

News from Congressman David Price (NC-04)

Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Contact: Paul Cox, 202-225-1784

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DAVID PRICE ***DHS Science and Technology Hearing, 10 am***

This morning we will hear from two panels on identifying and investing in research and technologies that can be adapted to make our homeland more secure. Our first panel will consist of Mr. Rich Davis, Mr. Marc Sageman and Mr. Scott Atran from RTI International, and Mr. Christopher Darby, President and CEO from In-Q-Tel.

The first three panelists will brief the Subcommittee on their research into the process of radicalization as it relates to terrorism and political violence. I want to be clear that our discussion here today is not referring to anyone who simply holds political views that might be subjectively labeled as “radical.” No, in this context “radicalization” refers to the process by which an individual becomes open to the prospect of committing violent political acts – terrorist acts. We need a much better understanding of the process of radicalization if we want to keep homegrown terrorism from escalating in the United States. No one should forget that long before the 9/11 attacks, a homegrown terrorist successfully carried out an attack on the federal building in Oklahoma City. This discussion will focus on specific cases and on how this kind of research should be informing U.S. policy.

Thereafter, Mr. Darby will discuss how In-Q-Tel acts as an innovation forum to foster the development and introduction of next-generation technologies needed by the federal government; a role similar to what the Innovation office in the Science and Technology Directorate is trying to do for DHS.

Let me point out that the work of the witnesses before us this morning is not being funded by the Science and Technology Directorate. But we believe it is the kind of work that DHS should be aware of, and that is why we have asked them to testify today. S&T should be spreading a wide net in identifying both research topics and technology solutions that can help better secure our homeland.

When the first panel concludes, we will hear from Under Secretary Jay Cohen from the Science and Technology Directorate about his plans for research and technology investments for the Department of Homeland Security in fiscal year 2009.

In total, the President’s budget requests \$868.8 million for the Science and Technology Directorate, including \$132.1 million for management and administration and \$736.7 million for research, development, acquisition and operations. This is a 5 percent increase over 2008. I am pleased to see that your budget carries forward many key initiatives that have been important to

this Committee over the past few years, including funding for the University Centers of Excellence programs, the design and construction of key laboratories, and for enhancements to cargo and conveyance security.

I am also pleased to note that the budget doubles the amount of funding requested for detecting, deterring, and responding to improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. IEDs have been a concern since the Oklahoma City bombing, well before September 11, 2001, and their threat has increased over time, after each unfortunate incident in Europe and Asia. This is the kind of effort we really should have started years ago, and I hope we will be able to expedite the development of countermeasure technologies that are truly effective.

S&T's budget requests \$1.7 million less in 2009 than was provided in 2008 for research on emerging cyber security threats and ways to thwart them. A cut in this area seems counterintuitive, given the increasing number of media reports indicating that China and other countries have targeted the U.S. government and privately owned cyber infrastructure. Given the large and growing dependence of our economy on the Internet, we cannot afford to see a U.S. version of what occurred in April 2007, when Estonia was essentially shut down after its computer infrastructure was overwhelmed by cyber attacks. Technology and research will play a critical role in seeing that we thwart this threat.

Gentleman, we look forward to hearing your testimonies. Please summarize your oral statement in about five minutes. Your entire written statement will be placed into the record. As I said earlier, we will begin with the first panel and then turn to Under Secretary Cohen. However, before you begin, let me turn to the distinguished ranking member, Mr. Rogers, for any comments he may wish to make.

###