

TSWG's Role in Combating Terrorism

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Introduction.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am Edward J. McCallum, Director of the Combating Terrorism Technology Support Office (CTTSO).

My written testimony describes the mission, organization, processes and important successes of TSWG in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Mr. Jakub has fully described the history of the TSWG. My oral testimony will emphasize organization, processes and a few selective successes.

TSWG's mission is to conduct the national interagency research and development (R&D) program for combating terrorism. It carries out this mission by providing technologies to support *both* armed forces overseas who are "bringing the fight" to the terrorist enemy wherever he is lodged *and* "first responders" here at home. TSWG-developed technologies are *not* proprietary to a particular user but frequently have application both to war fighters and first responders. Technologies are being used for offensive war fighting operations overseas and for defensive measures at home. Sensors and detectors assist in *preventing* incidents while other technologies help *mitigate* the consequences or *attribute culpability* for incidents should they occur.

Organization.

TSWG includes representatives from over eighty organizations across the Federal Government. These are listed on the first easel chart.

Departments and agencies, including representatives from "first responder" end user communities (fire, police, hazmat, bomb squads), participate in nine subgroups.¹ The organization is displayed in the second easel chart before you.

¹ Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Countermeasures; Explosives Detection; Improvised Device Defeat; Infrastructure Protection; Investigative Support and Forensics; Personnel Protection; Physical Security; Surveillance, Collection and Operations Support; Tactical Operations Support.

Process.

TSWG operates under a highly successful, integrated “business model.” It is portrayed in the third easel chart before you. In January, TSWG sponsors a “Threat Day” for distinguished experts to present their threat estimates. Threat Day helps inform the *definition and prioritization of requirements* by participants in the nine functional TSWG subgroups. Requirements definition/prioritization by ultimate users assures that R&D products produced by TSWG’s rapid prototyping will smoothly enter the marketplace or military acquisition process.

An Annual Program Briefing to Industry (APBI) in March briefs prospective vendors on TSWG requirements, invites industry comment and clarification and helps assure *responsive proposals* for the specific posted requirements in TSWG’s Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs).

TSWG utilizes a *three step process* for managing the proposal process. It does so to economize resources on both the submission and evaluation ends of the process. TSWG recognizes that the preparation of good proposals requires substantial time and money commitments. It manages the selection process through the stages of quad charts, white papers and final proposals. The success rate of proposals submitted after successful white papers is quite high: perhaps nine out of ten.

The entire process of posting requirements, informing proposers on how to apply, managing responses and evaluating the three stages of proposals is all undertaken *electronically* in a BAA Information Delivery System (BIDS) which you are all welcome to visit. (URL: <https://www.bids.tswg.gov>)

Successes.

I would like to discuss just a few representative successes of the TSWG prototyping activities. There are many more provided in the written testimony.

Here’s what I believe to be distinctive about TSWG accomplishments:

- They represent *real* solutions to *real* problems encountered by key actors in the war against terrorism
- They meet real *requirements* of the war as defined by end users
- Their *transition* to general use is assured by the fact that end users have been part of the TSWG process from inception to ultimate product consumption

I would be happy to answer your questions.