

10th April 2006

Counter Terrorism Centre to be based at Dstl Porton Down

A new Counter-Terrorism Science and Technology Centre to lead the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) scientific response to terrorist threats was announced by Defence Secretary, John Reid, today.

The new Centre will be operated by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) on behalf of the MoD and will be based at Dstl's Porton Down site in Wiltshire. The Centre will co-ordinate MoD's technical response to terrorist incidents and the threats our Armed Forces face in areas of conflict.

The initial team of experts will include specialists from Dstl. Dstl has been providing technical solutions to MoD's counter-terrorism activities since its creation five years ago. Examples of our excellent technical support include:

- World leading technologies in robotic vehicles
- Counters to improvised explosive devices
- Chemical, Biological Radiological (CBR) detection and protection
- Explosive detection and
- CBR and explosives forensic analysis.

John Reid said,

"Terrorism is a real threat to us all and we must do everything we can to ensure the UK is best equipped to deal with any incident both at home and wherever our Armed Forces deploy. This new centre will provide a world class hub to ensure government laboratories, industry and academia are used as efficiently as possible to enhance innovation and keep one step ahead of evolving terrorist threats."

Richard Scott, Programme Director for Science and Technology at Dstl said,

"Dstl's expertise will feature heavily in the new centre through the secondment of experts and the continued provision of world class research and development, supporting counter-terrorism operations."

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

Dstl

Dstl (the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory) is the centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence, housing one of the largest groups of scientists and engineers in public service in the country. Its 3,500 strong workforce, includes some of the nation's most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in-house by world class scientific advice. Dstl delivers defence research, specialist technical services and the ability to track global technological developments. Its capabilities compare with the best in the world, supporting defence policy making and operations and procurement decisions. For more information visit: www.dstl.gov.uk