



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY,
AND LOGISTICS

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference—Defense Science Board Task Force on Defense Research Enterprise Assessment

The 2015 National Defense Authorization Act directs the Secretary of Defense to task the Defense Science Board (DSB) to conduct an assessment of the organization, missions, authorities, and health of the defense research and development enterprise. This enterprise consists of 62 Department laboratories across 22 states and the associated workforce of over 65,000 employees, of which approximately 36,400 are degreed scientists and engineers. These people and facilities are critical in maintaining the technological edge of the Department of Defense and providing the necessary tools for the Warfighter. Questions remain about the Department of Defense's internal lab infrastructure, especially compared to academic, industrial, and international counterparts, and the ability of the Department's labs to attract and retain a workforce with the necessary skills.

This study will assess the condition of the Department of Defense research and development enterprise. Specific questions for the study to address include: How well do the defense laboratories respond to the needs of the Department? What mechanisms exist to refurbish and recapitalize Department of Defense labs, and how do those mechanisms compare with other Government, academic, international, and industrial counterparts? How well does the Department attract, recruit, retain, and train its workforce to remain technically current and flexible to respond to emerging national requirements? Does the appropriate balance exist in each service between service control and laboratory director discretion so as to maximize laboratory mission effectiveness?

I will sponsor the study. Dr. Victoria Coleman will serve as chair of the study. Dr. Jagadeesh Pamulapati will serve as Executive Secretary. Lt Col Victor Osweiler, USAF, will serve as the DSB Secretariat Representative.

The study will operate in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, "Federal Advisory Committee Act," and DoD Directive 5105.04, "DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program." It is not anticipated that this study will need to go into any "particular matters" within the meaning of title 18, U.S.C., section 208, nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of action as a procurement official.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Kendall", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank Kendall