

II. INTRODUCTION

The Congress required establishment of the Office of Technology Transition with, we believe, the underlying assumption that the Defense Laboratories and Defense Agencies are technological powerhouses whose efforts can be brought to bear on domestic commercial technology opportunities at one and the same time that defense critical needs are being addressed. The technological investments made by the DoD to develop agile, smart weapons systems, training systems, trauma care, etc, have caused, in many cases, an economic impact far larger than that suggested by the program budgets alone, therefore enhancing the nation's industrial competitiveness or otherwise improving the Nation's quality of life.

DoD is working to develop a broad Technology Transfer Program which encompasses the Department as a whole. We are trying to use a common sense approach to this program to break down barriers preventing us from commercializing appropriate technology. We are also trying to expand our horizons to use what is readily available from the commercial sector. Two programs were transferred from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Industrial and Commercial Programs to this office in FY 98 to strengthen the Technology Transfer Program. These two commercially-oriented programs are the Defense Production Act Title III program and Commercial Operations and Support Savings Initiative. By leveraging available resources, we can expand and enhance our capabilities both within our weapons systems and within our processes for making the transfer of technology possible. In doing so, it is recognized that the Nation will achieve an improved return on its national security technology investment and the Nation's industrial competitiveness will be improved. In every case, however, the essential goal is to achieve technically superior, affordable defense systems; those technology efforts which contribute to international competitiveness, but have no defense relevance, are the proper province of other Federal agencies and/or private industry.

The DoD Technology Transfer Program is a dynamic program which we anticipate will contribute to more affordable defense systems in the future.