THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

AUG - 2 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on Basic Research

You are requested to form a DSB Task Force on Basic Research to assess matters relating to departmental planning and managing the defense basic research program.

It is the responsibility of the Department of Defense (DoD) Science & Technology community to be the innovators and motivators of new technologies for the Nation's future defense. Creating next-generation military capabilities and avoiding technological surprise requires a strong foundation of basic scientific research that is appropriately broad and forward-looking, of the highest quality, and with the potential to seed high-payoff transformative scientific breakthroughs.

The Task Force on Basic Research will serve as a mechanism for external validation of the quality of the basic research program and for advice on long term research plans and strategies for the corporate-wide defense basic research portfolio. Organizational efficiency and the effective utilization of quality program personnel are equally essential. The Task Force should give additional strategic guidance on DoD basic research efforts by assessing:

- The appropriateness of broad scientific goals as a basic research program, specifically whether the 6.1 funded work is basic or applied research in character,

- The manner in which the components assess the quality of their basic research investments,

- Basic research portfolio management across DoD, and opportunities for increased information sharing and cooperation among the components and with other federal research agencies,

- Potential gaps in the current Department-wide basic research program,

- Overall program balance, including a balance between single-principal investigators (PI's), Multi-University Research Initiatives (MURI's), university-based centers (e.g. UARC's) and high-risk high-payoff vs. lower risk research,

- Intellectual competitiveness of intramural and extramural basic research programs.

The Task Force will be sponsored by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. The Director, Defense Research & Engineering is authorized to act upon the advice and recommendations of the Board. Dr. Lydia Thomas and Dr. Craig Fields will serve as the Chairpersons of the Task Force. Dr. Robin Staffin, Office of the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, will serve as the Executive Secretary and Major Michael Warner, United States Air Force, will serve as the DSB Secretariat Representative.

The Task Force will operate in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act" and DoD Directive 5105.4, the "DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program." It is not anticipated that the Task Force will need to go into any "particular matters" within the meaning of United States Code, Title 18, Section 208, nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of acting as procurement official.

Ashton B. Carter