



RESEARCH
AND ENGINEERING

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3030 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

10 JAN 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIR, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – 2023 Defense Science Board Summer Study on Climate Change and Global Security

Climate change remains an enduring global problem that has significant implications for US and global security. The 2022 National Security Strategy (NSS) states that the effects of climate change will further intensify tensions “as countries compete for resources and energy advantage — increasing humanitarian need, food insecurity and health threats, as well as the potential for instability, conflict, and mass migration.”¹ The Secretary of Defense called climate change an “existential threat to our nation’s security,” noting that the consequences of climate change will harm our installations, constrain our ability to train and operate, and trigger crises and instability.²

The objective of the Defense Science Board’s (DSB) Summer Study on Climate Change and Global Security (“the Summer Study”) is to recommend a strategy for anticipating the global stresses and possible conflict due to climate change, as well as to provide investment priorities for new systems and technology to address the near-, mid-, and far-term needs. The DSB recommendations and report should take into consideration the following tasks:

- Investigate climate change impact on global political and military stability and highlight regions where current and future security stresses may increase the possibility of regional conflict.
- Investigate new dimensions of conflict driven by climate change, including the control of resources, interference in relief efforts, and influence of mass migration.
- Assess and recommend investments in new defense capabilities to anticipate needs driven by climate change. Areas to consider include advanced sensing systems, new communication and network coverage, new platforms, and new capabilities for relief operations.

¹ The White House. 2022. National Security Strategy. October 2022. (Page 9). Available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Biden-Harris-Administrations-National-Security-Strategy-10.2022.pdf>

² Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense. 2021. Statement by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on the Department of Defense Climate Adaptation Plan. October 7 2021. Available at <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2803761/statement-by-secretary-of-defense-lloyd-j-austin-iii-on-the-department-of-defen/>

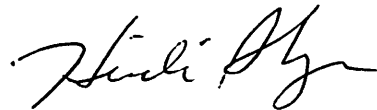
- Recommend areas where Allies and partners can share the responsibility to address the global security impact of climate change.

The DSB's findings, observations, and recommendations will be thoroughly discussed and deliberated on in a properly noticed and public meeting, unless it must be closed pursuant to one or more of the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 552b), exemptions. The DSB will provide its findings and recommendations to the USD(R&E) as the Sponsor of the DSB. The nominal start date of the study period will be within 30 days of the signing of this Summer Study Terms of Reference (ToR). In no event will the duration of the Summer Study exceed 24 months from the start date.

In support of this ToR and the work conducted in response to it, the DSB has my full support to meet with Department leaders. The DSB staff, on behalf of the DSB, may request the Office of the Secretary of Defense and DoD Component Heads to timely furnish any requested information, assistance, or access to personnel to the DSB. All requests shall be consistent with applicable laws, applicable security classifications, DoD Instruction 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 exemption categories before the data/information is released to the DSB. The DSB has physical storage capability and electronic storage and communications capability on both unclassified and classified networks to support receipt of material up to the TS/SCI level.

The DSB will operate in conformity with and pursuant to the DSB's charter, the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Appendix), 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 provide recommendations on behalf of the DSB or to report directly to any Federal representative. The members of the DSB are subject to certain Federal ethics laws, including 18 U.S.C. § 208, governing conflicts of interest, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct regulations in 5 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2635.



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