

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

### Defense Innovation Board (DIB) Information Session

Thursday, April 04, 2024 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

#### Virtual Session

**External Participants:** Wes Simmons, Sunmin Kim

**DIB Participants:** Mike Mullen

**DIB Staff:** Carrie Shideler (ADFO), Kimberly Hidalgo, Zackariah Crahen, Christina Hilf, Juan Merizalde

**Purpose:** Information Gathering session for "Incentives" DIB report.

#### **Session Summary:**

The session discussed the Department's challenges in incentivizing airmen's innovative ideas due to time constraints, strategic alignment, and manpower. Airmen's passion to impact with their skills was acknowledged, but operational demands limit their contributions. The innovation process was discussed, highlighting the need for a centralized idea repository to avoid duplication. Concerns were raised about innovation efforts affecting airmen's rank progression. Future plans include a program teaching Lean Six Sigma, electronics manufacturing, and 3D printing for drones. A cultural shift towards immediate problem-solving and long-term solutions was identified as necessary. The individual's experience in combat communication and software development was recognized. The significant but intangible impact of leadership, the need for mentors and engineers, and the top incentives and disincentives were discussed. The session also addressed the challenges with appropriations due to Continuing Resolutions (CR), the potential for better AI allocation, and the use of AI in the "Game Changer" project. The board sought suggestions to drive innovation better.

**Prepared By:** DIB Staff

