



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

31 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Department of Defense In-House Laboratories, Report of
the Defense Science Board Task Force

The Defense Science Board Task Force on In-House Laboratories submits herewith its final report dealing with proposed management actions to make more effective use of the DoD technical laboratories.

The Task Force concentrated on the laboratories' contributions to the development and acquisition of military operational systems and equipments to determine the necessary steps to be taken to improve the effectiveness of the laboratories in high-priority research and development areas.

Since it is the most recent of a number of reports involving in-house laboratories issued during the past several years, this report contains a summary of those previous activities most pertinent to the DSB effort.

Basically, an attempt was made to determine the laboratories' involvement in the current DoD RDT&E programs; and it is indicated that, although the in-house activities cover a very broad spectrum, there are some areas in which the laboratories are scarcely involved, such as ballistic-missile systems development. On the other hand, the laboratories' participation in conventional-warfare matters appears to be the basis for an important mission area that will exist for many years.

Previous committees have recommended that the Military Departments establish mission-oriented laboratories or weapon centers. This report defines such a weapon center and discusses some of the relative advantages and disadvantages in its establishment.

One of the more significant actions taken by the Departments in the last few years was the establishment of the position of Director of Laboratories. The critical nature of this high-ranking position and the opportunities it offers for the future management of the in-house laboratories are considered in some detail.