

Membership Balance Plan
Defense Science Board

Agency: Department of Defense (DoD)

1. Authority: The Secretary of Defense, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Appendix) and 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.50(d), established the Defense Science Board ("the Board") as a discretionary advisory committee.
2. Mission/Function: The Board, through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)), shall provide the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense independent advice and recommendations on matters concerning science, technology, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other topics of special interest to the DoD.
3. Points of View: The Board shall be composed of no more than 50 members, who are eminent authorities in the fields of science, technology, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the DoD.

The DoD, in selecting potential candidates for the Board, reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals and bases its selection on this review and the subject matters being handled by the Board. The DoD has found that viewing the complex issues facing the DoD through a multidisciplinary advisory committee provides the DoD and, more importantly, the American public with a broader understanding of the issues which inform subsequent policy decisions.

Membership shall be fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the Board. The Board's membership balance is not static and the DoD Appointing Authorities may change the membership based upon work assigned to the Board by the DoD Appointing Authorities or the USD(R&E), as the Board's sponsor.

The DoD, unless otherwise provided for by statute, does not use representative members on DoD-established or supported advisory committees.

Each member, based upon his or her individual and professional experiences, provides his or her best judgment on matters before the Board and does so without representing any particular point of view in a manner that is free conflict of interest.

Board members who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal civilian officers or employees, or active duty members of the Armed Forces, shall be appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 3109 to serve as special government employee (SGE) members. Board members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal civilian officers or employees, or active duty members of the Armed Forces, shall be appointed pursuant to 41 C.F.R. § 102- 3.130(a) to serve as regular government employee (RGE) members.

4. Other Balance Factors: N/A.
5. Candidate Identification Process: The DoD's selection process includes the USD(R&E) requesting recommendations for potential candidates from the Board's professional staff and senior DoD career and political officials. Candidates for appointment come from government

Membership Balance Plan
Defense Science Board

service, military service, academia, or private industry, and individual appointments are based on the subject matter being reviewed by the Board.

Once potential candidates are identified, the Designated Federal Officer and the Board's staff review the credentials of each individual, narrow the list of potential candidates, and forward the list to the USD(R&E) for review. During the USD(R&E) review, he or she strives to achieve a balance between the educational and professional credentials of the individuals and the subjects that he or she anticipates will be reviewed by the Board to achieve expertise in points of view and functions to be performed regarding anticipated topics.

Once the USD(R&E) has narrowed the list of candidates and before formal nomination to the DoD Appointing Authorities, the list of candidates will undergo a review by the DoD Office of General Counsel, the Office of Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for White House Liaison, and the Office of the Advisory Committee Management Officer to ensure compliance with federal and DoD governance requirements, including compliance with the Board's charter and membership balance plan. Following this review, the Advisory Committee Management Officer sends the appointment package to the DoD Appointing Authorities for approval.

Following approval by the DoD Appointing Authorities, the candidates are required to complete the necessary appointment paperwork, to include meeting any ethics requirements stipulated by the Office of Government Ethics for advisory committee members.

Committee membership will be filled in the same manner as described above.

6. Subcommittee Balance: The DoD, when necessary and consistent with the Board's mission and DoD policies and procedures, may establish subcommittees, task forces, or working groups to support the Board.

Individuals considered for appointment to any subcommittee of the Board may come from the Board itself or from new nominees, as recommended by the USD(R&E) and based upon the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. Pursuant to DOD policies and procedures, the USD(R&E) shall follow the same procedures used for selecting and nominating individuals for appointment consideration by the DoD Appointing Authorities as described in the previous section.

Subcommittee members shall be appointed for a term of service of one-to-four years, with annual renewals.

Currently, the DoD has approved two permanent subcommittees to the Board.

- 1) Permanent Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Surety—no more than 15 members to provide continuous independent technical and programmatic advice regarding the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program as it enters its Engineering Development acquisition phase. Members will be eminent authorities in the fields of science and technology, manufacturing, acquisition processes, or other matters of special interest to the DoD.

Membership Balance Plan
Defense Science Board

- 2) Permanent Task Force on Threat Reduction—no more than 15 members to study ways in which the Department of Defense (DoD) can counter, deter, and mitigate the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction to the United States, its military forces, and its allies in the domains of land, sea, undersea, air, space, and cyberspace. Members will be eminent authorities in national defense, geopolitical or national security affairs, Weapons of Mass Destruction, nuclear physics, chemistry, or biology.

7. Other: As nominees are considered for appointment to the Board, the DoD adheres to the Office of Management and Budget’s Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Advisory Committee, Boards, and Commissions (79 FR 47482; August 13, 2014); the rules and regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics; and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy memorandum of December 17, 2010, concerning scientific integrity.

8. Date Prepared/Updated: May 6, 2020