



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

David Price (D-NC), Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security

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OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DAVID PRICE
*Developing and Transitioning Homeland Security Research Products
Into Use*
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This morning we have before the Subcommittee Mr. Bradley Buswell, Acting Under Secretary for the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate at DHS to discuss how the agency develops and translates advanced research into operational homeland security products.

Welcome Mr. Buswell.

Today, one of our main focuses is to obtain a greater understanding of how S&T identifies and selects promising technologies for further development, and how you find ways to efficiently leverage existing technologies into new uses. Your predecessor took a proactive stance, seeking to ensure that the research S&T undertook was relevant to the operational needs of the components within DHS. We would like to hear from you about how you are continuing these efforts.

S&T is a very young agency, formed when DHS was created in 2003. In its infancy, we were concerned that it was replicating research done either by other Federal Government entities or by other DHS agencies. As such, in 2008, this Subcommittee commissioned a study by NAPA to look at how S&T's research portfolio fits into the broader scope of research in the

Federal Government. This review should be completed in June. In the interim, we are interested in discussing: what specific steps is S&T taking to ensure that efforts, within the Innovation portfolio in particular, are not duplicative of research that either precedes it, or is ongoing elsewhere in DHS; how does S&T coordinate its work within the Department; and how do other DHS components test and utilize technologies S&T develops in their own work so that promising technologies don't sit on the shelf.

Recently, some disturbing news surfaced about internal coordination within S&T related to the BioWatch program. Specifically, we have been told that one component of S&T is field-testing a Bio Watch prototype, without coordination with the Test & Evaluation and Standards Office, which claims they don't have access to any of that data. Although we will be holding a hearing later this year to discuss the specific challenges related to the BioWatch program, this a good example of what we need you to be mindful of as S&T executes the fiscal year 2009 budget that we approved, and as we consider the upcoming fiscal year's request.

At our hearing with S&T last year, we talked at length about better ways to include the private sector in the development of new technologies, as well as S&T's role as a technology clearing house for homeland security-related research. We continue to have a strong interest in improving S&T's capacity to evaluate promising technologies and research proposals from outside. S&T's upcoming installation of "Resilient Electric Grid" technology in New York City is a great example of how they should be leveraging prior investment, both public and private, to accomplish their mission. This technology would help prevent the spread of blackouts such as we saw in 2003, and could maintain power in more areas affected by a disaster by isolating blackouts before they spread. We would like to hear about your recent accomplishments and upcoming plans for this promising technology.

Finally, just last week, at our hearing on Interoperability, we discussed the importance of field demonstrations and pilot programs. This surely is an integral step in S&T's technology development process. Because a large portion of your budget has been devoted to these efforts, it would be helpful if you could discuss some recent pilots S&T has been involved in since our hearing last year and your future plans for performing demonstrations with your customers.

Before we begin, I would like to point out that while S&T's University Programs are not the main focus of this hearing, we should not downplay the crucial role basic research plays in a homeland security environment. This type of investment helps us gain a greater understanding of the world around us, which, in turn, affords us greater insight into how we can better provide disaster relief, for example, or more effectively protect our borders with technological advances.

Mr. Buswell, we look forward to your testimony. Please summarize your oral statement in about five minutes as your entire written statement will be placed into the record. But before your testimony, let me turn to the distinguished ranking member, Mr. Rogers, for any comments he may wish to make.

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