



RESEARCH  
AND ENGINEERING

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## MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference - Defense Science Board Task Force to Advise Implementation and Prioritization of National Security Innovation Activities

Section 230 (a) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 2019 NDAA) (Public Law 115-232) required the Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering (USD(R&E)) to establish activities to develop interaction between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the commercial technology industry and academia with regard to emerging hardware products and technologies with national security applications.

Section 213 (a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021 NDAA) (Public Law 116-283) requires the USD(R&E) to establish a mechanism to seek advice from existing Federal advisory committees on matters relating to USD(R&E) activities required in Section 230 (a) of the FY 2019 NDAA.

The advisory assistance required by Section 213 (a) of the FY 2021 NDAA relates to:

- The implementation and prioritization of activities established under Section 230 (a) of the FY 2019 NDAA; and
- Determining how such activities may be used to support the overall technology strategy of the Department of Defense

Section 213 (b) of the FY 2021 NDAA required the USD(R&E) to submit a plan to the congressional defense committees that describes the mechanism the USD(R&E) will use to seek advice from existing Federal advisory committees and the expected roles and responsibilities of such committees with respect to advising the Under Secretary. USD(R&E) submitted the required reports on May 5, 2021, detailing that the USD(R&E) will utilize expert advice from the Defense Innovation Board and the Defense Science Board (DSB) to assess various dimensions of the National Security Innovation Capital.


I am tasking the DSB, through the establishment of the Defense Science Board Task Force, to Advise Implementation and Prioritization of National Security Innovation Activities to provide a "quick study" report and recommendations regarding emerging hardware and materials areas with the most significant potential dual-use impact and to advise on scientific research developments which are ready to move from the research phase to the development phase.

The study 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 requirements. The DSB will provide its findings and recommendations to the USD(R&E) as the Sponsor of the DSB. The USD(R&E) will serve as the

DoD decision-maker for the matter under consideration and will, as appropriate, take into consideration other stakeholders identified by the study's findings and recommendations. The nominal start date of the study period will be within 30 days of the initial appointment of the task force members. In no event will the duration of the study exceed 24 months from the start date.

I will be the sponsor of the study. The study members are granted access to those DoD officials and data necessary for the appropriate conduct of their studies. 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 study will operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 United States Code (USC), 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 recommendations on behalf of the DSB nor report directly to any Federal representative. The members of the study and the DSB are subject to certain Federal ethics laws governing conflicts of interest, including 18 USC § 208, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct regulations in 5 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2635.



Heidi Shyu

Attachments:

As stated