

# Department of Homeland Security

Test & Evaluation

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Mr. Gary Carter  
Director, Operational Test & Evaluation  
Science & Technology Directorate  
Department of Homeland Security



**Homeland  
Security**

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Science and Technology

# Operational Test & Evaluation of DHS Headquarters & Component Programs

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- **United States Coast Guard:** safeguard our Nation's maritime interests in the heartland, in the ports, at sea, and around the globe. They protect the maritime economy and the environment, defend our maritime borders, and rescue those in peril.
- **Transportation Security Administration:** protects the Nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.
- **Customs and Border Protection:** protects America's way of life while collecting revenue, enforcing intellectual property and other laws at the border, and facilitating legitimate commerce and travel.
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement:** promotes homeland security and public safety through the criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing border control, customs, trade, and immigration.
- **U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services:** provides accurate and useful information, grants immigration and citizenship benefits, promotes an awareness and understanding of citizenship, and ensures the integrity of our immigration system.
- **United States Secret Service:** Dual mission "to safeguard the nation's financial infrastructure and payment systems to preserve the integrity of the economy, and to protect national leaders, visiting heads of state and government, designated sites and National Special Security Events."
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency:** supports citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.
- **National Protection and Programs Directorate:** Federal Protective Service; critical infrastructure protection; assuring the security, resiliency, and reliability of the nation's cyber and communications infrastructure; and innovative bio-metrics-based technological solutions (US-VISIT).

# DHS and DoD Test & Evaluation

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- **Similar:**
  - Acquisition Policy, Acquisition Framework, Acquisition Categories, Acquisition Workforce Certification, TEMP, Requirement for Operational Test and Evaluation and established D,OT&E
    - Some variations in cost thresholds and policy versus law (Title X), but the same approach with acquisition categories based on cost thresholds and a Phase/Gate approach with similar T&E event and reporting requirements.
- **Except:**
  - DHS does not have an organizational Operational Test Agency
    - Uses DoD OTAs, Non-system contractors, and Component internal test organizations
  - Systems Under Test (SUT) often interface with the general public
    - Must not impede the flow of commerce
    - Cannot invade “privacy”
    - Subject to “making the front page”
  - Operational test conducted in the actual operating environment
    - Must continue to perform the mission without interference
    - May encounter real threat

# DHS Test & Evaluation

- **DHS “special” cases**
  - **Qualified Product List**
    - SUT vendor specific OT where multiple vendors require capability verification to participate in pending/ongoing procurements
    - Individual vendors may require OT near-simultaneously or over an extended period
  - **System Assessment or Validation of Emergency Responder (SAVER) equipment**
    - Conducts impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of commercial off-the-shelf equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL).
  - **Standards/Conformity Assessment**
    - GRaDER- Graduated Rad/Nuc Detector Evaluation and Reporting





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