

## COURSE 2, TUTORIAL 2

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY (DTRA)



The Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or DTRA, is the youngest agency in the Department of Defense. Formed in 1998, the mission of DTRA is to keep weapons of mass destruction, or WMD, out of the hands of terrorists and other enemies by locking down, monitoring, and destroying weapons and weapons related materials. DTRA is a combat support agency, meaning that it provides support to the U.S. military during combat operations. With its headquarters in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, DTRA's vigilance is constant, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In order to anticipate future threats, DTRA manages a research and development portfolio that is based on the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Community of Interest, or CWMD COI. To increase the effectiveness of investments, Communities of Interest were established to ensure coordinated DoD Science and Technology program development through joint planning and provision of a forum for stakeholder participation. The CWMD Community of Interest is based on the DOD strategy for CWMD and is chaired by DTRA with members including the Army, Navy, Air Force, DARPA, and others.

The DTRA Science and Technology portfolio aligns with the DOD's CWMD strategy, and includes three strategic





IMAGE COURTESY | U.S. DOD

objectives: (1) To understand the environment, threats and vulnerabilities; (2) To control, defeat, disable, and/or dispose of WMD threats; and (3) To safeguard the force and manage consequences. These objectives (or mission sets, as they are also called) pave the way for DTRA's S&T portfolio.

- The first objective - Understanding the Environment, Threats and Vulnerabilities - requires capabilities such as global situational awareness, threat detection, forensics, weapons effects, and the identification, verification and monitoring of threats.
- The second objective - to Control, Defeat, Disable and Dispose of WMD threats- leverages special operations support to identify, secure, and dismantle WMDs as well as to remove WMD development and employment.
- The final objective - to safeguard the force and manage consequences – focuses on sensing, identifying and quantifying chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN) hazards in the environment and developing and providing the technologies needed to mitigate threat agents - such as personal protection, medical diagnostics and analysis, vaccines and therapeutics, and rapid response and restoration.

DTRA's Enabling Technologies include basic research, CWMD testing capabilities, technical reachback, advanced analytics, and interagency and international leverage.

DTRA also participates in both the SBIR and STTR programs and participates in one DoD BAA annually. Both programs are fairly small. For example, in FY17 the DTRA SBIR budget was \$9.2 million, while the STTR budget was \$1.3 million. The topics in the DTRA solicitation reflect current strategic priorities where small businesses are believed to have capabilities to address challenging technical issues. Recent topics include Field Debris Analysis for Nuclear Forensics and High Performance Computing (HPC) tools. DTRA Phase I SBIR awards are for up to \$150,000 and need to be accomplished within seven months. Phase II proposals must be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of the seven-month Phase I effort.

DTRA also participates in the OSD (Office of Small Business) Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF) program. This program is used to expedite the transition of innovative solutions to the warfighter.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**

**DTRA SBIR PROGRAM MANAGER**

Mr. Mark Flohr  
703-767-6691  
dtrasbir@dtra.mil