

# DHS Science and Technology Directorate

## Capability Development Support Group

### Capability Development Support Helps Secure the Nation

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) mission touches our lives in a variety of ways—from making our airports and borders more secure to helping our communities recover from hurricanes and tornados and protecting our nation's infrastructure. The DHS Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Capability Development Support (CDS) Group works closely with the DHS components to ensure their programs and systems reduce or mitigate the challenges we face and also do it in the safest, most efficient and most cost-effective manner.

CDS provides an innovative, systems-based approach to help operators define their needs and develop technologies and solutions that can be quickly deployed to frontline operators. CDS' analytic and systems engineering approach is used to assess the operational environment and fiscal limitations to ensure the best solutions are chosen. An example of this is the Rio Grande Valley Systems Analysis Project. CDS worked with U.S. Customs and Border Protection on the south Texas border to help identify system solutions to meet operational challenges. CDS also worked with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to assist in addressing process and technological challenges. Currently, CDS is working with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service on ways to streamline immigration and citizenship processes.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration  
Naturalization Ceremony

CDS's expertise includes systems engineering, operations analysis, test and evaluation, standards, and acquisition. CDS focuses on accuracy and analysis to make smart investment decisions that deliver enhance capabilities to the Homeland Security Enterprise.

### Test and Evaluation

Through delegation by the Secretary under the Homeland Security Act, CDS acts as the principal advisor on opera-

tional test and evaluation. CDS oversees test and evaluation for DHS major acquisition ensuring homeland security technologies are reliable, interoperable and effective. CDS provides T&E oversight for 135 major acquisition programs owned by DHS components (a \$150 billion acquisition enterprise). The Transportation Security Laboratory directly supports CDS and primarily specializes in evaluating screening and contraband detection technologies.

### Standards

CDS develops and oversees DHS standards that ensure reliable, interoperable and effective technologies and processes. This includes coordination and representation on a number of standard-setting bodies and organizations.

### Operations Requirements and Analysis

Established in 2012, CDS' Operations and Requirements Analysis (ORA) office uses technical and analytic expertise to identify and prioritize cross-DHS capability gaps and find solutions for DHS component operations. The goal is to save money and time while meeting DHS critical missions and to support S&T with transitioning technologies to operational use. ORA also supports the DHS Joint Requirements Council (JRC), a DHS component-led body designed to identify and prioritize cross-department capability gaps and recommend investments to address the gaps. CDS supports the JRC and provide capabilities and requirements analysis to address the gaps, overlaps and duplications at the enterprise level rather than at the individual component level.

### Systems Engineering

CDS' systems engineering promotes a rigorous systems engineering process that transforms customer needs and requirements into operational capabilities.

### Component Acquisition Executive Support

As the Component Acquisition Executive, CDS represents S&T on a number of acquisition and policy steering committees.

CDS provides the Homeland Security Enterprise coordinated policies, guidance, processes, products and outreach in standards, systems analysis, test and evaluation.



**Homeland  
Security**

Science and Technology

To learn more about S&T's Capability Development Support Group, contact [STCDS@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:STCDS@hq.dhs.gov).