hope to hear today about concrete impacts S&T can point to, particularly for critical missions involving border and travel security, biometrics, and infrastructure protection.

S&T's approach to technology is to serve as a reliable and transparent clearing house for private sector homeland security –related research. Despite there being specific examples where S&T has helped discover or accelerate development, testing, or review of such technology, there remains a perception in the private sector that S&T –

and the DHS agencies who procure technologies – remain difficult to connect with. Today, I hope you will address tangible ways in which DHS, and S&T in particular, are working to attract and be more accessible to private sector initiative.

More than anything, S&T has to sell itself to Congress as a good investment, and not a place where ideas may be generated, only to be ignored by front line operators. Last month's House action on H.R. 1 showed many in Congress are uninformed about S&T. S&T needs more effective outreach about what S&T does, and how the multi-billion dollar investment in the enterprise is valuable is producing results.

Until S&T's role can be made more visible and its impact demonstrated more concretely, you will likely face challenges from those who are unfamiliar with your work and will question the value of funding R&D over other, operational programs.

Dr. O'Toole, we look forward to your testimony. As your written record will be placed in the record, I ask that you take no more than five minutes to summarize it for the Committee. But before you begin, I would first like to recognize Mr. Price, our distinguished Ranking Member, for his opening remarks.

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