

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Operations and Requirements Analysis

Two branches of one “systems thinking” team facilitate effective acquisitions

Capability Development Support provides rigor

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate’s (S&T) Capability Development Support (CDS) instills the rigor and analysis needed to make smart investment decisions that deliver enhanced capabilities for quick deployment to the Homeland Security Enterprise (HSE).

Specifically, CDS works closely with DHS Components to help them identify the most critical operational needs, generate effective operational requirements and standards, and develop and test new systems in a disciplined manner that ensures delivered capabilities effectively and suitably satisfy operator needs.

CDS accomplishes these efforts using its vast technical subject matter expertise in capability-based assessments, operations analysis, risk management, standards, systems engineering, and test and evaluation.

Operations and Requirements Analysis

Technical and analytic experts within the CDS Office of Operations and Requirements Analysis (ORA) identify Component as well as DHS enterprise capability gaps to pinpoint courses of action to address shortfalls. ORA also targets process inefficiencies to identify high return-on-investment enhancements that can be readily implemented to advance Component operations. Components gain better resource utilization that enables them to enhance operational capacity within existing fiscal constraints.



ORA analysis improves efficiency of housing for detained migrants at Family Residential Centers like this one at Dille, Texas.

DHS Unity of Effort drives extra need for ORA support

Several major trends related to maturing and strengthening DHS drive the need for increased ORA support:

- DHS Secretary’s April 2014 Unity of Effort memo established the Joint Requirements Council (JRC) and directed departmental analytical capability for more effective DHS-wide decision-making and operations.
- DHS Secretary’s August 2015 Integrated Process Team (IPT) memo re-instituted a Component-led process to identify R&D/technology gaps requiring S&T investment.

ORA Division is now experiencing ever-increasing demand for analytic support in its two areas of emphasis: Operations Analysis focused on the Components, and Capabilities and Requirements analytical support to the DHS JRC and IPTs.

- ORA’s analytical support to the JRC’s Joint Assessment of Requirements Process provides an annual examination and prioritization of emerging and extant operational requirements across DHS.
- ORA capability gap decomposition analysis across IPTs refines capability gap definition & traceability.

Deeply experienced personnel

ORA personnel collectively have amassed over profound expertise in operations analysis, capability gap analysis, mission analysis, alternatives analysis, systems engineering, systems analysis, requirements development, product transition, Component support and collaborative consensus-building.

Key partnerships

These stakeholders rely on ORA support for capability gap identification, mission analysis, or decision support:

- JRC
- IPTs
- S&T Community
- Components
- Joint Task Forces
- HQ Elements



Homeland Security

Science and Technology

To learn more about Capability Development Support Office of Operations and Requirements Analysis, contact Dr. John Dargan, Director, at john.dargan@hq.dhs.gov.