

# ***Chemical Biological Defense Program Science & Technology***

## ***A Look to the Future***

***Dr. Chuck Gallaway***

*Chemical Biological Defense Program (CBDP)  
Joint Science & Technology Office (JSTO)*

*Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)  
Chemical/Biological Technologies Directorate*



***28 June 2006***



# Overview

- Background
- Business strategy
- The S&T challenges
- Sustaining S&T
- Conclusions



# We are the S&T arm of the CBDP

*JOINT REQUIREMENTS OFFICE*

*OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE*

*JOINT PROGRAM  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE*

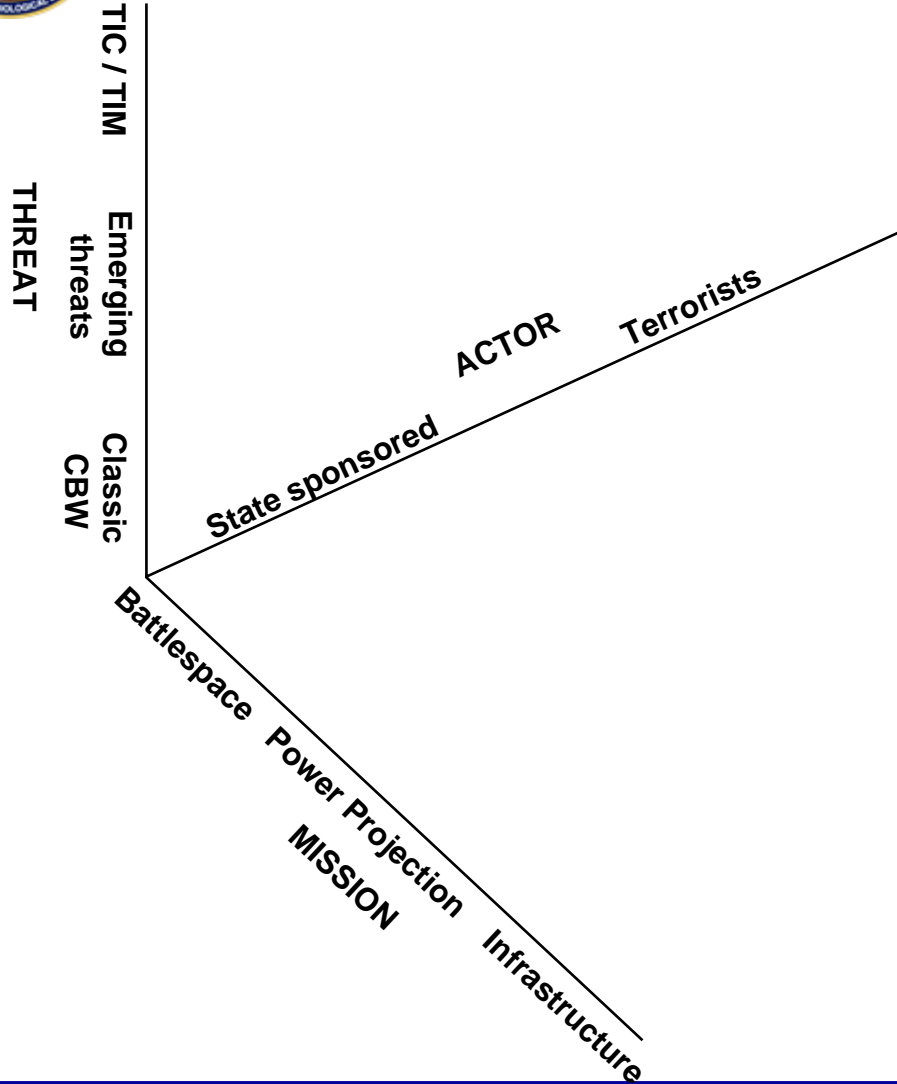
*JOINT SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY OFFICE*

*JOINT TEST AND  
EVALUATION EXECUTIVE*

*JOINT COMBAT  
DEVELOPER*

*Delivering Joint Warfighting Capabilities*

# The CB threats and CBDP mission space are expanding





## Our S&T ...

### **Vision**

**Eliminate chemical and biological warfare agents as a threat to the warfighter**

### **Mission**

**Develop and sustain a robust, agile, and flexible science and technology program to support chemical and biological defense capability needs**

# We are organized by capability areas



## *Medical Science & Technology*

*Pretreatments*

*Therapeutics*

*Diagnostics*

*Emerging Threats*

*Medical Radiological  
Defense*

*TMTI*

*Applied  
Technology*

## *Physical Science & Technology*

*Detection*

*Protection*

*Decontamination*

*Modeling &  
Simulation*

*Threat Agent  
Science*

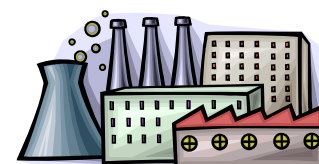
# Leveraging the best in class from across the spectrum of performers



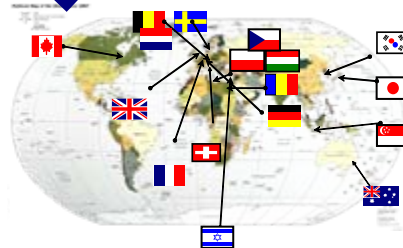
*Service Labs*



*Academia*



*Industry*



*International Partners*





# Overview

- Background
- Business strategy
- The S&T challenges
- Sustaining S&T
- Conclusions





# CBDP S&T is...

- Technically challenging
  - Exceedingly high customer expectations
  - No "silver bullet" solutions
- Scientifically diverse
  - Numerous and disparate disciplines
  - Distinct chemical and biological solutions

# DoD has placed significant emphasis on RDT&E



- Enhanced Planning Process (EPP)
- Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR)
- OSD FY08-FY13 POM guidance

# QDR - Countering WMD remains a DoD priority

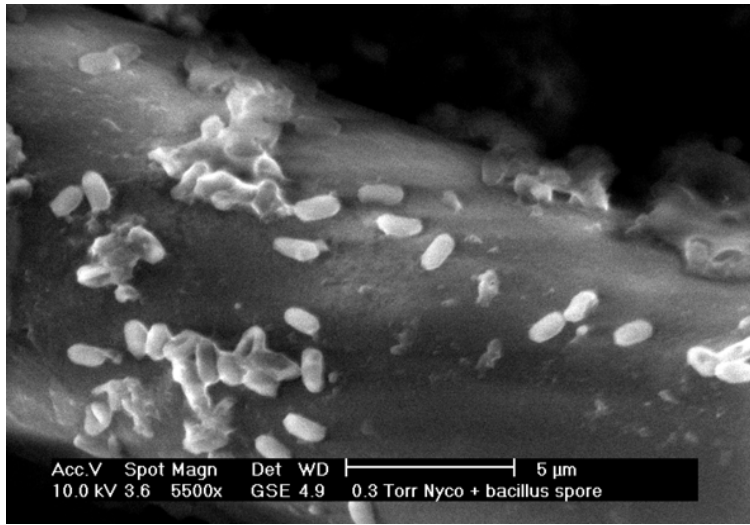


- Future program direction
  - “...fund a \$1.5 billion initiative over the next five years to develop broad-spectrum medical countermeasures against the threat of genetically engineered bio-terror agents.”
  - “Additional initiatives will include developing advanced detection and deterrent technologies and facilitating full-scale civil-military exercises to improve interagency planning for complex homeland security contingencies.”
- Form domestic and international partnerships
  - “Close cooperation with these partners in the long war on terrorism, as well as in efforts to counter WMD proliferation and other non-traditional threats, ensures the continuing need for these alliances and for improving their capabilities.”
  - “...establishment of a National BioDefense Campus at Fort Detrick, Maryland – with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) and the Defense Intelligence Agency’s Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC) at its core – to improve cooperation among agencies conducting research and development of medical biological defenses.”
- Need for high quality personnel
  - “Finally, the Department must effectively compete with the civilian sector for high-quality personnel. ... a new Human Capital Strategy for the Department,...”



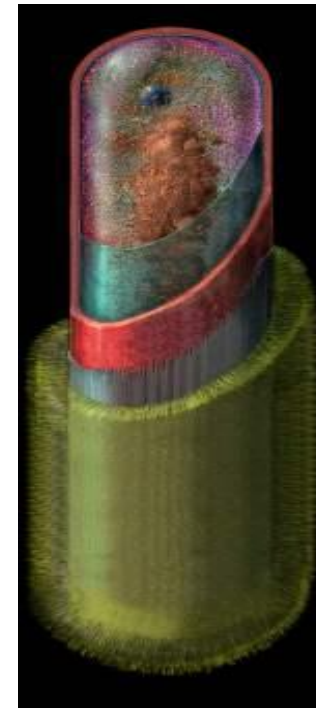
# S&T investment strategy

- Fully fund highest priority S&T gaps
- Burdensharing
- Technology watch



BG Spores collecting on an anti-microbial fiber

## Anthrax cell



Plasmid

Cytoplasm+RNA  
+Proteins

DNA

Plasma  
Membrane

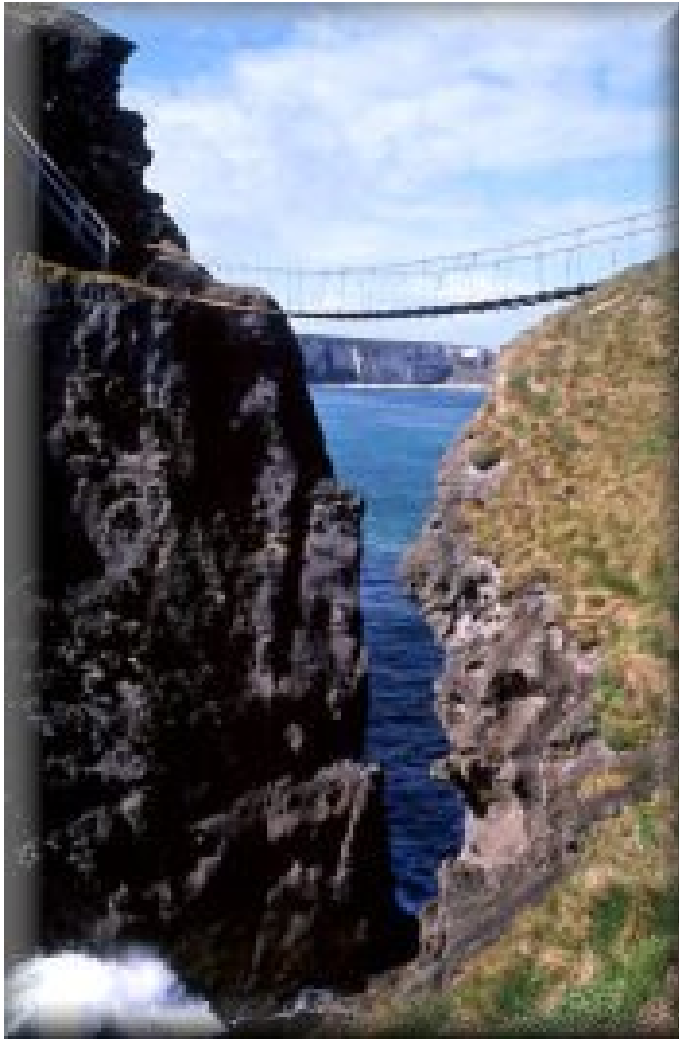
Cell Wall

S-Layer ( proteins)

Capsule (poly-D  
-glutamic acid)



# Supporting programs of record



Bridging the “valley of death” between S&T and advanced development

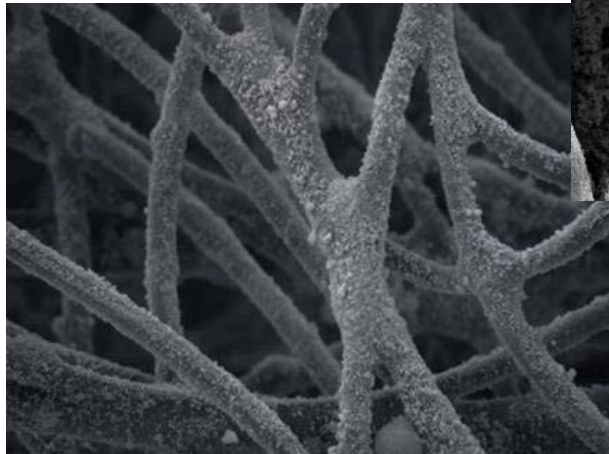
- Evolutionary advancements align w programs of record
- 35 Technology Transition Agreements
- Relatively low risk technology

# Shift towards revolutionary improvements



- New science
- Interdisciplinary teams
- Non-traditional performers
- Risk tolerant

a carbon sphere doped with a reactive nanoscale metal oxide component



a nanofibrous web surface-coated with a nanoscale adsorbent + catalyst



# Overview

- Background
- Business strategy
- The S&T challenges
- Sustaining S&T
- Conclusions





# Our S&T challenges

- Earliest warning
  - Detection
  - Medical diagnostics
  - Information dissemination
- Broad spectrum medical countermeasures
  - Pretreatment
  - Therapeutics
- “How clean is safe?”
  - Decontamination
  - Low-Level toxicology
  - Environmental fate of agent



# Detection

## • Current Efforts

- Explore terahertz spectroscopy for detection
- Investigate laser-induced millimeter wave fluorescence for better bio discrimination
- Exploit Semiconductor Ultra Violet Optical Sources (SUVOS) being developed by DARPA for the detection of bio agent aerosols.

## • Challenges

- Signatures from “non-traditional” regions of the electromagnetic spectrum
- Techniques and algorithms for discriminating signatures from a complex background



*Detect and identify biological threats at standoff distances*



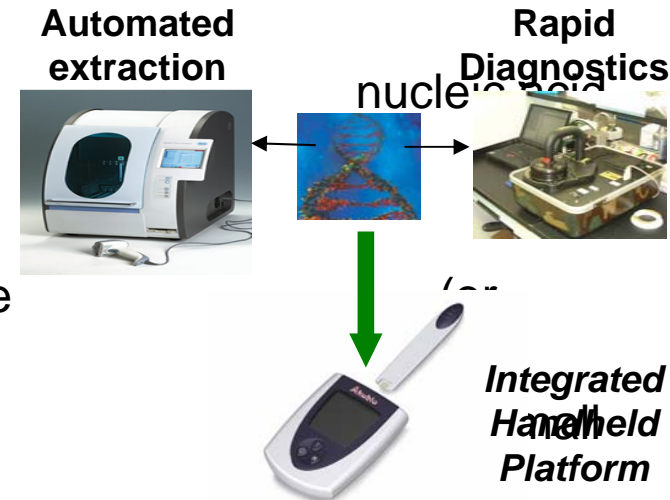
# Diagnostics

## Current Efforts

- Developing nucleic acid and antigen detection assays and reagents
- Assessing resequencing technology for rapid identification of emergent/genetically engineered bio agents
- Establishing standards for DoD developed and immunodiagnostic assays

## Challenges

- Biological sample viability at room temperature (above) for up to seven days
- Integrated platform for nucleic acid, protein molecule toxin diagnostics
- Simple, small, and integrated sample processing and testing platforms
- Assays for early (pre-symptomatic) markers of exposure
- Rapid diagnostic tests to identify antibiotic resistance markers



***Portable and deployable diagnostic capabilities, easy to operate, and with minimal logistical requirements***



# Battlespace Awareness

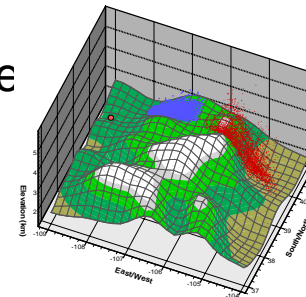
## • Current Efforts

- Developing computational fluid dynamic (CFD) libraries for a particle transport model to provide rapid and high resolution analysis around buildings and ships
- Developing techniques to use high-resolution radar data to improve wind fields for models
- Providing automatic source term estimation using data from either sensors or observations

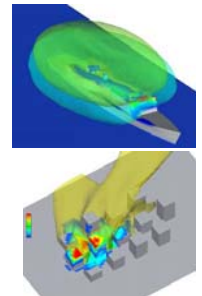
## • Challenges

- Intelligent “network centric” sensor arrays
- Improved CBRN hazard prediction on complex urban terrain

CFD Model



Ship and Urban Visualization



*Reliable, automated warning in a common operating picture across the theater*



# Our S&T challenges

- Earliest warning
  - Detection
  - Medical diagnostics
  - Information dissemination
- Broad spectrum medical countermeasures
  - Pretreatment
  - Therapeutics
- “How clean is safe?”
  - Decontamination
  - Low-Level toxicology
  - Environmental fate of agent



# Pretreatments

- **Current Efforts**

- Evaluating select target antigens in various vaccine platforms for immunogenicity, safety, efficacy, and minimal dosing
- Combining current products into one
- formulation for a straight recombinant vaccine (multiagent vaccines)
- Evaluating molecular/genetic platforms

- **Challenges**

- DNA platforms for rapid vaccine development
- Vaccines that are adaptable to emerging threats
- Better understanding of human immune mechanisms
- Broad spectrum medical prophylaxis and countermeasures against all nerve agents

*Single vaccines against multiple biological agents*

*Rapid drug development*





# Therapeutics

## • Current Efforts

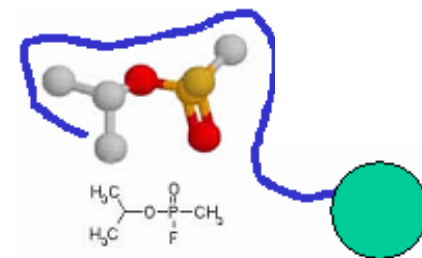
- Identifying intersecting targets for intervention including common mechanisms of pathogenesis, common host responses, common housekeeping functions
- Identifying and characterizing a candidate broad-spectrum nerve agent reactivator to replace the current reactivator (oxime) in nerve agent therapy

## • Challenges

- Broad spectrum therapeutics for diverse/emerging threats
- New technologies and methods to accelerate FDA licensure of new products
- Minimal systemic, neurological, ocular, and cutaneous injury due to chemical threat agent exposure
- Develop novel new interventions/approaches
- Leverage and adapt technologies developed for other purposes

*Effective countermeasures against bio warfare agents*

*Multi-agent therapeutic technologies*



SARIN

**Nuclease-Resistant  
DNA Aptamers with 3'-Caps  
Bind & Neutralize  
G & V Agents**

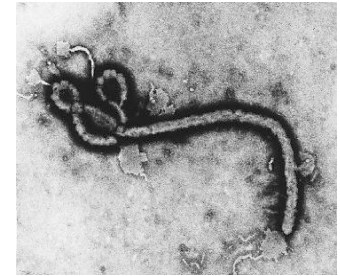


# Transformational Medical Technologies Initiative (TMTI)



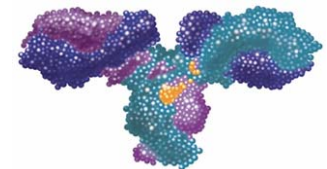
- Current Efforts

- TMTI goal is to conduct vigorous medical research to develop broad-spectrum medical countermeasures against emerging biological threat agents
- Program targeted for countermeasures against two classes of agents: Hemorrhagic fever viruses and Intracellular bacterial pathogens
- TMTI offerors announced; contracts to be awarded



- Challenges

- Identify & leverage most promising technologies in the development pipeline for rapid transition to advanced development
- Develop counter-measure products that are regulatory compliant, robust, and highly effective at a reasonable cost.



*TMTI represents a novel technology and acquisition experiment*



# Our S&T challenges

- Earliest warning
  - Detection
  - Medical diagnostics
  - Information dissemination
- Broad spectrum medical countermeasures
  - Pretreatment
  - Therapeutics
- “How clean is safe?”
  - Decontamination
  - Low-Level toxicology
  - Environmental fate of agent



# Decontamination

- **Current Efforts**

- Modeling quantum-chemical agent/adsorbent Interactions
- Studying surface chemistry of vaporous  $H_2O_2$  and  $ClO_2$
- Developing solvent soluble decontaminating enzymes
- Aerosolizing activated  $H_2O_2$  for decontamination of aircraft interiors

- **Challenges**

- Removal or detoxification of chemical agents bound in porous matrices
- Smaller quantities and fewer varieties of decontaminants required
- Detection of residual agent on surface and vapors below toxicological thresholds to validate successful decon in the field



*Effective, non-corrosive decontaminants for sensitive equipment, vehicles, and building interiors*



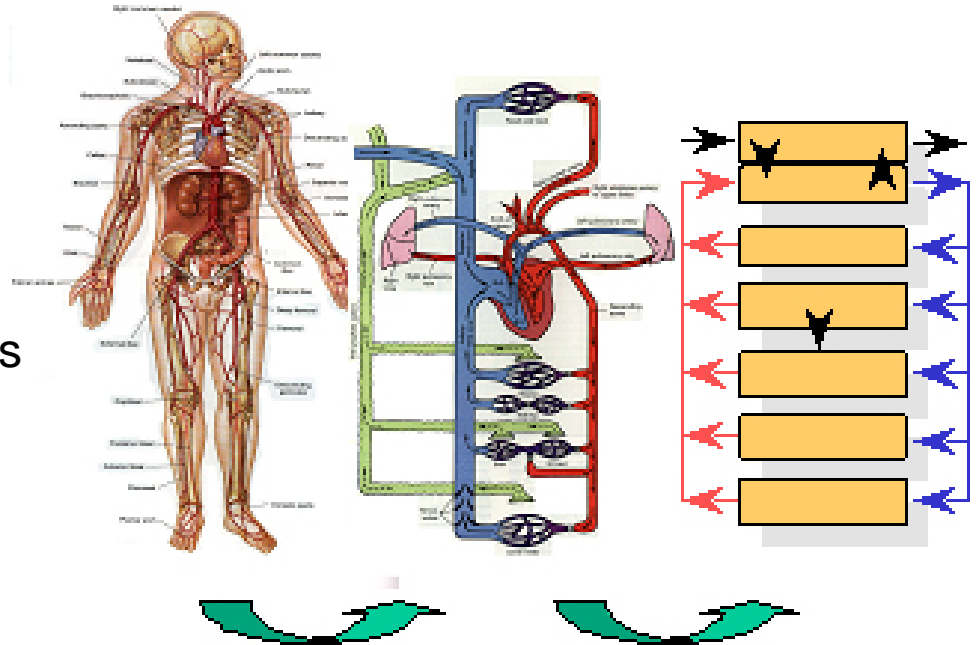
# Threat Agent Science

## • Current Efforts

- Studying toxicological effects low levels of exposure to agents
- Researching environmental fate of agent

## • Challenges

- Better fundamental understanding of CB agents
  - Physical and chemical properties
  - Fundamental interactions with other materials and environment
  - Pathological and toxicological properties
  - Exploitable signatures



*Improved CONOPS and a better understanding of CB-relevant science*







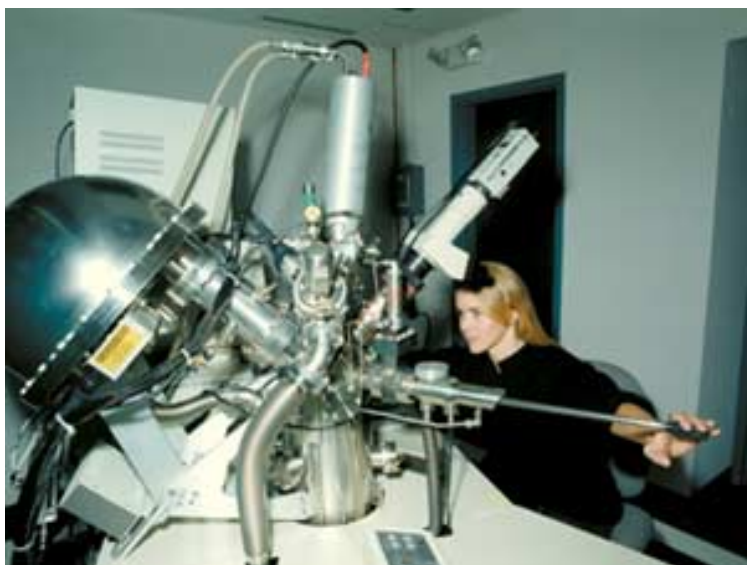
# Overview

- Background
- Business strategy
- The S&T challenges
- Sustaining S&T
- Conclusions

# Sustaining and improving S&T capability



- Intellectual capital
- Physical infrastructure







# Overview

- Background
- Business strategy
- The S&T challenges
- Sustaining S&T
- Conclusions



# We are...



- Improving business strategy
- Bridging the “valley of death” between S&T and advanced development
- Emphasizing revolutionary technology
- Sustaining and improving S&T capability