

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Hearing on Strategy and Mission of the DHS Science and
Technology Directorate

Chairman Smith: Thank you, Chairman Meehan and Chairman Bucshon for holding this joint hearing. Today we have an opportunity to continue our discussion about the work of the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

In July, the Science Committee's Research and Technology and Oversight Subcommittees held a hearing on technologies that would help to secure the border.

At that hearing, witnesses discussed the need for a unified strategy and consistent metrics for developing border technologies.

As with other Department components, the Science and Technology Directorate has yet to provide the necessary strategy and technology to control our nation's borders. A nation that has lost control of its border has lost control of its future.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) research and development (R&D) efforts to be "fragmented and overlapping."

In previous years, the GAO found hundreds of millions of dollars being spent each year on duplicative R&D projects by other offices within the department. The Science and Technology Directorate will spend \$1.2 billion this year on numerous projects.

The Science and Technology Directorate is uniquely positioned to interact with all of DHS's components. It not only is in a position to help secure our physical border, but also can better protect our virtual borders related to network and information technology.

I am particularly interested in learning about the Directorate's work on cybersecurity issues. Dr. Brothers and his team have made cybersecurity a centerpiece of their recently released "visionary goals."

On a daily basis, our nation's economy and security are threatened by cyber criminals and hackers. Unfriendly foreign governments launch regular cyber-attacks to undermine our national security and steal military and technological secrets.

Cyber-attacks against U.S. government and private sector networks continue to grow at an alarming rate. But the full scope of the threat we face has yet to be realized.

Unfortunately, the Senate continues to sit on numerous bills passed by the House that would make our cyber infrastructure more secure. Many of these bills were initiated by the Science Committee and the Homeland Security Committee.

While the Senate remains immobile, we will continue our work on solutions here in the House. Unsecure physical and virtual borders threaten our national and economic security. Technology can help us better secure our borders and determine our future.

I look forward to hearing from the witnesses today and will continue to work on legislation to set priorities for the Science and Technology Directorate.

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