

DIB Public Meeting - March 5, 2024

Public Comments

- **Feedback/Inquiries on Previous Studies**

1. As an advocate for innovation within the defense sector and a representative of Fourth Industrial Systems Corporation, I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the discourse on enhancing our defense capabilities through technological innovation and strategic partnerships. My comments focus on three key areas: talent management, responsible AI, and the adoption of new technologies.

Talent Management: To maintain a competitive edge, it is imperative that the DIB fosters an environment that not only attracts but retains top talent. This involves creating clear pathways for career development within defense innovation roles, ensuring that individuals from diverse backgrounds see a future within the defense sector. Encouraging collaboration between the private sector, academia, and defense can also serve as a catalyst for innovation, providing fresh perspectives and expertise.

Responsible AI: As we navigate the complexities of integrating AI into defense mechanisms, the importance of responsible AI cannot be overstated. It is crucial that AI development and deployment are guided by ethical principles that prioritize safety, transparency, and accountability. Establishing a set of standardized AI ethics for defense applications will help in mitigating risks and fostering public trust in defense technologies.

Adoption of New Technologies: The pace at which new technologies are adopted within the defense sector is a critical factor in maintaining technological superiority. To overcome internal barriers and risk-aversion, there must be a concerted effort to streamline procurement processes and encourage a culture of innovation and risk-taking. This includes providing platforms for pilot programs and prototypes to be tested and evaluated in real-world scenarios, ensuring that promising technologies are rapidly transitioned into operational use. In conclusion, the DIB's focus on talent management, responsible AI, and the adoption of new technologies is timely and essential. By addressing these areas with strategic focus and determination, we can ensure that our defense sector remains agile, innovative, and capable of addressing the challenges of the 21st century and beyond. – *Dr. Freeman Jackson, Fourth Industrial Systems Corporation*

2. How many Innovation Units are there in DoD? Is it growing/shrinking? Is this good (more innovators) or bad (e.g., "innovators" in name only; name change without embracing innovation). – *Charles Havasy, The MITRE Corporation*

- **New Study Topic Suggestions**

3. Is an AI Governance Platform going to be mandated and required on every request for proposal (RFP) with some Ubiquiti UniFi Security Gateway (USG) access rather than the current wild west? – *Link Parikh, Rocket Technology, Inc.*

- **DIB Procedure Inquiries**

4. I am a Navy Reservist with an idea on perhaps improving recruitment through the adaptation of a program that has been used in the Australian Defence Forces. This approach offers a 12-month Enlistment under their GAP Year program targeted at graduating high school students to experience life in the military before or instead of enrolling in college. I do not claim this idea as my own. Again, it would be adapting a program being used by one of our allied nations for US Military purposes. However, as recruitment projections are in decline, I believe that a short-term commitment option with the current Generation Z targeted population may overcome some of this up-and-coming generations commitment issues. As a 20-year sailor with 3 Generation Z children, I find their lack of commitment frustrating to say the least as they do value their time commitments very highly and then appear to squander opportunities that require them to make 3- or 4-year commitments. This may be an approach to address recruitment shortfalls across multiple services. – *LCDR John D. MacLean III, Information Professional Officer, NAVWAR IW SE 407*
5. On the topic of talent management, how can/should the DoD modernize its talent management to better compete with industry (and in turn, leverage that talent to help the US gain/maintain competitive advantage over our adversaries)? – *Zachary Levy, Industry*

- **Other Comments**