

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

STRUCTURE

*

OSD1.941207.047

and

*

FUNCTIONS

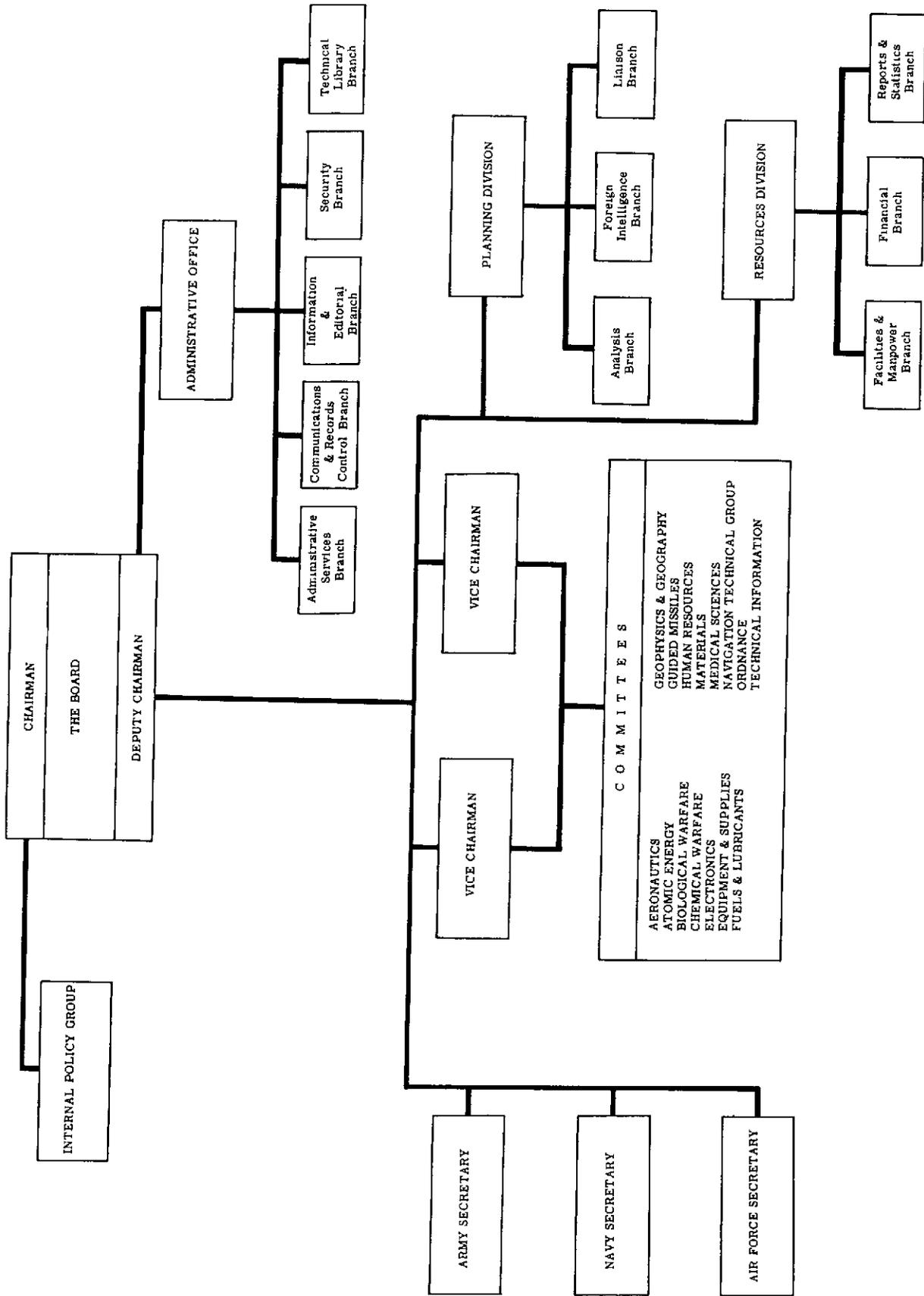
Department of Defense

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Washington 25, D. C.

5 August 1952

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD



STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

The purpose of the Research and Development Board is to assist the Secretary of Defense in building the strength of the country through military research and development. The Board directs its efforts toward the best application of science and technology to achieve the most effective weapons and countermeasures, as well as equipment and techniques. Specifically, it guides the research programs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, recommending shifts in emphasis as well as the initiation of needed programs; it prepares estimates of the capabilities and probable dates of availability of weapons and devices upon which work is being done; and it recommends approval or revision of Departmental research and development budgets.

Organizationally, the RDB is composed of (1) a seven-man Board, (2) the Internal Policy Group, (3) part-time committees and panels, and (4) a full-time technical and administrative staff. It is not an operating agency; it does not let contracts or directly administer research programs.

The Board.

The Board proper consists of a civilian Chairman and two members from each of the Military Departments. One of each Department's members is the Assistant Secretary or Under Secretary whose particular concern is research and development, and the other is the senior military staff or flag officer actively responsible for the research and development conducted by his Service.

The Board makes broad policy and program decisions affecting the total Department of Defense research and development effort. Usually it meets about once a month, although more frequent meetings may be held at the Chairman's call when necessary.

Internal Policy Group.

The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the two Vice Chairmen, the RDB Army, Navy, and Air Force Secretaries, and the Directors of the Planning and Resources Divisions comprise the Internal Policy Group. This group was established to assist the Chairman in his task of supervising the work of the RDB.

Committees and Panels.

The nation's research scientists and engineers, as well as industrial management specialists and college and university personnel, made a vital contribution to national security during World War II, and to ensure military preparedness along farsighted lines, these men were asked to continue their contribution in peacetime. The RDB's 15 committees and their panels, which deal with scientific and technical fields having military applications utilize the services of experts from industry, the universities, the Services, and other government agencies. Through the committee and panel membership of these outstanding men, and through the professional-military teamwork thus provided, superior technical guidance is brought to bear on urgent problems of military research and development.

Examples of the fields covered by the committees are aeronautics, atomic energy, electronics, chemical warfare, guided missiles, and medical sciences. The primary objective of the committees and panels is to supply specific guidance which will be helpful in strengthening the military programs. A particularly valuable product of committee and panel activity lies in providing an effective forum for the cross exchange of information and ideas. In meetings, representatives from the Services who actually administer the research and development programs, report their plans and the progress of their work, and the outside consultants ask questions and offer advice. The committees and panels thereby have an opportunity to discuss problems, to question plans, methods, and techniques, and to make recommendations for strengthening the programs. These groups provide a cross-linkage between the military research and development program on the one hand and industry, the universities, and other government agencies on the other, which is necessary to the most effective correlation of programs and ideas.

The committees are also responsible for appraisals of the state of development and the prospects for successful conclusion of work under way. They originate recommendations for research which will improve the over-all military preparedness program and for which the Military Departments have no existing projects. They advise the Board regarding the future availability and performance of new weapons, and this information is subsequently forwarded to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The RDB Staff.

The full-time authorized staff of the RDB, including the Internal Policy Group, numbers approximately 275, including both civilian and military personnel.

Technical staffs assist the committees by locating important areas for committee consideration, preparing the necessary staff studies of problems and programs, and providing full-time staff support and liaison among Department of Defense and other governmental agencies. Individual staff members also act as advisers to the Chairman of the Board in their special fields of competence and are called upon for technical evaluations and independent judgments on problems, programs, and projects.

Staff groups concerned with research and development planning and resources deal with problems of the military research and development program as a whole. These have to do with such matters as (1) the over-all balance among committee areas, (2) the general review of progress and the isolation of major problems, (3) the general interaction of weapons development and military planning, (4) the identification of important trends affecting future research and development planning, and (5) the available resources of manpower, facilities, and funds.

The RDB's Relationships With the Military Departments and Other Government Agencies.

It is the responsibility of the RDB to assist in the development of military research programs. Corollary responsibilities include review of Departmental budgets and priority lists and guidance of research programs. In performing its mission the RDB maintains close relationships with the Army, Navy, and Air Force and with other agencies

in and outside the Department of Defense. A substantial number of military men serve full- or part-time with the RDB, and this facilitates the essential exchange of information and ideas.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The RDB furnishes the Joint Chiefs of Staff with current evaluations of the prospects and progress of new weapons developments in general, together with an estimate of the availability and expected performance characteristics of specific weapons and weapons systems. This assists the JCS in the preparation of war plans. In turn JCS advises RDB of the relative strategic importance of the various types of warfare, such as strategic air operations, land combat operations, and antisubmarine operations. This advice aids in the determination of the areas where the greatest research and development emphasis should be placed.

One of the most important activities of the RDB is combining the JCS strategic advice and the RDB technical guidance to form an integrated picture of the total program and its status.

The Weapons Systems Evaluation Group.

The Weapons Systems Evaluation Group was established jointly by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the RDB and reports directly to both agencies. It performs operations research in broad areas, such as air defense and strategic bombing, primarily for the JCS and the RDB. This research reveals the nation's capabilities and shortcomings in an analytical fashion, from the standpoint of both military tactics and weapons effectiveness. The results of WSEG's studies are important to the JCS in the formulation of its plans and to the RDB in its determination of the need and effectiveness of future weapons developments.

The Munitions Board.

The Munitions Board advises the RDB concerning military production plans and furnishes information on materials in short supply. The RDB in turn informs the Munitions Board of currently proposed and existing programs on substitute or synthetic materials and on developments affecting requirements for strategic or critical materials, or production facilities.

The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

As a member of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the Chairman of the Research and Development Board participates in the planning and coordination of the over-all aeronautical research program, both civil and military.

The Chairman is also an ex-officio member of the Science Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization. This committee advises the President and the Mobilization Director on all matters relating to scientific research and development, particularly as these affect the United States defense effort.

SECRET

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

ROSTER

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Walter G. Whitman, Chairman

ARMY MEMBERS

The Honorable Earl D. Johnson
Assistant Secretary of the Army

Major General Kenneth D. Nichols
Chief of Research and Development

NAVY MEMBERS

The Honorable John F. Floberg
Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air

Rear Admiral M. E. Curts, USN
Assistant Chief of Naval Operations
(Readiness)

AIR FORCE MEMBERS

The Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric
Under Secretary of the Air Force

Lieutenant General Laurence C. Craigie
Deputy Chief of Staff, Development

INTERNAL POLICY GROUP¹

Mr. Walter G. Whitman
Chairman

Mr. Don K. Price
Deputy Chairman

Dr. Floyd L. Miller
Vice Chairman

Mr. Edwin A. Speakman
Vice Chairman

Brig. General John H. Hinds, USA
Army Secretary

Captain J. R. Lee, USN
Acting Navy Secretary

Brig. General Alfred R. Maxwell, USAF
Air Force Secretary

Dr. S. D. Cornell
Director, Planning Division

Mr. Neal D. Crane
Director, Resources Division

COMMITTEES

Chairmen

Executive Directors¹

Aeronautics

Mr. Philip B. Taylor
Partner and Chief Engineer
Sanderson and Porter
52 William Street
New York, New York

Mr. James D. Redding

¹ The members of the Internal Policy Group and the executive directors have their offices in the Research and Development Board, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C.

COMMITTEES

Chairmen

Executive Directors

Atomic Energy

Dr. Robert F. Bacher
Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena 4, California

Mr. David Z. Beckler

Biological Warfare

Dr. Ira L. Baldwin
Vice President
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dr. H. I. Cole

Chemical Warfare

Dr. Randolph T. Major
Vice President and Scientific Director
Merck and Company, Inc.
Rahway, New Jersey

Dr. Harlan N. Worthley

Electronics

Mr. D. A. Quarles
President, Sandia Corporation
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mr. Henry Randall (Acting)

Equipment and Supplies

Dr. L. W. Bass
Vice President
U. S. Industrial Chemicals, Inc.
60 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

Mr. E. Bryan Williams

COMMITTEES

Chairmen

Executive Directors

Fuels and Lubricants

Mr. W. M. Holaday
Director, Socony-Vacuum Laboratories
26 Broadway
New York 4, New York

Mr. Donald B. Brooks

Geophysics and Geography

Dr. W. E. Wrather
Director, Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. Earl G. Droessler

Guided Missiles

Dr. Clark B. Millikan
Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena 4, California

Mr. Fred A. Darwin

Human Resources

Dr. Frank A. Geldard
Chairman, Department of Psychology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Dr. Aaron B. Nadel

Materials

Dr. Norman A. Shepard
American Cyanamid Company
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York

Mr. John H. Garrett

COMMITTEES

Chairmen

Executive Directors

Medical Sciences

Dr. Lowell T. Coggeshall
Department of Medicine
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dr. F. Lloyd Mussells

Ordinance

Dr. Gaylord P. Harnwell
Chairman, Department of Physics
Director, Randel Morgan Laboratory
of Physics
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, 4, Pennsylvania

Mr. Edwin F. Sweetser

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Chairmen

Special Committee on Technical Information

Dr. Detlev W. Bronk
President, National Academy
of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Miss L. Neilson Blackford
Committee Secretary

Navigation Technical Group

Mr. Norman L. Winter
Chief Sales Engineer
Sperry Gyroscope Company
Great Neck, Long Island, New York

Mr. Fred L. Jessee
Acting Executive Director

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Lt. Colonel Kent K. Parrot, USAF
U. S. Member and Chairman
Standing Group Committee
on Research and Development

Prepared by:
Information and Editorial Branch
5 August 1952