



RESEARCH  
AND ENGINEERING

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## MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference — Defense Science Board Task Force on Test and Evaluation

The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislated that the Secretary of Defense direct the Defense Science Board (DSB) to “carry out a study on the resources and capabilities of the test and evaluation organizations, facilities, and laboratories of the Department of Defense.”

As such, I am tasking the DSB—through the establishment of the Task Force on Test and Evaluation (“the Task Force”)—to carry out the following tasks:

- Assess the effectiveness of current developmental testing, operational testing, and integrated testing within the Department of Defense (DoD) in meeting statutory objectives and the test and evaluation requirements of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework;
- Identify industry and government best practices for conducting developmental testing, operational testing, and integrated testing;
- Determine potential applicability of industry and government best practices for conducting developmental testing, operational testing, and integrated testing within the Department to improve test and evaluation outcomes;
- Identify duplication of efforts and other non- or low-value added activities that reduce speed and effectiveness of test and evaluation activities;
- Assess test and evaluation oversight organizations within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), including their authorities, responsibilities, activities, resources, and effectiveness, including with respect to acquisition programs of the military departments and Defense Agencies;
- Assess the research, development, test, and evaluation infrastructure master plan required under section 252 of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2020;
- Develop and assess potential courses of action to improve the effectiveness of oversight of developmental testing, operational testing, and integrated testing activities, and test and evaluation resources within the OSD, including as one such course of action establishing a single integrated office with such responsibilities, and;

- Develop such recommendations as the DSB may have for legislative changes, authorities, organizational realignments, and administrative actions to improve test and evaluation oversight and capabilities, and facilitate better test and evaluation outcomes.

The Task Force findings, observations, and recommendations will be presented to the full DSB for its thorough, open discussion and deliberation at a properly noticed and public meeting subject to Government in the Sunshine Act exemptions. The DSB will provide its findings and recommendations to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering as the Sponsor of the DSB. The nominal start date of the study period will be within 30 days of the initial appointment of Task Force members. In no event will the duration of the Task Force exceed 12 months from the start date.

The Task Force members are granted access to those DoD officials and data necessary for the appropriate conduct of their activities. As such, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Component Heads are requested to cooperate and promptly facilitate requests by DSB staff regarding access to relevant personnel and information deemed necessary, as directed by paragraphs 5.1.8. and 5.3.4. of DoD Instruction 5105.04, "Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committee Management Program," and in conformance with applicable security classifications.

The DSB and the Task Force will operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 United States Code (U.S.C.), Appendix), the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. §552b), and other applicable federal statutes, regulations, and policy. Individual DSB and Task Force members do not have the authority to make decisions or recommendations on behalf of the DSB nor report directly to any Federal representative. The members of the Task Force and the DSB are subject to certain Federal ethics laws governing conflicts of interest, including 18 U.S.C. § 208, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct regulations in 5 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2635.



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