

# Interagency Council for Applied Homeland Security Technology

## Talking Points

- BACKGROUND

The ICAHST effort – originally launched in April 2004 – has proven to be a unique approach to the exploration and exploitation of critical emerging information technologies. Previously known as the “Interagency **Center** for Applied Homeland Security Technology” and receiving advice from an Ad Hoc Steering Group, this effort is pioneering partnerships with other agencies for test and evaluation of information technologies. As such, ICAHST has been able to maximize information sharing of homeland security related research, tools, techniques, technologies, and prototypes – minimizing duplicative efforts – for homeland security and counterterrorism information technology needs. ICAHST will continue to be an initiative that is breaking down barriers in the sharing and analysis of homeland security information as outlined in the 9/11 Commission Report.

ICAHST has been funded to date by the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security. Most Council members are affiliated with a testing and assessment center that is usually connected with various Intelligence, Law Enforcement, and Homeland Security agencies. As such, the Council will provide advice on behalf of this unique coalition of government partners with the goal of synchronizing the efforts of these various centers to the maximum degree possible.

- OBJECTIVE

The Interagency Council for Applied Homeland Security Technology (ICAHST) will enable the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its government partners to explore and exploit critical emerging information technologies and identify new technologies to better anticipate and satisfy the needs of the DHS, its partners within the Law Enforcement and Intelligence Communities, and other diverse end users. The overall mission is to promote interagency awareness and foster collaboration among research, development, test and evaluation activities addressing information technology challenges in support of homeland security and counterterrorism programs. End users include state, and local partners, as they address information technology challenges across and beyond traditional IC classification levels and sources.

- SCOPE

To accomplish its mission the council shall meet periodically and also maintain a persistent online presence. Key functions of the Council include:

- Provide a strategic discussion forum for the benefit of ICAHST participants
  1. Develop common vocabulary to discuss information technology needs
  2. Share awareness and understanding of the needs of each member
  3. Share information on efforts to address needs of members, including lessons learned from development, evaluation, and deployment of new systems
  4. Enhance effectiveness of government resources to address technical challenges by awareness and collaboration
- Communicate the aggregate homeland security information technology needs to industry and academia to encourage broad participation in developing solutions
- Address broad homeland security and counterterrorism issues relevant to ICAHST operations
- Recommend reconciliation of any major differences among stakeholder equities

The Chairmanship of the Council shall rotate each year.

- MEMBER AGENCY PARTICIPANTS

Key participants are government Program Managers serving in organizations related to Information Sharing and Management within the homeland security community, including Intelligence, Law Enforcement, and Federal Civil organizations. These organizations currently include:

- Department of Homeland Security
- National Counterterrorism Center
- National Reconnaissance Office
- Department of Justice
- Department of State
- Department of Energy
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence
- Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks & Information Integration)
- National Security Agency
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- Defense Intelligence Agency
- US Marshals Service
- National Institute of Justice
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Office of Science and Technology Policy
- ODNI Disruptive Technologies Office (DTO) / IARPA
- DoD Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations
- Pacific Disaster Center
- In-Q-Tel
- US Army Space and Missile Defense Command

- **ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

It is anticipated that formal Council meetings will be held on a quarterly basis. In addition, ICAHST Working Group and Task Force meetings will be conducted on an "as needed" basis in order to report findings at the next quarterly steering group session.