



**WHSR / TSA SENIOR INDUSTRY FORUM SERIES:  
OFFICE OF SECURITY CAPABILITIES ENGAGEMENT GROUP**

**SYSTEMS ENGINEERING FOCUS GROUP  
MEETING REPORT  
JUNE 17, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its third TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Systems Engineering Focus Group (Systems Group) meeting on June 17, 2013. Attendees consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

The meeting began with the participants discussing the role of systems engineering in defining requirements on the front end. The group discussed how establishing requirements definitions would squeeze out uncertainties as early as possible in the process; would enable and ensure qualification requirements and would define the current and future architecture while not divorcing systems engineering from professional engineering standards.

The group then shared ideas on how to improve requirements definition. Some of the ideas shared included issuing a Broad Agency Announcement for white papers on how to drive efficiency; identify important variables; establish a common elements architecture and marry them to mission priority needs; and provide a framework for portfolio modeling to become dynamic and equity based with risk embedded.

The participants also discussed how to use industry best practices and knowledge to help drive TSA forward, as well as the challenges TSA faces and how to address them.



In order to address the challenges, the participants recommended doing an analysis of alternatives and laying out a roadmap with change control to ensure all stakeholders are part of the decision. The participants also recommended that the TSCAP program, with the help of this group can help drive multi-faceted and integrated change to include:

- Risk Management
- Change Management
- Communications Efficiency
- Technology Performance
- Knowledge Management

The question was raised regarding what the change is driving towards and the group discussed that the change effort is to drive toward a common truth on requirements and to design a system with the right focus. A question was asked about the impact on national security and overall awareness, while acknowledging that there needs to be a flow so that TSA leadership understands trade-offs. In order to help accomplish change, there needs to be a sponsor identified who has the authority to make decisions version group decision making versus avoiding culpability.

The group also discussed the need to identify three top items for the group to focus on and started with a list of suggestions that included:

- Simplify and bundle decisions that need to be made to increase confidence
- Define a structured process to produce results
- Define charter for government group
- Synthesize data from all to have for decision making



- Start small and define role in decision making process
- Interface with working group and define how functions should interface
- Establish a communication management plan and a government framework

The group also discussed that the role of systems engineering is to supply information to program management. The focus going forward is 80% governance and 20% low-hanging fruit. Make recommendations toward OSC goals of 30% in maintenance.

The meeting concluded by the participants agreeing to send a list of needs to Kay Olive and to hold a working session with HSI to define roles and stakeholders. The next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2013.