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National Science and Technology Council Report Examines Role of Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences in Combating Terrorism

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), a Cabinet-level Council that coordinates science and technology policies across the Federal Government, today released the report “Combating Terrorism: Research Priorities in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences.” Produced by the Subcommittee on Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, this is the first NSTC report on the role of the social and behavioral sciences (which include psychology, sociology, anthropology, geography, linguistics, statistics, and statistical and data mining) in helping the American public and its leaders to understand the causes of terrorism and how to counter terrorism. The focus of the report is on how these sciences can help us to predict, prevent, prepare for and recover from a terrorist attack or ongoing terrorists’ threats.

“Our ability to maintain our American way of life depends on our understanding of human behavior, which is the domain of the social, behavioral and economic sciences,” said John H. Marburger III, science advisor to the President and director, Office of Science and Technology Policy. “The report describes the powerful tools and strategies these sciences offer as we respond to the threats and actions of terrorists.”

The report can be found at <http://www.ostp.gov/nstc/html/terror.pdf>.

About the National Science and Technology Council

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), a cabinet level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science, and technology policies across the Federal Government. NSTC acts as a “virtual” agency for science and technology to coordinate the diverse parts of the Federal research and development enterprise.

An important objective of the NSTC is the establishment of clear national goals for Federal science and technology investments in areas ranging from information technologies and health research to improving transportation systems and strengthening fundamental research. This council prepares research and development strategies that are coordinated across Federal agencies to form an investment package that is aimed at accomplishing multiple national goals.

To obtain additional information regarding the NSTC, contact the NSTC Executive Secretariat at (202) 456-6101

About the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Congress established OSTP in 1976 with a broad mandate to advise the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the impacts of science and technology on domestic and international affairs. The 1976 Act also authorizes OSTP to lead an interagency effort to develop and to implement sound science and technology policies and budgets and to work with the private sector, state and local governments, the science and higher education communities, and other nations toward this end. The Director of OSTP serves as co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and oversees the National Science and Technology Council on behalf of the President. For more information visit www.ostp.gov.

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