2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Defense Science Board

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Defense	2026

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Defense Science Board	414

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	05/06/2024	05/06/2026	03/03/2026

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
Yes		03/03/2026

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	No	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Commitee Type	14c. Presidential?
Secretary of Defense Determination	06/26/1978	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear

17a. Open	0	17b. Closed	0	17c. Partially Closed	0	Other Activities	0	17d. Total	0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	$0.00	$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	$0.00	$0.00
18e. Total Costs	$0.00	$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Defense Science Board (DSB) advises the Secretary and/or the Deputy Secretary of Defense, through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, on scientific, technical, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the Department of Defense (DoD). The DSB directly supports the National Defense Strategy and the Secretary's top priorities by conducting studies, directed via approved terms of reference. Through discussion and deliberation, the DSB provides independent advice and recommendations in the form of

briefings and reports.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The DSB, composed of members designated from civilian life by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, makes recommendations on issues in areas such as science, technology, manufacturing, and matters of special interest to the DoD. The Board is composed of a balanced group of senior appointees representing a broad spectrum of the industrial, manufacturing, academic, and scientific communities who are recognized authorities in their fields of expertise. The Board consists of a core membership of 40 members augmented by ad hoc consultants who serve as special government employees on designated Task Forces.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The full Board meets approximately four times per year, in addition to meeting for Summer Study meetings. The majority of in-depth investigation is accomplished by DSB Task Forces, Permanent Subcommittees, and Summer Studies, which usually meet once a month to accumulate data for the final report. The Task Forces, Subcommittees, and Summer Studies are chartered by terms of reference issued by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Secretary of Defense determined that the independent advice on broad scientific and technical issues provided by the Board cannot be obtained from any other DoD advisory committee

due to the unique and valuable talent, skills, and expertise of the members.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Meetings are not closed to the public unless the DoD determines the items on the planned agenda meet the closed-meeting provisions of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552b(c). Pursuant to DoD policy, closed meetings can only be authorized by the DoD Sponsor, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and only after consultation with the Office of the DoD General Counsel.

21. Remarks

This committee is merging into the Science, Technology, and Innovation Board effective FY 2026. Defense Science Board was terminated effective March 3, 2026. Committee had no meetings or members in FY26.

Designated Federal Officer

Elizabeth J. Kowalski Executive Director

Narrative Description

The DSB advised the Secretary and/or the Deputy Secretary of Defense, through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, on scientific, technical, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the DoD.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	✓
Trust in government	✓

Major policy changes	☑
Advance in scientific research	☑
Effective grant making	☐
Improved service delivery	☐
Increased customer satisfaction	☐
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	☐
Other	☐

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	☐
Unable to Determine	☑
Under $100,000	☐
$100,000 - $500,000	☐
$500,001 - $1,000,000	☐
$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	☐
$5,000,001 - $10,000,000	☐
Over $10,000,000	☐
Cost Savings Other	☐

Cost Savings Comments

The total savings is impossible to determine due to the complex mix of savings, cost avoidance, and increased capability.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

2,349

Number of Recommendations Comments

The DSB existed before FACA. The total number of recommendations since 1956 is approximate. In FY25 the DSB issued 196 recommendations. 2024 Summer Study on Advanced Capabilities for Potential Future Conflict: 38 recommendations Priority Focus Areas for National Defense 2025 to 2035: 117 recommendations Commercial Provision of Navigation Signals for Operational Use: 3 recommendations 21st Century Industrial Base

for National Defense: 13 recommendations Emerging Biotechnologies and National Security: 16 recommendations Balancing Security, Reliability, and Technological Advantage in Generative Artificial Intelligence: 9 recommendations

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?
45%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments
The DSB has been providing recommendations since 1956. DSB recommendations often deal with new concepts and capabilities. Quite often, after additional study, DoD attempts to incorporate those concepts and capabilities that it finds relevant into its mission. Interest in previous studies remains strong.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?
30%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments
The DSB has been providing recommendations since 1956. Recommendations influence the Department and some are still under deliberation. DSB recommendations often deal with new concepts and capabilities. Quite often, after additional study, DoD attempts to incorporate those concepts and capabilities that it finds relevant to its mission. Interest in previous studies remains strong.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?
Yes ☑ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments
The DSB requests comment from interested parties when issuing a report. Comments are published when received. The public can obtain information on Agency feedback in the posted unclassified meeting minutes for the Board.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	☑
Reallocated resources	☑

Issued new regulation	☐
Proposed legislation	☐
Approved grants or other payments	☐
Other	☐

Action Comments

DSB recommendations often deal with new concepts and capabilites. Quite often, after additional study, DoD attempts to incorporate those concepts and capabilites that it finds relevant to its mission. Interest in previous studies remains strong.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	✓
Online Agency Web Site	☐
Online Committee Web Site	✓
Online GSA FACA Web Site	✓
Publications	✓
Other	☐

Access Comments

N/A