

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Defense Innovation Board (DIB) Weekly Update Communication

Friday, 5 April 2024

DIB Board: Michael Bloomberg, Gilda Barabino, Reid Hoffman, Michael Mullen, Charles Phillips, Sue Gordon, Will Roper, Ryan Swan, Mac Thornberry

Purpose: Electronic mail communication to update Board Members of study progress.

Communication Summary:

During the past week, the Research Team focused on several key areas. Encouraging personnel to propose innovative ideas can present several challenges, including a lack of time, issues with strategic alignment, and manpower constraints within their squadrons. This is a recurring theme that needs addressing. A cultural shift is necessary for immediate problem-solving and long-term prevention. In line with this, the Innovation Hub plans to teach Lean Six Sigma, electronics manufacturing, and 3D printing for drone building, aiming to link problems with skilled problem-solvers. AI technology, such as OCR used in the 'Game Changer' project, can enhance service processes and drive innovation. There are plans to extend its application to requirements within the Department of Defense. Aligning incentives to drive faster tech adoption is also crucial within the AI space. The workforce needs the necessary understanding and skills to adopt AI technology quickly and effectively. However, there is a belief that the current incentives in the system are misaligned, often discouraging young innovators. The requirements and acquisition systems are considered insufficient to keep pace with technological demands. There is an emphasized urgency in adopting AI, with a focus on using AI to increase efficiency. It's important to note the limitations of AI and the need for human involvement. AI is most effective in stable situations with abundant data but struggles in constantly changing environments such as military operations.

Prepared By: DIB Staff