



Committee on  
**HOMELAND SECURITY**  
Chairman Michael McCaul

*Opening Statement*

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**Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Patrick Meehan (R-PA)  
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies**

**“Strategy and Mission of the DHS Science and Technology Directorate”**

**Remarks as Prepared**

I would like to thank everyone for attending this important joint hearing on the strategy and mission of the DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate. I would particularly like to thank Ranking Member Clarke as well as Chairman Bucshon and Ranking Member Lipinski of the Science and Technology Research Subcommittee for their participation. Since both committees share jurisdiction it is helpful that we are holding this oversight hearing together while we collaborate on writing an authorization bill. I would also like to thank our witnesses, Dr. Reginald “Reggie” Brothers, the new Under Secretary for S&T and David Maurer from GAO and I look forward to hearing from both of you on the challenges facing the directorate and how we can help ensure S&T is able to fulfill its mission.

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate was established by Congress to be the primary research and development arm of the Department of Homeland Security. In this role, S&T manages science and technology research and provides acquisition support for the Department’s operational components, and works with partners to do basic research and provide technology solutions to first responders.

It is no secret that the Science and Technology Directorate has had challenges since its creation. Despite several restructurings and close congressional oversight, the S&T Directorate continues to face difficulties in fulfilling its mission. Problems with priority-setting and strategic planning for the directorate’s R&D programs as well as balancing incremental efforts with high risk, high reward research remain a challenge. In addition, there continue to be challenges with working with the operational components in both research and acquisition support activities.

Our committees have been working together to develop authorizing language for the S&T Directorate to give it the clarity, structure and tools it needs while ensuring it remains accountable. I look forward to working with everyone here as we develop that legislation.

We appreciate that Dr. Brothers was just confirmed to his post as Under Secretary in April and we don’t expect all of these problems to be solved overnight. That said, we are interested in hearing his ideas on how to get and keep the S&T Directorate on track. Dr. Brothers recently briefed our staff, and will discuss in his testimony, the establishment of four key visionary goals on which S&T will focus their efforts. And while goals are important,

we are also interested in hearing the strategy and implementation plan to make those goals a reality including timelines and metrics as well.

S&T has a unique position and opportunity to be, as you said in your written testimony, “the glue between operational elements.” We look forward hearing about specific successes that S&T has accomplished working with operational components. And just as important, we look forward to hearing how S&T intends to balance the long-term research agenda with short-term operational technology development and acquisition support.

Again, I would like to thank the witnesses as well as our Science Committee colleagues for participating in this hearing today. With that, I yield the balance of my time.

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