MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIR, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board Tabletop Exercise (Asia Pacific)

The United States is engaged in Great Power Competition across the globe. Strategic competitors seek to be dominant powers in the socio-political, information, military, and economic domains with the objective of diminishing the U.S. and its critical Allies’ standing in the world. Meanwhile, they also use their militaries to coerce neighbors, attempt to counter U.S. military superiority, and undermine international freedom of action. These realities require innovative strategic and operational concepts and the ability to make decisions now that will protect U.S. and Allied interests in the future.

The objective of the Defense Science Board’s (DSB) Tabletop Exercise (Asia Pacific) is to provide an opportunity for the DSB to recommend concepts, capabilities, strategies, courses of action, and decisions in the scientific and technical enterprise that would inform decision-making by Department of Defense (DoD) or “the Department” senior leaders, enabling them to enhance the military advantage of the U.S. in the Asia Pacific region. In conducting this Tabletop Exercise, the DSB should focus on matters concerning science, technology, manufacturing, and acquisition process.

Through this Terms of Reference (ToR), I am tasking the DSB to provide findings and recommendations related to options for strategic, operational, and budgetary decisions that can be made to protect and strengthen DoD interests in the Asia Pacific region. The DSB should take into consideration relevant pressing and complex technological problems facing the Department in such areas as research, engineering, organizational structure and process, business and functional concepts, and manufacturing, and identify new technologies and new applications of technology in the Asia Pacific region to strengthen national security.

The DSB’s findings, observations, and recommendations will be thoroughly discussed and deliberated on in a properly noticed and public meeting subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 United States Code (U.S.C.), Appendix) and the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. § 552b) requirements. The DSB will provide its findings and recommendations to the Deputy Secretary of Defense as the Sponsor for the Tabletop Exercise (Asia Pacific). The Tabletop Exercise (Asia Pacific) will be completed over the course of one-day and the DSB will provide recommendations to the activity Sponsor (Deputy Secretary of Defense) directly, during the Tabletop Exercise.

In support of this ToR and the work conducted in response to it, the DSB has my full support to meet with Department leaders involved in the Tabletop Exercise (Asia Pacific). All information shared with the DSB shall be consistent with applicable laws, applicable security classifications, DoDI 5105.04, “Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committee Management Program,” and this ToR. As special government employee
members of a DoD federal advisory committee, DSB members will not be given any access to DoD networks, to include DoD email systems.

Once material is provided to the DSB, it becomes a permanent part of the DSB's records. All data/information provided is subject to public inspection unless the originating Component office properly marks the data/information with the appropriate classification and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) exemption categories before the data/information is released to the DSB.

The DSB will operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Government in the Sunshine Act, and other applicable federal statutes, regulations, and policy. Individual DSB 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 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 Part 2635.

Heidi Shyu

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