

DHS Science and Technology Directorate Office of Test and Evaluation

Test & Evaluation is the Key to Successful Acquisition Outcomes

Demonstrating system capability through rigorous test and evaluation

Homeland Security Operators expect new systems to work. Acquisition decision makers and program managers are responsible for conducting test and evaluation to determine if the capability under development satisfies the user's need in accomplishing their missions. The Office of Test and Evaluation (OTE) in the Capability Development Support Group (CDS) oversees test and evaluation (T&E) conducted by the Department's major acquisition and R&D programs to ensure adequate testing and confidence in the results.

The Director, OTE serves as the principal advisor on T&E to the Secretary and Component Heads, and develops policies and procedures for conducting, monitoring, and reviewing operational test and evaluation. The DOTE is a member of the Acquisition Review Board.

Assisting programs and projects

OTE supports 75 major acquisition programs distributed across the following mission areas:

- Terrorism Prevention
- Immigration and Border Security
- National Preparedness
- Cyberspace and Homeland Security Enterprise

The OTE team of subject matter experts reviews, comments on, and approves more than 100 T&E artifacts across the Department; observes and conducts independent analysis of T&E events; prepares and delivers Letters of Assessment (LOAs); publishes new and updated T&E guidelines as needed and appropriate; and develops and conducts DHS T&E workforce training.

World-class detection testing

The Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Laboratory (TSL) performs independent test and evaluation of explosives detection technologies to support TSA acquisitions and other validation of detection technologies used throughout the Home

land Security Enterprise (HSE). TSL works directly with system developers to ensure fast and efficient transition of emerging technologies to HSE applications. TSL includes approximately 10,000 square feet of hardened laboratory facilities staffed by a combination of expert federal employees (55) and support contractors (approximately 60). Nearly 50 Cooperative Research and Development Agreements allow system developers and equipment vendors work alongside TSL staff in the early phases of developmental testing. The TSL also possesses over 5000 pounds of explosive material samples collected from all over the world, which it uses to create rigorous tests of detection performance.



Scientists within the Transportation Security Laboratory test to determine if screening equipment satisfies detection requirements.

Supporting Homeland Security at the tactical edge

OTE helps ensure Components develop requirements that are measurable, testable and achievable. OTE collects test results and data and evaluates it to ensure that the systems and services delivered to operational end users are safe, effective, suitable, interoperable, and cybersecure.

OTE priorities and initiatives

- Shift Left
- Cybersecurity
- DoD DHS Reciprocal Range Use
- JIATF South
- Test and Evaluation for Agile IT



Homeland
Security

Science and Technology

To learn more about the Office of Test and Evaluation, contact Dr. Steven Hutchison, Director, at steven.hutchison@hq.dhs.gov.