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

EFFICIENT TESTING & EVALUATION FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
JULY 26, 2013

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its fourth TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Efficient Testing and Evaluation Focus Group (T & E) meeting on July 26, 2013.

Participants attending the meeting consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA. Rich Helmuth, the industry lead for the T&E Group, kicked off the meeting with a recap of the last meeting in June. The group then began the discussion of TSA's goals for this group. Several issues were discussed but three main themes surfaced during the course of the meeting:

1. A T&E specific Industry Day;
2. Refinement of the QDP Process; and
3. Enhanced Communication.

Industry Day

The group discussed the efforts by OSC's T&E group to continue to communicate with industry, including the development of the T&E Process Guide. While the T&E Guide has been circulated and incorporated input from industry, T&E would like to increase the level of communication with industry through creating an Industry Day which would primarily focus on T&E issues. The target date for the Industry Day is early September 2013.

Refinement of the QDP Process

Refining the Qualification Data Packages (QDPs) has been a focus of OSC. OSC's main goals are to increase transparency and efficiency of cycle times. The efforts underway by OSC have been raised during several of the previous T&E Group meetings. Industry participants were encouraged to hear that OSC is trying to make the process more uniform with an objective geared towards assisting industry manage expectations.

Enhanced Communication

The last of the three major themes discussed in the T&E Group meeting was the goal of enhancing communication. Information sharing is a key objective to better inform industry on what TSA needs and why. In terms of T&E, the group has demonstrated its desire to communicate with industry by publishing the T&E Process Guide. However, T&E believes to achieve its goals it needs to leverage additional methods to share information with industry. The T&E Industry Day is one such method.

Additionally, the group was provided with an outline of the T&E life cycle and industry participants discussed the T&E timeline and the amount of time and investment incorporated into the test and evaluation cycle.

The meeting concluded with a wrap up of the discussion. The T&E group, as with all of the OSC focus groups, are moderated and supported administratively as a program of the Washington Homeland Security Roundtable. Industry participation, support, and contributions are key and the TSA representatives are acting solely as subject matter experts.