



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

**EFFICIENT TESTING & EVALUATION FOCUS GROUP
APRIL 2, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) launched the TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Efficient Testing and Evaluation Focus Group (T & E). This T & E Group is one of seven focus groups created out of the WHSR / OSC Engagement Group.

WHSR hosted the first WHSR / OSC Engagement Group meeting on November 27, 2012. Representatives from OSC and industry participated in the meeting to kick off an on-going exchange of information, ideas and best practices concerning TSA's security capabilities, specifically focusing on the OSC's strategic plan and other areas of strategic importance. Focus group activities may be used by OSC to inform the development of their strategic plan along with other areas of operation.

The T & E Group held its first meeting on April 2, 2013. It consists of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA. This group will meet monthly through March 2014.

A TSA representative kicked off the meeting by providing the group with a brief overview of the current testing and evaluation environment. The TSA representative delineated functions and efforts taking place at the Transportation Security Laboratory (TSL) and the Transportation Security Integration Facility (TSIF) as well as other testing sites utilized by TSA around the country and provided a brief overview of the various functions – development test teams, operational test teams, evaluators, etc.



Also discussed were TSA's efforts to create more cohesiveness from testing at the TSL, TSIF and in the field. He noted an OSC T&E goal to narrow discrepancies of testing data. A challenge highlighted was the lack of a common language. As an example, there may be a circumstance in which an issue raised and documented at each of the testing facilities might in fact be the same issue but due to the lack of common language that issue may be reported three times.

TSA also indicated efforts are underway to encourage the sharing of testing data between the TSL and TSIF to create efficiencies – data such as repeatable results in an effort to eliminate overlaps and gaps.

TSA's goal is to create more efficiencies and ultimately shorten the test cycle time. TSA highlighted several efforts currently underway to help achieve the aforementioned goals. The T&E group is wrapping up a process guide that has been shared with stakeholders and industry and is also reviewing the qualification data packages (QDPs) required of vendors to see how more robust packages may assist in reducing the cycle time. TSA is also exploring possible third party testing programs to assist in the testing cycle.

The meeting concluded by the industry participants deciding to review the process guide as well as brainstorm ideas, concepts and best practices. Initial first steps include a data call of T & E Group participants to provide WHSR staff with ideas and best practices to examine in detail at future meetings.