

Written Statement of
Philip E. Coyle, III
Associate Director-designate
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
To the
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
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Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Hutchison, and members of the committee, it is a pleasure to appear before you today.

The scope of OSTP activities is broad, including helping to assure that America's science and technology programs increase American productivity and drive economic growth, improve the nation's health, provide new sources of energy, and protect the environment. As Associate Director for National Security and International Affairs (NSIA), my focus within OSTP is on assuring that America's investments in science and technology help to safeguard U.S. national security, protect our troops, and ensure the safety of American citizens here at home and around the world. That means bringing the very best science and technology to bear on issues of cyber security, homeland security, bio-security, and other topics. The people who work at OSTP and I take pride every day in our service to this country.

I would like to provide a summary to highlight what the National Security and International Affairs division has been focused on under my leadership—highlights that I think we can agree are of central importance to our Nation's continued economic strength and national security:

Cybersecurity – Ensuring that cyberspace is safe, reliable and an engine for prosperity for all citizens requires a commitment to innovation in cybersecurity. With others in the Federal, academic, and commercial sectors, we work to implement the priority cybersecurity objectives described in the Cyberspace Policy Review. These include a targeted research and development program and increased training and educational opportunities.

Science and Technology to Support Our Veterans – A new initiative for rehabilitation and recovery seeks to bring the best of American science and technology to support our returning service members, helping our veterans achieve mobility and functionality at home, at work, and in recreation. NSIA is helping to apply technologies for advanced prosthetic devices using advanced materials, sensors and controls, neuroscience, engineering, computer simulation, rehabilitation medicine, telemedicine, and social and behavioral sciences.

Defense Science and Technology – In close cooperation with the Defense Department, we are working to ensure that we are developing and fielding the technologies needed to meet the demands of a Nation at war and to meet the emerging threats of our time. In particular, NSIA has focused on sustaining funding for defense basic research programs, and policies to revitalize our network of defense laboratories.

Homeland Security – Science and technology are critical to enhance the security of our citizens and to counter terrorist use of explosives. Among other responsibilities in this area, we are leading an interagency process to identify areas where science and technology can reduce the threat from improvised explosive devices, both at home and abroad.

Biological and Chemical Defense – NSIA is engaged collaboratively in the development of coordinated strategies and policies to respond to chemical and biological threats via work in a set of linked interagency working groups that together are streamlining research and development in these domains.

Energy Security – We are supporting the development and application of technologies to strengthen U.S. energy security. In particular, we are addressing threats that can result from damage due to natural events, such as extreme space weather, or as a result of political or economic instabilities affecting energy supply and cost. In addition, we are working with the Department of Defense on the use of energy technologies to reduce costs and logistical burdens.

National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications –The OSTP Director has specific responsibilities both for communications during a crisis and for ensuring the readiness of capabilities in advance of a crisis. To fulfill OSTP's readiness responsibilities, NSIA works in partnership with others to establish architectural requirements for continuity of emergency communications for the government, including the evaluation of existing and planned capabilities.

Nuclear Deterrence – NSIA supports maintenance of U.S. nuclear deterrence, stockpile stewardship, strengthening the scientific enterprises at the nuclear weapons laboratories, and the development of an R&D plan to enhance monitoring and verification.

Nuclear Defense – We lead an interagency group that oversees execution of a coordinated nuclear-defense R&D strategy and related efforts to counter nuclear terrorism by improving nuclear safeguards and security.

Critical Materials – We are leading a new interagency working group on strategic and critical mineral supply chains that is addressing recent concerns about rare earth minerals. We are also working to ensure continued access to the medically important isotope Molybdenum-99.

International Affairs – We have created a new subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council and are participating in other interagency mechanisms to use science and technology collaboration to enhance national security through such activities as the Science Envoy Program, as well as other cooperative ventures relating to health, education, and energy with scientists in the Middle East and North Africa.

Conclusion

President Obama's National Security Strategy released last May stated that "America's role as the global engine of scientific discovery and technological innovation has never been more critical." It further noted that our "commitment to science and technology ... will help us protect our citizens and advance U.S. national security priorities." I am proud of the work of the National Security and International Affairs division, and hope that, if confirmed, I will have the opportunity to continue that work with this Committee and the Congress for our nation's security.

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