

News Release



Defense Threat Reduction Agency

U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction

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DTRA/SCC-WMD Director testifies before HASC Subcommittee on CWMD Strategy and FY2017 Budget Request - \$2.8B budget encompasses DoD's most significant CWMD activities

WASHINGTON (Feb. 10, 2016) – The dual-hatted director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the USSTRATCOM Center for Combating WMD testified before members of Congress this afternoon to lay out a Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and provide examples of how the agency is successfully eliminating the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction.

Kenneth A. Myers appeared at a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities with two colleagues from the Pentagon, Dr. Arthur T. Hopkins, performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, and Dr. Wendin D. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Myers said the agency is challenged with reacting to unexpected events and missions, but appreciates the authorities and funding Congress provides. "Nearly every year since 2011, we have faced another WMD crisis. These are not necessarily situations that can be easily budgeted or planned," said Myers. "In these cases, we are forced to surge our efforts and reprioritize resources from more steady-state types of activities."

DTRA's budget request for Fiscal Year 2017 is approximately \$1.2 billion, Myers explained, but the agency also executes the \$361 million Science and Technology portion of the DoD's Chemical and Biological Defense Program (CBDP), manages the rest of the CBPD's \$833 million budget, and will soon take over more than \$400 million in overseas contingency operations funds requested for the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund when the Joint IED Defeat Organization merges with DTRA. When those items are included, DTRA's budget portfolio grows to almost \$3 billion.

The recent events in Syria, Myers said, led to DTRA efforts to help protect key U.S. allies and partners in the Middle East. "This work [the Jordan Border Security Program] is now more important than ever given the rise of ISIS, the clear use of chemical weapons, and the well-known intention of terrorists to utilize any WMD material against the United States and our allies," said Myers, adding that DTRA's CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) Preparedness Program, or CP2, also "provides assistance to the military and civilian first responder organizations of designated Partner Nations, to include Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey, which border Syria."

Myers also updated the Committee on how the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency (JIDA) is being brought under DTRA. The 2016 NDA directed that JIDA transition to a military department or existing agency. "I can assure the Committee that the Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices and the CWMD missions will be

preserved and enhanced under this transition,” said Myers. “Both these missions are critical for the safety of our nation’s warfighters and to the national security of our country and that of our allies. JIDA will now transition and operate under the authority, direction, and control of DTRA. Realigning JIDA under DTRA will enhance upstream threat prevention and defeat capabilities.”

Myers provided details on the agency’s R&D efforts, the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, and Operations and Maintenance funding before taking questions from Committee members.

DTRA is the U.S. Department of Defense’s official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction, addressing the entire spectrum of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive threats. DTRA’s programs include basic science research and development, operational support to U.S. warfighters on the front line, and an in-house WMD think tank that aims to anticipate and mitigate future threats long before they have a chance to harm the United States and our allies. SCC-WMD, the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, synchronizes Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction efforts across our military’s geographic commands and leverages the people, programs and interagency relationships of DTRA at a strategic level. We work with the military services, other elements of the United States government, and countries across the planet on counterproliferation, nonproliferation and WMD reduction issues with one goal in mind: Making the World Safer.