

# Report from the Homeland Security Research Program Breakout Group

July 11, 2012

Many thanks to the HSRP team  
members who met with us yesterday.

# Question 1.

***1A. How are the ORD research programs progressing in the first year of implementation?***

***1B. Are the research activities planned for FY13 and future years appropriate for answering the science questions in the Strategic Research Action Plan?***

# 1A. Progress

- HSRP has been transdisciplinary with a extensive portfolio of external partners since 2002. In retrospect, the current ORD reorganization mimics much of what HSRP has been doing for a decade.
- The immediate opportunity is for HSRP and ORD to better integrate internally. National program directors meet regularly to discuss integration issues, and should be encouraged to implement best practices found in any other industry or agency.

# 1A. Progress (2)

- HSRP is highly accountable and provides a large number of successfully delivered products for its clients each year (80 in FY 2012).
- A sophisticated system exists for partner agreements, timeline adherence, delivering useful products, and client follow-up – a cradle to grave approach to project management.
- Partner needs assessment is a key initial step and continues through to product delivery.

# 1A. Progress (3)

- SAB and BOSC members found little reason for concern regarding progress to date, based upon the information available. However,
- We are still early in the transformation process, and we felt a better template (s) is needed for measuring progress.
- For future reviews, EPA should consider developing metrics for measuring progress and success *at project conception*.

# 1B. FY 13 planned activities

- A substantial pipeline of research activities and products exists. HSRP has an excellent focus on specific client needs.
- A tri-Agency agreement (EPA, Defense, HHS) is in place, HSRP has high-quality collaborations (also CDC, others), and is well placed to address critical ORD and national needs.
- The planned activities are indeed appropriate for answering the science questions in the Science Research Action Plan.

## 1B. FY 13 planned activities (2)

- Concerns were voiced regarding HSRP's maintaining its product stream with diminishing resources.
- A major opportunity exists for better communication about the broad applicability of HSRP products and expertise; the value proposition to stake-holders; and marketing HSRP expertise to additional partners to increase resource leveraging.

## 2. Sustainability

- HSRP is at the core of community sustainability, as defined by the concepts of resilient societies, economies, and environment.
- Prevention, mitigation, recovery, emergency response are core thrusts for HSRP. Its research products and capabilities are highly relevant to sustainability. Their work will improve the capacity of communities to recover from not only acts of terrorism, but also the consequences of natural disasters (see Q.4).

## 2. Sustainability (2)

- The HSRP portfolio includes projects such as self-cleaning water treatment facilities, the safe building program, and others - all improving sustainability.
- Other notable approaches include green chemistry, e.g. remediation with fewer adverse effects – Enzymatic Decontamination of Chemical Warfare Agents (slide 17).
- Opportunity to expand HSRP impact by identifying multiple benefits to their products.

## Q.3. Balancing immediate needs and emerging issues

- The HSRP process of client needs assessment provides an excellent mechanism for delivering responsive products. Great example of applied research culture.
- Their network of relationships provides an excellent window into the required balance.
- Seek out projects with 1-3 year windows.
- Acclimating well to culture of innovation – PIPs.

## Q.4. HS Charge Question:

“In 2011, the SAB and BOSC stated that “the program should consider expanding research and capabilities in relation to natural disasters...” **What advice (e.g. strategic, tactical, structural) can the SAB give to guide the program toward this broader role?**

## Q.4. Advice

- The HSRP is a valuable national resource. An all-hazards approach, as recommended by SAB & BOSC, will further enhance HSRP's value. Current products should be assessed and mapped to the needs of potential new partners.
- Engagement with new partners could allow the partners to benefit from HSRP research capabilities; provide HSRP with ideas for novel research; and exercise their thinking.

## Q.4. Advice (2)

- The phrase “natural disasters,” as previously used, is not the full universe of events where HSRP expertise is essential. HSRP is already thinking of an all hazards approach. The national Wide Area Recovery and Resiliency Program, in which HSRP is a partner, is an example of an all hazards approach.

## Q.4. Advice (3)

- The cause of a hazard is often not the critical determinant for the ensuing response.
- While the required technological response measures may be similar, the social responses often necessarily differ.
- Thus, the absence of social scientists at HSRP is a challenge, given the requirement to engage with diverse audiences, and ORD integration needs.