

## **Ranking Member Cedric L. Richmond Opening Statement**

### **Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee**

#### **“Examining DHS Science and Technology Directorate’s Engagement with Academia and Industry”**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2015**

I too, want to thank the representatives of industry and business for being here today, and I especially want to thank Dr. Sam Aronson for agreeing to give us his scientific research perspective---this is an issue that he is well versed in. We are pleased to have you all here today.

In fact Dr. Aronson, I want to make sure that your experience is sufficiently reflected in the record. Not only are you the current President of the American Physical Society, and you are representing them today---some 50 thousand physicists throughout the country, you are also a former Director of the Brookhaven Laboratory, where you now direct the RIKEN Research Center for the study of nuclear physics, and you are a Research Professor at Stony Brook University’s College of Engineering. We are grateful that you found the time to appear before us today.

The Science and Technology Directorate is an essential component of the Department of Homeland Security’s efforts. The mission of the S&T Directorate is to help provide innovative science and technology solutions for the Homeland Security Enterprise that will strengthen America’s security posture, and resiliency capabilities.

In order to meet the needs of the many front line components of DHS, covering all mission areas, we have seen the S&T Directorate strive to rapidly develop and deliver knowledge, analyses, and innovative solutions that advance the mission of the Department. It is a complex and difficult mission. The ultimate goal of S&T, as I see it, is to strengthen the Homeland Security First Responders’ capabilities to protect and respond to disaster, whether it is a man-made event, or hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, or tornadoes.

In 2009, before I came to this Subcommittee, the National Academy of Public Administration or NAPA, published a comprehensive overview of the Directorate, and this Subcommittee initiated its own year-long comprehensive review of S&T, led by then Chairwoman, Yvette Clarke. The purpose was to identify areas within the Directorate that could use a fresh set of eyes and additional oversight or modifications to legislative authorities. As a result, we produced a comprehensive, bipartisan bill, which passed the House unanimously in 2010.

We are at a similar moment Mr. Chairman, as I understand that you and Chairman McCaul plan to offer an authorization of S&T later this summer, and this hearing is a first step. I am hoping that some of the things we learned during that process in 2010 can be used in this upcoming authorization effort. One of the things we did learn was that with such a large and complex portfolio, the Directorate has found it difficult to craft a cohesive, comprehensive strategy.

The NAPA analysis suggested that the Department had not developed a clear risk-based methodology to determine what research projects to fund---how much to fund---and how to evaluate a project’s effectiveness or usefulness. These questions remain today.

I want to support the scientific R&D efforts of the Directorate in every way that I can, and part of that help will be to plan for and authorize research rules and metrics that are more fully considered and comprehensively established.

We all know these are challenging budget times, and especially as the appropriations process is upon us. After I reviewed the 2012 Sequester cuts that basically left S&T with little more than the lights on---I suggest that we will need to be prepared to defend the R&D funding at S&T, and to defend it from sequester efforts that can damage the scientific efforts in the Department at large.

Striving to do more with less is always the hallmark of an efficiently run business or government program, but trying to protect our citizens and nation with programs that are backed by underfunded and depleted science and technology research assets, is another matter.