

Section IV.-Organization and Operations

Created by the Technology Assessment Act of 1972 (86 Stat. 797), OTA is a part of and is responsible to the legislative branch of the Federal Government. OTA received funding in November 1973 and began operations as the second session of the 93d Congress convened in January 1974.

The act provides for a bipartisan Congressional Board, a Director, and such other employees and consultants as may be necessary to conduct the Office's work.

The Congressional Board is made up of six Senators, appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and six Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, evenly divided by party. In 1981, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Cong. Morris Udall (D-Arizona) served as the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, of the Board. The two posts alternate between the Senate and House with each Congress. The Board members from each House select their respective officer.

The Congressional Board sets the policies of the Office and is the sole and exclusive body governing OTA. The Board appoints the Director, who is OTA'S chief executive officer, and a nonvoting member of the board.

The act also calls for a Technology Assessment Advisory Council comprised of 10 public members eminent in scientific, technological, and educational fields, the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Director of the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. The Advisory Council advises the Board and the Director on such matters as the balance, comprehensiveness, and quality of OTA'S work, and OTA'S nongovernmental resources.

In providing assistance to Congress, OTA is to: identify existing or probable impacts of technology or technological programs; where possible, ascertain cause-and-effect relationships of the applications of technology; identify alternative technological methods of implementing specific actions; identify alternative programs for achieving requisite goals; estimate and compare the impacts of alternative methods and programs; present findings of completed analyses to the appropriate legislative authorities; identify areas where additional research or data collection is required to provide support for assessments; and undertake such additional associated activities as may be necessary.

INITIATION, PROCESSING, AND FLOW OR ASSESSMENTS

OTA'S primary function is to provide congressional committees **with assessments or studies that identify the range of probable consequences, social as well as physical, of policy alternatives affecting the uses of technology.** Requests for OTA assessments may be initiated by:

- . the chairman of any standing, special, select, or joint committee of Congress, acting alone, at the request of the ranking minority member, or a majority of the committee members;
- the OTA Board; or
- . the OTA Director, in consultation with the Board.

The authorization of specific assessment projects and the allocation of funds for their performance is the responsibility of the OTA Board. The Board early establishes priority areas of study, and approves individual assessment projects within those areas. To help in making these decisions, the Board considers recommendations and plans developed by OTA staff, and applies the following general selection criteria developed in consultation with the Advisory Council:

- Is this now or likely to become a major national issue?
- Can OTA make a unique contribution, or could the requested activity be done effectively by the requesting committee or another agency of Congress?
- How significant are the costs and benefits to society of the various policy options involved, and how will they be distributed among various affected groups?
- Is the technological impact irreversible?
- How imminent is the impact?
- Is there sufficient available knowledge to assess the technology and its consequences?
- Is the assessment of manageable scope—can it be bounded within reasonable limits?
- What will be the cost of the assessment?
- How much time will be required to do the assessment?
- What is the likelihood of congressional action in response to this assessment?
- Would this assessment complement or detract from other OTA projects?

Assessment reports emerge from the combined effort of a staff with appropriate expertise, citizen advisory panels of experts, consultants, contractors, and other congressional information agencies. A particular assessment project may involve exploratory meetings, workshops of advisory panels, staff analyses, and consultant studies.

Different approaches are used. The method employed, personnel involved, and the skills tapped depend on the technology under study, the requesting client, the nature of the issues at stake, and the time available for and the setting of the project. Required to consider the

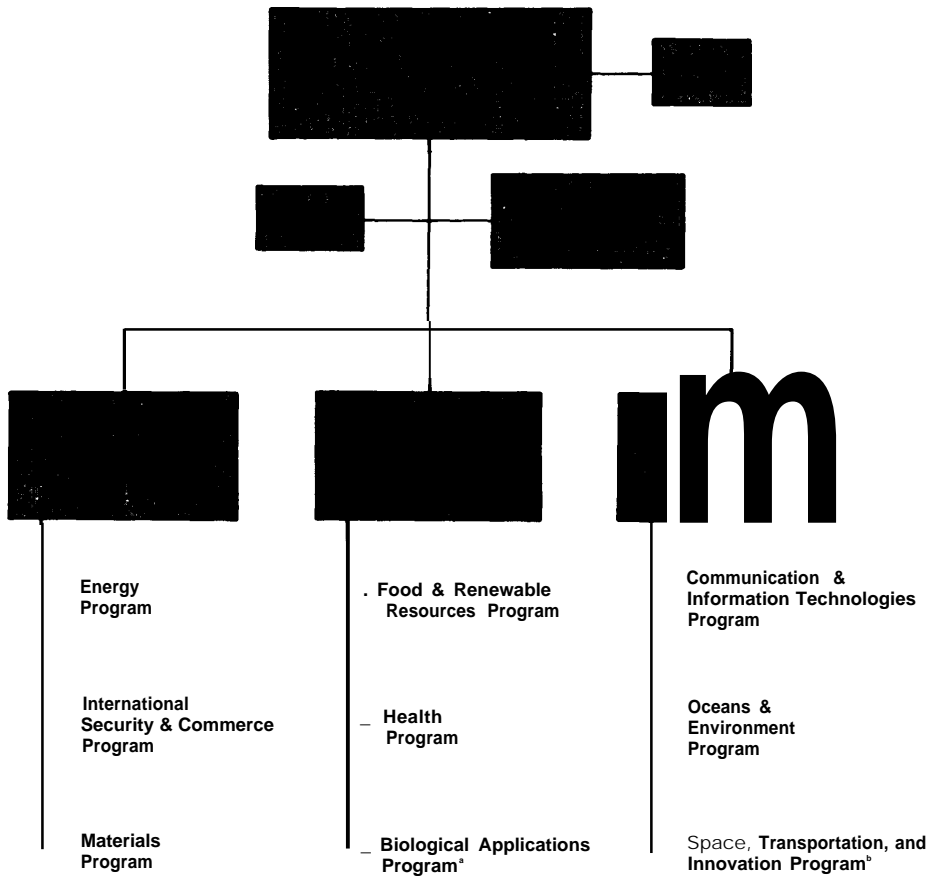
needs of Congress, the vast range of technological issues, and the resources available for a study, OTA remains flexible in its assessment methods.

All OTA assessments strive to be objective, fair, nonpartisan, and authoritative. They must also be timely so as to meet congressional schedules.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Office is organized into three operating divisions, each headed by an assistant director. The three divisions are Energy, Materials, and International Security; Health and Life Sciences; and Science, Information, and Natural Resources. They encompass assessments grouped in the areas of energy, food and renewable resources, human resources, health, materials, international security and commerce, oceans and environment, communication and information technologies, and space technology. See chart detailing OTA'S organizational structure.

OTA Organization Chart



*changed from Human Resources Program, March 1982.

^bchanged from Space Technology Program, March 1982.

Staff professionals represent a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds, including the physical, biological, and environmental sciences, engineering, social sciences, law, and public administration. Professionals from executive branch agencies, detailed to OTA on a temporary basis, and participants in several congressional fellowship programs also contribute to the work of the Office.

Private Sector Involvement

The private sector is heavily involved in OTA studies as a source of expertise and perspectives while an assessment is in progress. Contractors and consultants are drawn from industry, universities, private research organizations, and public interest groups.

OTA works to ensure that the views of the public are fairly reflected in its assessments. OTA involves the public in many ways—through advisory panels, workshops, surveys, and formal and informal public meetings. These interactions provide citizens with access to information and help OTA identify contrasts between the perspectives of technically trained and lay citizens.

OPERATIONS

Publishing Activities

During 1981, OTA delivered 53 published documents to Congress. These included: 14 assessment reports; 11 summaries; 16 background papers; 3 technical memorandums; 3 working papers (appendixes); 2 staff papers; and 4 administrative reports. In addition, OTA had input in the preparation of a committee print on “Background Papers for Innovative Biological Technologies for Lesser Developed Countries” for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Requests for Publications

The Publishing Office processed over 21,303 (averaging 58.4/day) separate mail and phone requests for OTA publications during the calendar year. Of this total, 2,219 were requests from congressional offices, and 19,084 requests from various Government agencies and the private sector.

Private Sector Reprinting

To date, 24 OTA publications (in whole or in part) have been reprinted, by commercial publishers or private organizations for various audiences. Out of the 24 reprinted publications, three publications (Energy From Biological Processes, vol. II, The Effects of Nuclear War, and Impacts of Applied Genetics) have been reprinted by more than one commercial publisher. Among the publications reprinted are:

- **Westview Press**
 - Impacts of Applied Genetics: Micro-Organisms, Plants, and Animals
 - Assessment of Technologies for Determining Cancer Risks From the Environment
 - Energy from Biological Processes, Vol. I
 - Technology and Soviet Energy Availability
- **Praeger Publishing Co.**
 - Nuclear Proliferation and Safeguards
- **Ballinger Publishing Co.**
 - The Direct Use of Coal: Prospects and Problems of Production and Combustion
 - Energy From Biological Processes, Vol. II: Technical and Environmental Analyses
- **McGraw Hill**
 - Enhanced Oil Recovery Potential in the United States
 - An Assessment of Oil Shale Technologies
 - Energy From Biological Processes, Vol. II: Technical and Environmental Analyses
 - World Petroleum Availability: 1980-2000-A Technical Memorandum
- **Allanheld, Osmun Publishing Co.**
 - Technology and East West Trade
 - The Effects of Nuclear War
 - Residential Energy Conservation, Vol. I
- **Olympus Corp.**
 - The Implications of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Medical Technology, Background Paper #2, Case Study #5: Periodontal Disease: Assessing the Effectiveness and Costs of the Keyes Technique
- **The Society for Microbiology**
 - Impacts of Applied Genetics: Micro-Organisms, Plants, and Animals—Summary

- Smith Kline Corp.
The Implications of Cost Effectiveness of Medical Technology, Background Paper #2, Case Study #n: Benefit and Cost Analysis of Medical Interventions: The Case of Cimetidine and Peptic Ulcer Disease
- . National Association of Medical Directors of Respiratory Care
The Implications of Cost Effectiveness of Medical Technology, Background Paper #2, Case Study #12: Assessing Selected Respiratory Therapy Modalities: Trends and Relative Costs in the Washington, D.C. Area
- Cheshire Books
The Effects of Nuclear War
- Friends of the Earth
Energy From Biological Processes—Summary
- University of American Medical Students, Department of Family and Community Medicine
Forecast of Physicians Supply and Requirements
- c Federal Emergency Management Agency
The Effects of Nuclear War

International Interests

The United States International Communication Agency published an abridgement of Chapter 2, Introduction “Concepts of Appropriate Technology” from OTA’S publication An Assessment of Technology for Local Development in a magazine published three times a year in both Spanish and English. Additionally, Asahi Shimbun Publications, Japan’s leading newspaper publishing company, had requested permission to translate and publish OTA’S publication Impacts of Applied Genetics: Micro-Organisms, Plants, and Animals. The translation will be done by researchers specialized in this field at Tsukuba University—one of Japan’s most authoritative universities—and staff members of the Science Department of Asahi Shimbun.

Sales of Publications

Government Printing Office.—Sales of OTA publications by the Superintendent of Documents are continuing to be quite popular with the public.

The Superintendent of Documents sold 26,206 OTA reports for an estimated gross income of \$200,000 for the period January 1 through December 31, 1981.

Summary of Sales of OTA Publications Through the Superintendent of Documents, GPO (July 1976 through December 1981)

	As of 12/80	As of 12/81	12 mos. difference
Number of individual titled publications put on sale to the public	105	138	+33
Total number sold.	124,789	150,995	+ 26,206
Estimated GPO gross receipts from sales ^a	\$551,379	\$749,442	+\$198,063

^aBased on a single copy selling price.

National Technical Information Service. -NTIS Sells scientific reports and papers that are, generally, not in great demand but are useful for scientific researchers. NTIS is the outlet for OTA'S assessment working papers and contractor reports, plus those reports that are out of print by GPO.

Summary of Sales of OTA Publications Through the National Technical Information Service (July 1976 through December 1981)

	As of 12/80	AS of 12/81	
Number of individual titled publications put on sale to the public		102	143
Total number sold (hard copy).	5,200	16,171	6,329
(microfiche).	10,971		13,818
Estimated NTIS gross receipts from sales.		\$77,183	\$112,435

Organizational Roster of OTA Staff as of December 1981

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

John H. Gibbons, Director
Sue Bachtel, Executive Assistant
Barbara O'Bryan, Secretary

Congressional and Institutional Relations

Marvin Ott, Director CIR
Eugenia Ufholz, Assistant to
Director CIR
Patricia Halley, Secretary

Medical Services

Rose McNair, Resident Nurse

ENERGY, MATERIALS, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

Skip Johns, Assistant Director
Teri Miles, Division Assistant

Energy Program

Richard Rowberg, Program Manager
Thomas Bull, Project Director
Virginia Chick, Secretary
Alan Crane, Project Director
Marian Grochowski, Secretary
Nancy Naismith, Project Director
Steve Plotkin, Senior Analyst
Mary Procter, Project Director
Pidge Quigg, Administrative
Assistant
Jenifer Robison, Project Director
Joanne Seder, Research Assistant
Edna Saunders, Secretary
Paula Stone, Senior Analyst
David Strom, Analyst
Richard Thoreson, Senior Analyst

International Security and Commerce Program

Peter Sharfman, Program Manager
John Alic, Project Director
Martha Caldwell, Analyst
Ronnie Lee Goldberg, Analyst
Helena Hassell, Secretary
Henry Kelley, Senior Associate
Dorothy Richroath, Editorial
Assistant

Jacqueline Robinson, Administrative
Assistant

Materials Program

Audrey Buyrn, Program Manager
Patricia Canavan, Secretary
Carol Drohan, Administrative
Assistant
Julie Gorte, Analyst
Joel Hirschhorn, Project Director
Karen Larsen, Analyst
Suellen Pirages, Senior Analyst

HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION

David Banta, Assistant Director
Ogechee Koffler, Division Assistant

Food and Renewable Resources Program

Walter E. Parham, Program Manager
Phyllis Balan, Administrative
Assistant
Alison Hess, Research Assistant
Barbara Lausche, Project Director
Michael Phillips, Project Director
Bruce A. Ross, Project Director
Phyllis Windle, Analyst

Health Program

Clyde Behney, Program Manager
Anne Kesselman Burns, Analyst
Virginia Cwalina, Administrative
Assistant
Lorraine Ferris, Secretary
Michael Gough, Project Director
Bryan Luce, Project Director
Judith Randal, Consultant
Ann Rose, Senior Analyst
Gloria Ruby, Analyst
Jane Willems, Project Director

Human Resources Program

Gretchen Kolsrud, Program Manager
Susan Clymer, Administrative
Assistant
Jeff Karny, Analyst
Frank Packer, Research Assistant
Louise Williams, Project Director
Barbara Winchester, Secretary
Ray Zilinskas, Analyst

**SCIENCE, INFORMATION, AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION**

John Andelin, Assistant Director
Doris Smith, Division Assistant
Samuel Hale, Executive Assistant
John Burns, Senior Editor
William E. Davis, Senior Analyst
Scott Finer, Analyst
William Mills, Senior Associate
Marsha Fenn Mistretta,
Administrative Assistant
Paul Phelps, Analyst
John Young, Project Director

**Communication and Information
Technologies Program**

Sam Hale, Interim Program
Manager
Prudence Adler, Analyst
Norman Balmer, Project Director
Marjory Blumenthal, Analyst
Jeanette Contee, Wordprocessor
Elizabeth Emanuel, Administrative
Assistant
Linda Garcia, Analyst
Shirley Gayheart, Secretary
Larry L. Jenney, Project Director
Zalman Shaven, Senior Analyst
Jean Smith, Analyst
Donna Valtri, Analyst
Rick Weingarten, Project Director
Fred Wood, Project Director

Oceans and Environment Program

Robert Niblock, Program Manager
William Barnard, Senior Analyst
Kathleen Beil, Administrative
Assistant
Rosina Bierbaum, Analyst
Thomas Cotton, Senior Analyst
Robert Friedman, Senior Analyst
Daniel Kevin, Analyst
Valerie Lee, Analyst
Jacqueline Mulder, Secretary
Linda Wade, Secretary

Space Technology Program

John Andelin, Acting Program
Manager
Paula Walden, Administrative
Assistant
Ray Williamson, Project Director

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Bart McGarry, Operations Manager
Ann Woodbridge, Management
Analyst
Loretta O'Brien, Data Base
Administrator
Janice Perocchi, Manager/Systems
Planning Group

Administrative Services

Thomas P. McGurn, Administrative
Officer
Susan Carhart, Director of Contracts
and Legal Counsel
Alexandra Ferguson, Contract
Specialist
Susan Klugerman, Conference
Center Coordinator
Lisa Raines, Contract Specialist

Financial Services

Alban Landry, Controller
Joan Camino, Supervisory
Accounting Technician
Stacy Newman, Manager, Financial
Operations Group

Information Center

Martha Dexter, Manager,
Information Services
Suzanne Boisclair, Information
Technician
Vermille Davis, Information
Technician
Diane Rafferty, Assistant Manager,
Information Services

Personnel Office

William Norris, Personnel Officer

Lola Craw, Personnel Specialist

**Denise DeSanctis, Personnel
Assistant**

**Katherine Mason, Assistant
Personnel Officer**

Public Communications Office

Jean McDonald, Press Officer

Annette Taylor, Assistant to Press
officer

Publishing Office

John C. Holmes, Publishing officer

**Kathie S. Boss, Assistant Technical
Specialist**

Debra Datcher, Administrative
Assistant

Joe Henson, Deputy Publishing
Officer