



RESEARCH
AND ENGINEERING

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIR, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board Task Force on Strategic Options

Several countries aspire to greater regional power, threatening to employ military force to prey on their neighbors. Anticipating that the United States might seek to deter or thwart their aggression due to allies, partners, or treaty commitments, these emerging regional powers have invested over the last decade to discourage the United States from intervening. These investments are aimed at raising the cost of United States intervention to unacceptable levels; cost in terms of loss of life of military personnel and loss of high value assets.

I am establishing the Task Force on Strategic Options (“the Task Force”) as a subcommittee of the Defense Science Board (DSB). The DSB, working through the Task Force, should identify effective weapon system concepts and operational concepts to rebalance intervention cost and benefit in order to regain the operational dominance that the United States Armed Forces achieved for the past 25 years. The concepts may devolve from novel technology, improvements in training and doctrine, alliance building, or exploitation of inherent asymmetric vulnerabilities of adversaries. The goal is to deter local conflict involving allies or partners, and to prevail at the lowest ‘cost’ should deterrence fail.

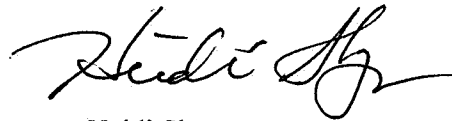
Areas of consideration may include advanced undersea assets and operational concepts, new uses of space assets, development of new countermeasures for electronic warfare, employment of cyber weapons, and other areas the Task Force deems appropriate. Additional considerations should include the adversary’s use of countermeasures to undermine U.S. dominance in the air, space, sea and cyber domains.

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.

I will be the sponsor of the Task Force. The Task Force members are granted access to those Department of Defense (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 and the Task Force as a whole 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 Part 2635.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Shyu", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heidi Shyu