

ical infrastructure decision making exercises. Well planned cyber attacks could have devastating consequences on America's economy, especially if they were to substantially disrupt the financial services, telecommunications, transportation, energy, and other critical infrastructures that are highly reliant on advanced computer and information technology. This project addresses the vulnerabilities of these key sectors of our economy to low probability, high consequence attacks.

#### FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

First responder communications equipment procured with federal funding should be compliant with common system standards for digital public safety radio communications (Project 25 standards), to ensure interoperability. S&T, in conjunction with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall continue assessing the compliance of first responder communications equipment with Project 25 standards.

#### EXPLOSIVES

The Committee recommends \$96,149,000 for explosives, the same level as requested and \$18,495,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2008. This program has grown by \$32,400,000 over the past two years, largely for research and development on improvised explosive devices (IED). With the 2009 funding increase, S&T plans to identify near-term technological improvements to prevent, reduce or eliminate the consequences of IEDs in less than five years. While the Committee is extremely supportive of this effort, the Committee urges S&T to accelerate its efforts to achieve results in the nearer term, within the next one or two years.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE AND GEOPHYSICAL

The Committee recommends \$48,816,000 for infrastructure and geophysical, \$11,000,000 above the amount requested and \$15,684,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2008. Within the funds provided is \$11,000,000 for the National Institute for Hometown Security to support existing work in research, development and application of technology for community-based critical infrastructure protection solutions.

The Committee includes the requested \$4,000,000 for continued development of emergency responder tracking, monitoring and rescue systems. Such systems would permit incident commanders to wirelessly locate, track, and monitor individual first responders throughout multi-story structures in real-time. This would allow incident commanders to make decisions that would save lives and help meet the 2005 U.S. Fire Administration's goal of reducing line-of-duty deaths by 25 percent in 2010. The Committee encourages S&T to consider providing additional resources to investigate alternative technologies to ensure that monitoring can be successfully carried out in diverse environments and under varied circumstances. For instance, a successful monitoring technology would be capable of accurately monitoring the location and health status of an individual first responder who is isolated from other first responders during an emergency response.