

Homeland Security Workgroup

Review of draft HSRP StRAP

Charge Question 2a

Support of Agency Objectives

- HSRP primary focus is on research on protecting water supplies and on clean-up (indoor as well as outdoor)
 - Original focus on Chem Biol Rad threats from terrorists
 - Broadened to all threats (protecting WS and clean-up)
- This supports many Agency Objectives
 - Clean-up
 - Protecting America's waters
 - Preventing pollution
 - Resilience
- Main question how to enlarge to include all threats on same resources
 - HSRP should take a systems approach that allows EPA to invest in multiple projects/research efforts
 - Creative Partnerships

Q2b

2020 and beyond

- General approach of providing tools technology and data for threat prevention, decontamination, etc. is relevant to threats likely to be faced in 2020+
 - Many of 2020+ problems are predictable as infrastructure ages and ad hoc waste containment systems fail.
 - There is inherent uncertainty in others (speed of ocean rise due to global warming, terrorist threats)
- HSRP is driven by many short-term immediate demand, very applied research topics
 - Flexibility is very important for response to disaster needs
 - But it is important to build tools to deal with multiple hazards not just the immediate demand
- Because HSRP is producing constant outputs and getting continuous input, HSRP research products will be coming out in a phased approach.
- HSRP/ORD should implement innovation programs to allow interesting, great research ideas and projects to be considered

Q2c

Designing for Integration

- The HSRP deals with a higher level of uncertainty than most other parts of the ORD
- Certain tasks are clearly joint projects
 - Understanding fate of contaminants
 - Exposure assessment
 - Risk assessment
- Draft StRAP captures collaboration within ORD very well
 - HS is very well integrated with the terrorism related-areas of other agencies
 - Less well integrated with non-terrorism side of other agencies (but this is a new task)
- We encourage HSRP to work through the EPA regional offices, to reach all relevant stakeholders.

7a

What advice?

- HSRP must be able to broaden the mission without weakening its role in security research
- HSRP should exploit opportunities to apply tools, lessons, and science developed for terrorism-related research to all hazards
- Develop strategic and synergistic partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders
- Employing systems thinking will help identify specific research projects, which address multiple hazards

7b

Systems approach

- The HSRP StRAP should include a clearer explanation of its systems thinking approach, clarifying
 - the models that are implied, how complicated are they, etc.
 - how much investment is made in formalizing the systems approach,
 - and the process for prioritizing its research.
- The HSRP should develop multiple federal partnerships/constituents on this research(e.g., DHHS, FEMA), since having such partners will help HSRP achieve systems approach/thinking.
- HSRP is in a position to be a lead federal government research arm on environmental fate and transport issues associated with Homeland Security.
- Outside of DOE, there may not be another focused federal agency research effort on this topic. ORD should continue to build a leadership role in this valued area.