

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Joint Committee Hearing

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Subcommittee on Research & Technology
Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection,
and Security Technologies

"Strategy and Mission of the DHS Science and Technology"

September 9, 2014

Thank you Mr. Chairman. As the Ranking Member of the Science Committee, I am pleased to see this collaborative effort by these two committees as we hear from the Under Secretary for Science and Technology at DHS and GAO. Thank you to the witnesses for being here. I hope this cross-committee bipartisan collaboration continues as we work to reauthorize the S&T Directorate.

The Department's research activities aim to deliver the latest technologies and innovative solutions to the agents in the field. These technologies act as a force multiplier to protect our borders, our cities, and our communities. The homeland security threat landscape is constantly changing and innovative research allows us to stay ahead of those who wish to do us harm. This complex challenge requires the greatest minds and most talented workforce. Dr. Brothers, I look forward to hearing how you are tapping into and improving the DHS workforce to ensure the best leaders and decision-makers are at the table to push the Department's research operations to new levels.

In addition to a strong workforce, DHS has five national laboratories and access to the excellent facilities and strong technical support at Department of Energy labs. DHS also has twelve university-based Centers of Excellence, an advanced research projects agency, and a growing industrial base. The tools are all there. Where S&T has fallen short is in carrying out the basics of good government: strategic planning, coordination across the agency, and adequate testing and evaluation. These problems must be fixed.

I look forward to hearing from you, Dr. Brothers, on the changes you will be putting in place to ensure DHS R&D investments are well-managed.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing and I yield back the balance of my time.