

A military vehicle, possibly an M113, is driving through a desert landscape at sunset. The vehicle is kicking up a large cloud of dust, which is illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky with some clouds. The overall scene is dramatic and emphasizes the operational environment of the vehicle.

The Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) is senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense on operational test and evaluation (OT&E) and live fire test and evaluation (LFT&E) in the DOD.

## DOT&E'S MISSION:

- Enable adequate OT&E and LFT&E of DOD weapon systems in operationally representative and relevant conditions to support credible evaluation of the operational effectiveness, suitability, survivability, and lethality of DOD weapon systems in combat. Adequate T&E enables the delivery and fielding of proven capability to warfighters, and allows them to plan and execute their missions while informed by the weapon system's demonstrated performance. Adequate T&E characterizes those portions of the operational envelope where the weapon system performs well and where deficiencies exist, so they can be fixed prior to fielding and prior to their use in conflict.
- Document weapon system performance and any vulnerabilities in an independent and objective report to Congress and the Secretary of Defense. Each DOT&E report summarizes the assessment of the adequacy of the testing executed in support of the evaluation, as well as the Director's assessment of the operational effectiveness, suitability, survivability, and lethality of the unit equipped with the system under test. The report also offers practical recommendations to fix identified deficiencies and address any gaps that precluded a complete evaluation of system performance as it would be used in combat.
- Report on the health of the T&E resources needed to adequately execute OT&E and LFT&E, including operational test facilities and equipment.
- Identify best practices, develop improved testing methodologies, and implement lessons learned through updates to T&E policy and guidance to meet the T&E and acquisition demands of today and tomorrow. Current efforts include, among others, improved cybersecurity testing, software testing, integrated testing, electromagnetic

spectrum operations, modeling and simulation validation, and efficient test methodologies.

DOT&E responsibilities are detailed in the legislation codified in 1983 (Title 10, Sections 139, 4171, and 4231) and then in 1986 (Title 10, Section 4172).<sup>1</sup> These responsibilities were established to support the fielding of weapon systems that work in combat regardless of the competing acquisition priorities. DOT&E responsibilities have since been augmented through a range of subsequent National Defense Authorization Acts, DOD Directives, and DOD Instructions. DOD Directive 5141.02 assigns the following, critical DOD programs and activities to DOT&E:

1. **The Joint Test & Evaluation Program** – DOD's developer of non-materiel solutions (tactics, techniques, and procedures) intended to mitigate operational deficiencies as outlined in DoDI 5010.41.
2. **The Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness (JTCG/ME) and the Joint Live Fire program (JLF)** – DOD's developer of weaponeering tools for mission planning and execution across warfare domains.
3. **Joint Aircraft Survivability Program (JASP)** – DOD's developer of T&E tools and solutions to assess and mitigate U.S. aircraft losses in combat.
4. **The Center for Countermeasures (CCM)** – enables T&E of U.S. and foreign countermeasure/counter-countermeasure systems as outlined in DoDI 5129.47.
5. **International Test and Evaluation (IT&E) Program** – established to enable T&E activities authorized under international agreements for reciprocal use of ranges and resources.
6. **The T&E Threat Resource Activity (TETRA)** – established to support operational and live fire T&E programs with relevant intelligence data.

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 1, 2022, there was a restructuring of Title 10, which renumbered many of the sections. Section 2399 was renumbered as 4171; 2400 as 4231; and 2366 as 4172. There were no substantive changes to DOT&E responsibilities.