

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Defense Innovation Board (DIB) Preparatory Session

Friday, 15 March 2024 2:00-3:00PM EDT

Virtual Session

External Participants: Hon. Dr. William LaPlante, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)).

DIB Participants: Charles Phillips, Hon. Sue Gordon, Hon. Dr. Will Roper, Mary Meeker

DIB Staff: Dr. Marina Theodotou (DFO), Jacob Sharpe, Elliot Silverberg, Melanie Heinlein, Christina Hilf, Kimberly Hidalgo, Zack Crahen, Logan Hatfield, Carrie Shideler, Dr. Juan Merizalde

Purpose: Preparatory session to gather information for DIB report.

Session Summary: The dialogue centered on the inadequacy of US defense spending, which, despite a slight increase to 2% of GDP, fails to fulfill comprehensive defense needs. In contrast, global defense expenditures are escalating, with nations like Japan and Australia bolstering their budgets in response to security threats and China's military expansion. The discourse underscored the US's emphasis on ally collaboration and co-production, notwithstanding the hurdles in defense production and financial constraints. Policy endeavors are directed towards enhanced sustainment and global cooperation, advocating for heightened efficiency, adaptability, and innovation within the defense industry. The conversation also illuminated how crises underscore the necessity for dual-use companies and deliberate policy measures.

Prepared By: Juan Merizalde (DIB Staff)