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House Armed Services Committee

Statement of Ms. Shari Durand
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Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Posture Hearing

Before the

Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Subcommittee
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives

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Chairwoman Stefanik, Ranking Member Langevin, and Members of the Subcommittee, it is an honor to be here today to share with you the work we do every day to make the United States and its allies safer by countering the threats posed by the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and improvised threats.

WMD Threats

Over twenty years ago, a small but dedicated group of radicalized criminals used sarin gas to attack critical transportation corridors in Tokyo. In a matter of minutes, their attack killed over a dozen people and sickened thousands, and images of the incident were splashed across TVs to billions around the globe. The attack clearly demonstrated the potential for terrorists to gain international attention with a relatively small amount of resources. It showed that the battlefield extends beyond declarations of war by nation-states. Further, this attack made it clear that WMD events are not just theoretical and were likely to happen again. It also revealed the challenges facing first responders and medical facilities when responding to even a small-scale attack.

That incident, as well as other events and threats around that time, influenced then-Defense Secretary William Cohen to ask Deputy Secretary of Defense John Hamre to examine all of the Department of Defense (DoD) organizations dealing with threats from WMD. As a result of that study, the Department concluded that our nonproliferation and counterproliferation efforts were not well focused in terms of an “institutional center of gravity within the Department.” The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) was created one year later, in 1998, integrating three legacy Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) agencies into one.

In the nearly twenty years since, the barriers between WMD and those with the will to use it continue to fall – with the threat becoming increasingly complex and global in nature. In Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is using chemical weapons on the battlefield. These attacks demonstrate that ISIS has developed a clear intent to acquire and use WMD, and through trial and error, they may get better at it.

The threat of terrorism is increasingly complex and transregional in nature. Social media is allowing terrorists to recruit more easily and spread their expertise more rapidly, across various nationalities and ideologies. Terrorist groups are no longer required to fund, train, and equip fighters in secret camps; instead, they can inspire unconnected but motivated individuals who will attack and declare their allegiance just prior to, or after an attack. And, along the way, these motivated individuals can receive technical assistance from a distance in their plans, all through today's technology.

Who We Are

For all of these reasons, there is a clear need for on-call, comprehensive CWMD expertise. That's what the Defense Threat Reduction Agency provides. Our expertise spans the full WMD threat spectrum – chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, high yield explosives, and improvised threats. While we are not the only players on the CWMD field, we provide critical support to a USG whole-of-government approach to this critical security mission.

As DoD realized in 1998 when it established DTRA, the most effective way to leverage this expertise is to locate it in one place and provide efficient communication channels for collaboration. As a Defense Agency, DTRA operates under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs. In this role, we support and enhance the nuclear enterprise; we support overall USG efforts to prevent the proliferation and use of WMD and improvised threats; and we perform and manage a

research and development portfolio to develop tools and capabilities in WMD and improvised threat environments. In fact, DTRA provides the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) with all of its WMD counterproliferation Science and Technology capabilities. As a Combat Support Agency, DTRA communicates directly with the Offices of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and provides direct support to Combatant Commanders and the Services.

What We Do

Our programs come in many shapes and sizes and we work with both military and civilian personnel. On any given day, tens to hundreds of DTRA experts are dispatched overseas, and in certain cases to some of the most dangerous and sensitive of areas, in order to provide analysis, research, testing, training, and operational expertise.

Within DTRA, we have nuclear physicists, microbiologists, chemists, current and former Special Operations Forces personnel, logisticians, linguists, lawyers, contract specialists, accountants, and many other expert professionals working side by side to eliminate WMD threats. If you observed our biweekly Director's Update Briefings, you would hear about our teams deployed throughout the world on specific missions. You would also hear about the critical science and technology work that feeds into our operational mission and across the DoD and Interagency; research and development testing taking place that week; analysis of WMD threats; key leader engagement and partnership opportunities, and significant events or decision points on the horizon. All of these discussions are shared and coordinated with every DTRA entity so that maximum collaboration and information sharing occurs continuously.

Counter-ISIS

An area of key interest in those biweekly meetings is DTRA's support to Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). In September 2015, DTRA stood up a Counter ISIS Chemical and Biological Working Group composed of personnel from across the Agency. This Working Group coordinates capabilities for urgent need requirements supporting the Warfighter. DTRA's counter-ISIS activities specifically focus on: chemical agents, potential radiological or

biological threats or threats from small unmanned aerial systems, commercial grade explosives, homemade explosives and their chemical precursors, and improvised explosive devices.

DTRA enables OIR Coalition Forces and partner nations to counter ISIS through seven lines of support:

- 1) **Threat Awareness:** DTRA identifies critical links and nodes in ISIS improvised threats and WMD proliferation networks to inform the coalition's counter-ISIL campaign.
- 2) **Research and Development:** DTRA develops material and non-material solutions against ISIS WMD and improvised threats. In January 2017, DTRA transitioned a novel chemical detection platform to the Warfighter. DTRA continues to support the broader U.S. government effort to provide the coalition with capabilities to detect and defeat ISIS small unmanned aerial systems.
- 3) **Planning:** DTRA analyzes operational courses of action and available countermeasures to inform pre-mission planning for employing coalition forces in unique improvised threat and WMD environments in Iraq and Syria. In October 2016, DTRA provided an analysis of options to store, transport, and dispose of chemical and biological material of concern in the region.
- 4) **Deployable Capabilities:** DTRA maintains deployable teams with specialized equipment and expertise available to assist the coalition in a WMD contingency. DTRA also integrated tactical improvised threat experts into the coalition's component commands. In the summer of 2016 and in February 2017, DTRA advised on the secure and timely movement of suspected chemical samples to labs for characterization.
- 5) **Training and Equipping Coalition Forces:** DTRA leverages the Department's existing authorities, including the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, to provide military and civilian first responders with training and equipment to defend against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. DTRA supported a Warfighter request to provide the Government of Iraq handheld chemical detectors to enable Iraqi responders to identify and respond to incidents involving chemical weapons, including the use of toxic industrial chemicals.
- 6) **Building Regional Capacity:** DTRA fosters enduring relations with partner nations' border security organizations to prevent WMD and illicit improvised threat related

materials from crossing borders. DTRA continues to enhance the capabilities of countries like Jordan and Lebanon to detect, identify, track, and interdict potential traffickers of illicit materials on the Syrian border. Along with a network of fixed and mobile sensors along these borders, DTRA also delivers critical WMD detection training and equipment enabling these partner nations to prevent illicit trafficking of WMD. This work is crucial given the possible desire of some terrorist groups to use WMD materials against the United States and our partners. DTRA is training and equipping Turkey's explosive ordnance disposal units along the Turkey-Syria border. DTRA also works collaboratively with partners in the region to prevent non-state actor acquisition of dangerous biological materials while also providing them with the tools to detect a potential bioterrorism attack.

- 7) **Reachback:** DTRA's cadre of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear experts continue to provide the coalition decision support products for kinetic and non-kinetic operational planning and post-event analysis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During FY16, DTRA provided 522 technical products to USCENTCOM and OIR; further, we have provided over 60 Requests for Information products so far in FY17 that enabled the Warfighter to target ISIS facilities.

DTRA's future support shifts from building regional capacity to sustaining regional capacity through enduring partnerships; efforts to determine how provided capabilities enable and improve operational results; and, innovating new capabilities to counter ISIS WMD networks globally.

Chemical

In addition, our chemical weapons experts are working to improve the safety and security of toxic industrial chemicals in the Middle East and North Africa to make it more difficult for terrorist groups, such as ISIS, to use them as improvised weapons. We are also developing contingency plans to assist with the destruction of chemical weapons and related materials, both for legacy nation-state programs and for improvised terrorist programs, should a cooperative environment emerge. Our current government partners include the Edgewood Chemical and

Biological Center in Aberdeen, Maryland; the State Department Chemical Security Program; the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; the Sandia National Laboratory; the Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and the Government of Jordan. We are working to expand these efforts to other partners in the Middle East and North Africa.

Biological

Our biological security experts are consolidating and improving the security of dangerous pathogen collections across the planet, collaborating closely with other like-minded nations to prevent nefarious transfer of biological materials. We are working cooperatively with partner countries and the international community to minimize the threat posed by deliberate, accidental, and natural infectious disease outbreaks of security concern that place at risk U.S. national security and potential intentional attacks involving weaponized pathogens, while developing new means for protecting our military personnel against biological terrorism or threats

As the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa demonstrated, outbreaks do not respect boundaries or borders, and pose a significant threat to the stability of countries and regions. The increased movement of people geographically means that devastating diseases, whether spread naturally, accidentally, or intentionally can be transmitted worldwide. DTRA addresses the outbreak risk of diseases of concern by promoting best practices in biological safety and security, improving partner countries' abilities to rapidly detect and report dangerous infections, and enhancing partnerships that facilitate information sharing.

Radiological/Nuclear

DTRA is involved with efforts to secure weapons-usable nuclear materials worldwide, understanding and predicting nuclear weapons effects, and ensuring the survivability of United States Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications.

DTRA provides nuclear enterprise support to the Department of Defense and Interagency stakeholders that helps to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear deterrent force. Our nuclear experts are supporting sustainment of current and future

nuclear deterrent capabilities; implementation of nuclear enterprise review recommendations; and nuclear enterprise recapitalization efforts. We have systems in place to guarantee that we have complete control and accounting of our nuclear weapons at all times. In response to DoD's 2014 Nuclear Enterprise Review, DTRA's role was modified from conducting Nuclear Surety Inspections at each Air Force and Navy Nuclear Capable Unit to performing Oversight Inspections of all Air Force and Navy Nuclear Surety Inspection Teams.

We make sure the Navy and the Air Force's inspections provide tangible proof that every safety system is in place, maintained and in working order, and put the operations, maintenance, and security forces through drills and exercises to ensure that everyone knows their jobs; they know the proper procedures, and they know how to react when the situation changes. Our collective goal is to protect, control, and serve the nation with 100% assured predictability, reliability, and confidence in our nuclear weapons stewardship.

DTRA is also the home of the Defense Nuclear Weapons School. This illustrious school will celebrate its 70th anniversary in April 2017 and remains a center of excellence in training our next generation of CWMD experts. The school provides hands-on training on the DoD's only live radiological field training site and maintains the Nuclear Weapons Instructional Museum which allows for training related to all weapons that have been or are deployed in the U.S. nuclear stockpile. In fact, nearly 29,000 students attended classes or received distance learning instruction from the school in FY16 – including over 7,000 students attending in-resident, mobile training, and the Nuclear Weapons Instructional Museum. Students included domestic and international personnel – including U.S. Civil Support Teams and our allied partners.

DTRA also provides nuclear forensics and attribution capabilities. For example, DTRA developed the Discreet Oculus Prompt Diagnostics Sensor System as a research and development effort to create a ground-based prompt detection and diagnostics system. The system complements current global- and space-based prompt nuclear effects monitoring systems. It is designed to support the United States Government's efforts to develop timely and accurate technical nuclear forensics conclusions after a nuclear attack on the United States. Discreet Oculus systems are now deployed in three cities with the next deployment scheduled for 2018.

Maintenance of these systems will transition to the United States Air Force Technical Applications Center in 2018.

Information collected by this system after an attack will be used to help national and military leaders identify what was detonated, where the materials came from, and who launched or supported the attack.

High Yield Explosives

DTRA structural dynamics experts are working on solutions to protect military and related government facilities at risk while developing new means for mitigating blast effects resulting from a variety of explosive devices against structures and other infrastructure. Our products are also used internationally and have been critical to our partners' efforts in constructing facilities that require the highest levels of protection for personnel and equipment.

For example, DTRA developed the Vulnerability Assessment and Protection Option (VAPO). VAPO is a software modeling and simulation toolset designed to provide assessment capability in support of vulnerability assessment teams and force protection evaluators and planners. VAPO allows users to evaluate a single or multi-building site to assess its vulnerability to an array of threats, including high explosive, chemical, and biological weapons inside or outside of buildings, nuclear threats, and vehicle barrier ramming. Using physics-based models validated through testing, the tool predicts structural, window, equipment damage; progressive collapse; and human injury. VAPO is currently used by the DoD, USG entities, and international allies to protect structures and infrastructure around the world. DTRA signed an agreement earlier this month with the Department of Homeland Security to make VAPO available to State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government agencies.

CWMD Strategy

The Agency's focus is to keep WMD out of the hands of terrorists and other enemies by locking down dangerous materials, destroying legacy weapons, preparing for, and responding to WMD incidents, and developing technologies to prevent, defend against, and counter a WMD attack.

In line with the Department's 2014 Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, DTRA supports the full scope of DoD's efforts to prevent acquisition, contain and reduce threats, and respond to crises.

Prevent Acquisition

The most effective means to reduce WMD threats is at the source. It is common sense to go where the problem begins and attempt to counteract and eliminate these threats as far away from American soil as possible.

One of the core elements of DoD's efforts to prevent the acquisition of WMD was created by your former colleagues Senator Richard Lugar and Senator Sam Nunn. In fact, the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in December 2016.

The evolution of Nunn-Lugar has been remarkable. The Program is responsible for destroying more than 7,000 Soviet-era warheads, 2,500 missiles, and 155 bombers and securing numerous nuclear sites. Following our success in eliminating access to materials in the former Soviet Union, however, the strategic environment has evolved as state and non-state actors seeking WMD have dispersed to other geographic areas and potential WMD sources. This evolution required a shift in our thinking as well and is the reason why we previously requested - and received - Congressional approval to expand Nunn-Lugar authority. Now, in close collaboration with our partners at the State Department and the National Nuclear Security Administration, CTR operates in over 30 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. The CTR Program's unique combination of technical expertise, strategic relationships, and agile

authorities ensure that the United States and our allies and partners have the tools necessary to counter the full scope of WMD threats facing the world today.

For example, DTRA is focused on helping African nations secure naturally-occurring dangerous pathogens. Deadly agents on the African continent, like Ebola virus, Marburg virus, and anthrax were once used to make biological weapons during the Cold War; these lethal pathogens are now safeguarded, cataloged, and, if needed, destroyed as part of CTR's Cooperative Biological Engagement Program. This program is reducing access to biological materials while expanding international partnerships to better counter natural and man-made biological events. These efforts advance the U.S. commitment under the Global Health Security Agenda to assist 31 countries and 1 region to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. As the entire world learned during the 2015-2016 Ebola crises, containment and safeguarding of such dangerous pathogens that could quickly evolve into broad threats, is extremely critical for our Warfighters' and the world's safety.

DTRA, with primary focus on pathogens of security concern, works closely with the Departments of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and the United States Department of Agriculture and others to maximize expertise and relationships within the global health community to improve early warning and detection capabilities and to mitigate pandemic disease threats. In close coordination with our research and development arm, we are also creating partnerships with industry for advanced development and manufacturing of medical countermeasures to counter emerging bio threats and infectious diseases. For example, we are leveraging the capabilities of DoD's Advanced Development and Manufacturing (ADM) facility in Alachua, Florida to develop pretreatments that protect the force against Botulinum neurotoxin (toxin threats).

Another critical nonproliferation function of DTRA is our work implementing arms control treaties and confidence building and transparency measures. Through various agreements, the United States seeks to control, safeguard, and eliminate existing weapons and to verify and monitor compliance with agreements intended to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological, and conventional weapons. As the focal point for U.S. treaty implementation,

DTRA's inspectors provide the Secretary of Defense and interagency partners with first-hand evidence that international commitments are fulfilled through the verifiable accounting for and reduction of the world's weapons stockpiles. DTRA inspectors and technicians provide critical subject matter expertise to interagency teams on the front lines of international negotiations and monitoring organizations. In addition to conducting inspections, DTRA researches and develops technologies to enhance the rapid detection and characterization of nuclear events worldwide, and upgrades and operates 31 international monitoring stations for nuclear events. We also provide support to COCOMs that receive foreign inspections and monitoring and provide valuable insights into mitigating techniques for sensitive U.S. facilities and activities.

Contain and Reduce Threats

If our programs and our efforts are unable to stop these WMD threats at the source before they proliferate, we help Combatant Commanders and military Service Components mitigate threats before they reach the U.S. homeland. Detection, interdiction, and if needed, destruction of these weapons and materials are the goal, thus disrupting the supply or smuggling routes and providing our national leadership with knowledge concerning important threat details. Working with our international partners, the Department's goal is to deter, dissuade, and deny those who both produce and attempt to gain access to these materials and drive them out of business.

For example, the Nunn-Lugar CTR Program's Proliferation Prevention Program, or PPP, enhances the capacity of partner countries to deter, detect, interdict, and respond to the attempted proliferation or smuggling of WMD. It provides specialized equipment, training, and facility upgrades for partner nation border security and law enforcement organizations. Training is institutionalized through a train-the-trainer approach and sustained with periodic local and regional WMD Integrated Exercises which enable participants to use program skills and equipment within a realistic training environment. The Proliferation Prevention Program's partners span the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, Northern Africa, and the Middle East.

DTRA also supports the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Support Cell, and thus helps facilitate engagements focused on ensuring that PSI endorsers are prepared to uphold their commitment to the Statement of Interdiction Principles to prevent the proliferation of WMD and WMD-related material. There are now 105 PSI endorsees worldwide, and DTRA-facilitated engagements occurred in each AOR last year.

Because of DoD – and the broader U.S. Government’s – success in interdicting and eliminating weapons at the source, in many cases we have literally driven the enemy underground. As a result, our national security leadership and military commanders need non-nuclear capability to strike at Hard and Deeply Buried Targets. DTRA works closely with the Defense Intelligence Agency to find these targets and provide Combatant Commanders and Service Components with effective CWMD contingency responses.

Respond to Crises

Our DTRA workforce performs countering weapons of mass destruction (CWMD) planning and exercise support and provides expertise to the Combatant Commands and other customers.

For example, DTRA leads, supports and participates in numerous joint exercise and training events throughout each calendar year, based on Joint Doctrine, Commanders’ Objectives and mission requirements. The goal of these training events is to ensure the Military Services understand what would be needed in a WMD event and to prepare DTRA to successfully employ joint forces to conduct CWMD operations.

One of the largest of these exercises is the Nuclear Weapon Accident Incident Exercise (NUWAIX). This exercise is a Secretary of Defense directed, United States Northern Command executed and DTRA led field training exercise. This annual event exercises a whole of government response involving custodial nuclear weapons or materials. These efforts allow for the identification of gaps in nuclear weapons accident/incident response capabilities and means and methods to repair those vulnerabilities. NUWAIX involves as many as 1,000 people across

the country and includes participants throughout the interagency and state and local participation, when possible.

Overseas, DTRA's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, high-yield explosive (CBRNE) Preparedness Program (CP2) supports all the Combatant Commands by providing partner nations with skillsets to effectively respond to WMD incidents through increased tactical and operational capabilities. The goal of CP2 is to enhance regional and national CBRNE response planning and capabilities to minimize the impact of WMD events and to decrease reliance on U.S. response assets. CP2 currently uses Section 1204 of the FY14 NDAA and plans to use Section 333 of the FY17 NDAA, both provided by Congress, to train and equip both civil and military first responders within authorized countries to enhance their overall preparedness for CBRNE events.

DTRA Research and Development

Our CWMD research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) program can trace its roots back to the Manhattan Project where we provided expertise in weapons effects – work that we still do today. DTRA does not own or operate any functional laboratory, but we are able to select from the full range of national expertise, wherever that may be. Our performers include the DoD laboratories and Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) labs, contractors, Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers, University-Associated Research Centers, academia, and of course both large and small innovative companies. We provide and operate unique and essential test and evaluation capabilities at government facilities in New Mexico and Nevada to meet our own mission requirements, and those of our various customers and stakeholders.

DTRA RDT&E programs respond to the most pressing CWMD challenges including stand-off detection that seeks to identify CBRN materials from safe distances, tracking, and interdiction of WMD; modeling and simulation to support weapons effects and hazard predictions; classified support to Special Operations Forces; defeat of WMD agents and underground facilities; and protection of people, systems, and infrastructure against WMD effects.

DTRA RDT&E is unique – it is solely focused on CBRNE; tied closely with the Agency’s Combat Support responsibilities; and is nimble and responsive to urgent needs. DTRA’s test beds provide unmatched threat-representative target structures and threat-characteristic geologies. We support a number of Service, Joint Staff, and Combatant Command priorities, including development of the Large Caliber Penetrator; expanded tactics, techniques, and procedures for use of the Joint Programmable Fuse; and enhanced U.S. missile defeat capabilities.

DTRA has a comprehensive, balanced CBRNE Science and Technology portfolio that supports DoD goals and is well connected with DoD customers, the interagency, and our international partners. Our RDT&E approach balances the need for near-term pay-off with the need for long-term technology and capability development and investment. Our work is centered upon the following programs: Basic Research (6.1), Applied Research (6.2), Advanced Technology Development (6.3), and System Development and Demonstration (6.5).

These programs have resulted in significant capability transfer to the Warfighter. DTRA has transitioned nuclear detection and forensic capabilities to the Air Force Technical Applications Center and the Army’s 20th CBRNE Command. All 57 National Guard Civil Support Teams are fielding the Mobile Field Kit, a hand-held device and application that integrates and coordinates the readings from multiple radiation sensors. Our National CWMD Technical Reachback Support Enterprise provides 24/7 CBRNE decision support capability for planning, operations, and post-event analysis to Combatant Commands, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the Intelligence Community, and other USG agencies. We are developing capabilities for missile defeat, advanced analytics and discovery processes to predict the emergence of future threats, standards and technologies to protect critical systems from electromagnetic pulse, and models to predict the multidimensional effects of nuclear weapons use for the United States Strategic Command.

Authorities

None of the activities or capabilities above would be possible without the unique authorities and funding that Congress provides to DoD each year that allows us to respond to these challenges. When DoD and the Warfighter are presented with a WMD challenge, we carefully review the Department's various authorities and funding, in consultation with our interagency partners who collaborate us in this mission space, and approach problems on a regional, mission-focused basis. We have internally organized ourselves to promote multi-directional communication, rapid innovation, and quick turn decision-making to achieve success. DTRA's ability to rapidly respond to the nation's requirements remains at the fundamental core of the Agency's mission and directly enables accomplishment of real-time U.S. national security objectives.

Changes Impacting DTRA Mission Space

There have been a number of significant changes in the DTRA mission space since we last appeared before the Committee in February 2016.

A key focus of these changes is our power to innovate. I don't just mean this in the technical research and development sense, although that is a part of it; innovation is about new partners and relationships, new forums of collaboration, new ways of doing business and thinking outside of the box. For DTRA, we are well positioned to innovate in ways not previously considered.

Countering Improvised Threats

On October 1, 2016, the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Organization (JIDO) transitioned under the authority, direction and control of DTRA, thus expanding DTRA's mission space to include countering improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and improvised threats. JIDO was previously known as the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Agency, or JIDA. The improvised threat defeat mission disrupts the planning and operations of violent extremist organizations and enables our Warfighters to rapidly adapt to and overcome emerging threat tactics, techniques, and procedures. Employment of IEDs and improvised threats against deployed U.S. forces and our

partners presents significant tactical risk to operations and an increased strategic risk to the national goals of overseas conflicts. DTRA is now responsible for enabling DoD actions to counter improvised threats with tactical responsiveness in support of Combatant Commanders' effort to prepare for and to adapt to battlefield surprise.

Just two weeks ago, we briefed the professional staff members on the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on the progress of JIDO's transition under DTRA. The takeaway message shared in that briefing is that there are many opportunities for coordination, collaboration, and integration. Collectively, we provide training, exercise support, threat analysis, forensics, sensor development, defeat tools, testing and evaluation, and more. Further, the threat networks that use or facilitate the use of IEDs or other improvised threats also have an interest in using WMD – and vice versa.

Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness

DTRA continues to conduct financial improvement and audit readiness (FIAR) activities to demonstrate that we are faithful stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. We have successfully undertaken corrective actions to address issues raised by the FIAR. Specifically, we continue to tackle integration of the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Organization into DTRA; the systemic Departmental challenges including Funds Balance with Treasury reconciliation; unsupported journal vouchers; and property reporting challenges. We will continue to aggressively correct any deficiencies and work with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in preparation for examination.

Management Headquarters Activities

DTRA is in compliance with the Department-directed 25% reduction in costs associated with Management Headquarters Activities (MHA). This reduction will be fully achieved by FY 2020. The current MHA reduction includes 75 civilian full time equivalents (FTE). We anticipate that 51% of our FTE reductions will be achieved by the end of FY18.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to share some of our recent efforts and accomplishments. DTRA's workforce is incredibly capable and extremely proud of its contributions to making the world safer. There are a number of challenges on the horizon, but I am confident that we will find the right techniques and tools to address these threats. I hope that we will continue to maintain the Committee's trust and support in countering WMD and improvised threats and ensuring our security. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to be here today. I would be pleased to respond to your questions.