

TECHNICAL SUPPORT WORKING GROUP

Background. In April 1982, National Security Decision Directive 30 assigned responsibility for the development of overall U.S. policy on terrorism to the Interdepartmental Group on Terrorism (IG/T) chaired by the Department of State (DOS). The TSWG was an original subgroup of the IG/T, which later became the Interagency Working Group on Counterterrorism. In its February 1986 report, a cabinet level Task Force on Combating Terrorism led by Vice-President Bush cited the TSWG, as assuring “the development of appropriate counterterrorism technological efforts.” Today, the TSWG still performs that function as a standalone working group.

Mission. TSWG’s mission is to conduct the national interagency research and development (R&D) program for combating terrorism through rapid research, development, and prototyping.

Charter. The TSWG is the U.S. national forum that identifies, prioritizes, and coordinates interagency and international research and development requirements for combating terrorism. It is chartered to support national combating terrorism objectives by:

- Coordinating R&D needs and requirements across the Federal Government to ensure a focused national interagency program.
- Providing a disciplined interagency forum for the exchange of ideas among operational and development communities responsible for combating terrorism.
- Conducting research, development, and prototyping through sponsorship of projects with the intent to rapidly develop and transition equipment to the operational community.
- Providing technology transition assistance throughout the development cycle to military and Federal planners, developers, and users.
- Influencing broad-based, long-term R&D across the Federal Government and conducting long-term R&D in selected areas to address significant capability deficiencies.
- Applying funds to satisfy predominantly multi-agency needs and requirements in all technology areas according to operational priorities.
- Conducting specific R&D projects that address individual agency needs and requirements in critical areas.
- Coordinating R&D needs and requirements and conducting cooperative R&D with selected NATO and major non-NATO allies.
- Disseminating information on combating terrorism to operational and R&D communities.
- Coordinating with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on interagency R&D planning, programming, and execution issues for combating terrorism.

Executive Steering Committee. The Executive Steering Committee (ESC), which includes representatives from the Departments of State and Defense, provides oversight for the activities of the TSWG. The State Department’s Coordinator for Counterterrorism maintains policy oversight and provides the chair for the ESC. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (SOLIC) is responsible for oversight of the technology

requirements and program execution. SOLIC provides a technical chair for the ESC and designates a program management office to execute TSWG programs. Other Departments and agencies provide technical chairs, as required. Currently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation provides a chair. In the near future, the Department of Energy will provide a chair.

Program Management. Program management is accomplished by the Combating Terrorism Technology Support Office under the oversight of SOLIC.

Subgroups. The TSWG has nine functional area subgroups chaired or co-chaired by representatives from various agencies. Chairs are selected based on their agency's equities in the functional areas. It is within these subgroups that requirements are identified and prioritized. Representatives from member Department/agencies participate in those subgroups relevant to their Department/agency roles and responsibilities in combating terrorism.

Membership. Participation is open to all Defense organizations, Federal Departments and agencies. State and local needs are represented by Federal agencies with State and local responsibilities; e.g., the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Institute of Justice, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Public Health Service. Currently, over 80 organizations in nine Departments and numerous agencies across the Federal Government participate in the TSWG.

Funding. While the TSWG's funds are derived principally from DoD's Combating Terrorism Technology Support (CTTS) Program, DOS and other Departments and agencies contribute additional funds. Core funding is currently about \$40 million annually. In FY01, total TSWG funding was about \$72 million. This includes core funding, Congressional adds, and contributions from other agencies.

International Dimension. As a result of a Senate initiative for joint counterterrorism R&D efforts, the TSWG conducts joint projects with NATO and non-NATO allies.

Transitioning Capability. The TSWG has successfully transitioned significant technical capabilities to the Departments of Defense, Justice, State, and Treasury (Secret Service, Customs, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms); the Intelligence Community; the Federal Aviation Administration; the Public Health Service; and other agencies.

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TSWG Structure

