



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR - 4 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Realignment and Management of the Defense Innovation Unit

Building enduring advantages across the defense ecosystem is a core focus of the 2022 National Defense Strategy (NDS). By sharpening the Joint Force's technological edge, the Department sustains and strengthens deterrence against the pacing challenges of the People's Republic of China and acute threats such as Russia. The vibrant and creative commercial sector is among America's most consequential advantages. Harnessing that innovative power in a manner consistent with our values is crucial for the Department of Defense to meet its goals.

Therefore, effective immediately the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) Director will report directly to me. The DIU will be under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense. All organization and management responsibilities assigned to the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)) in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5105.85 will remain the responsibility of the USD(R&E). The USD(R&E) will use all available authorities and resources to support DIU's mission, to the same extent as the USD(R&E) performed these roles prior to the realignment, to include providing administrative and human resources support.

DIU will continue to focus on accelerating promising technologies in critical areas consistent with the NDS. The DIU director shall serve as a leader inside the Department to catalyze engagement with and investment into private sector communities where commercial technology can be adapted and applied to meet our warfighters requirements. The DIU director will also serve as a focal point for new and emerging commercial technology sectors to help identify dual-use pathways and adaptations that enable rapid transition and fielding of new technologies and as an advisor to me and to the Deputy Secretary of Defense on their potential strategic impact.

Within 90 days of appointment, the DIU Director will provide me an assessment of the DIU's ability to meet these objectives, along with a proposed plan of action and milestones for achieving key goals. Additionally, the Director of Administration and Management will update DoDD 5105.85 to reflect these changes.

DIU's mission is to accelerate the adoption of commercial technology at speed and scale, and these changes will further enable it to effectively execute this critical mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. O. Austin", is located at the bottom right of the page.



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