THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OCT 09 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board Task Force on Cyber Deterrence

The objective of the Cyber Deterrence Task Force is to consider the requirements for effective deterrence of cyber attack against the United States and U.S. allies/partners, and to identify critical capabilities (cyber and non-cyber) needed to support deterrence, war-fighting, and escalation control against a highly cyber-capable adversary.

The task force should consider alternative adversary concepts for cyber attack, ranging from a sustained "under the radar" campaign designed to impose costs, to gradual escalation, to rapid large-scale cyber attack at the outset of a broader campaign. The task force should describe policy, operational, and technological elements of an effective deterrence and response posture, to include: declaratory policy; methods for determining whether a cyber attack (versus cyber exploitation) is occurring; means for rapid high-confidence attribution of attack; approaches to reducing any challenges of sharing attack assessment data with allies/partners; potential thresholds for various military and non-military responses and how these thresholds should be communicated to allies/partners and potential adversaries; what types of military response capabilities could best help deter attack, and ensure that the United States and its allies/partners have adequate capabilities in the event of conflict; whether enhanced levels of cyber protection should be pursued for select elements of the joint force in order to ensure these elements of the force would be available for use in the immediate aftermath of a major cyber attack; what military capabilities may be most important to support operations against a highly cyber-capable foe; the potential contribution to deterrence and war-fighting of increased resilience of critical DoD and non-DoD infrastructures as well as the ability to operate in a "cyber-degraded" environment; and approaches for rapidly assessing and weighing the risks of action versus the risks of inaction in various scenarios.

I will sponsor the study. Mr. James R. Gosler and The Honorable James N. Miller, Ph.D., will serve as Co-chairmen. Jonathan Reiber, OUSD(Policy), will serve as Executive Secretary. Lt Col Michael Harvey, USAF, will serve as the DSB Secretariat Representative.

The study will operate in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act" and DoD Directive 5105.04, the DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program." It is not anticipated that this study will need to go into any "particular matters" within the meaning of title 18, United States Code, section 208, nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of action as a procurement official.

Frank Kendall