

Terms of Reference

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

Conduct an assessment of the missions, functions, processes, and core competencies of the Naval Research and Development infrastructure applying the following criteria:

- Relevance to the Naval customer
- Criticality to the Department of the Navy (DON) (Critical Technology Interests)
- Integration of R&D
- Interaction with industry/academia
- In-house cost and efficiency vs. out-of-house
- Ability to meet Naval needs of 21st century

BACKGROUND:

It is clear that the DON's R&D account will be under considerable stress for the foreseeable future. This stress will result from an overall reduction or reprioritization within the accounts themselves, and from continued requirements to increase the fraction of the Navy's R&D work conducted by the private sector. The confluence of these forces dictates a change to DON's in-house R&D infrastructure. DON cannot continue to conduct its R&D business as in the past without risking its entire in-house R&D program. Proportional reduction of the present infrastructure will not achieve the desired objectives.

SPECIFIC TASKING:

- a. Review the evolution of Naval R&D. Derive a historical perspective and lessons learned of how and why the DON developed its current R&D infrastructure.
- b. Examine the Naval R&D process. Address the entire process, from technical decision-making to program execution. Emphasize relevancy, integration, outsourcing, and efficiency.
- c. Evaluate the current R&D headquarters and field activity relationship. Discuss advantages/disadvantages of future operations under Defense Base Operating Fund (DBOF).
- d. Evaluate the technical contributions of Naval R&D infrastructure classes. Emphasize criticality, redundancy and ability to meet needs of DON in 21st century.