

II. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Defense established the Office of Technology Transition in response to congressional direction to ensure that technology developed for national security purposes is integrated into the private sector of the United States in order to enhance the national technology and industrial base, reinvestment, and conversion activities. We believe the underlying assumption is 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 that encompasses the Department as a whole. We are using 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. 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 that 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 that we anticipate will contribute to more affordable Defense systems in the future.