

RDB 117/14
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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

CHARTER FOR

COMMITTEES OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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I. GENERAL

Committees are agencies of the Research and Development Board which function in various technical fields to assist the Board in the performance of its duties. They are established and their fields of interest are defined by the Chairman, operating under the authority of the Secretary of Defense (National Security Act of 1947, as amended, and the Charter of the Research and Development Board). Each Committee has members from outside the Department of Defense and from the three Military Departments, so chosen as to bring together professional competence, initiative and judgment.

II. COMPOSITION

A. Membership - Each Committee consists of not more than five members appointed by the Chairman, RDB, and not more than two members and two deputy members from each of the three Departments appointed by the Departments. The Chairman, RDB designates the Chairman of the Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee may, on such terms as he considers appropriate, invite participation in the Committee's activities by qualified representatives of governmental agencies, and by other qualified individuals. With the approval of a Vice Chairman, RDB, any such representative of a governmental agency may be designated as an associate member of a Committee, with the right of attendance at all plenary sessions of the Committee.

Each member shall serve for a period of one year or until his successor is appointed.

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B. Executive Director & Staff - Each Committee is assisted by a full time staff headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board and including staff members from the Military Departments. The Executive Director is the executive officer of the Committee, in addition to his duties as a member of the RDB staff.

III. FUNCTIONS

Committees assist the Research and Development Board in providing constructive leadership for the research and development activities of the Department of Defense. The Committee constitutes a mechanism for review and study of programs and for coordination at early stages of program development. As an important part of its work, each Committee provides a forum where the three Departments' plans and progress can be presented and freely discussed and in which the appraisals and suggestions of the Committee are immediately available to the Department members who are concerned with the programs.

Committees or the Chairmen may at any time report their findings and recommendations to the Chairman, RDB.

In executing its functions each Committee should:

A. Ascertain the military needs of greatest urgency and importance for research and development, examining the basis, feasibility and adequacy of military requirements when these factors appear to be critical to program decisions.

B. Review critically the content, progress, and estimated completion dates of programs in the most vital areas. Attention should be concentrated on providing program guidance for the Departments. Committees are not responsible

for complete and detailed reviews of budget estimates or obligation schedules but such estimates and schedules will be accessible through its staff as desired by the Committee.

C. Determine whether the most vital current and planned programs are broadly in balance, in that the amount and quality of effort on each are appropriate to its importance and promise of success.

D. Introduce and evaluate new ideas for military research and development.

E. Advise the Board on how desirable changes in program emphasis can best be achieved to meet major objectives, with due regard to limitations imposed by the availability of resources.

F. Recommend to the Board the initiation or termination of work when such action should improve the over-all research and development effort.

G. Recommend to the Board, as the Committee deems appropriate, allocations of responsibility for research and development in selected areas among the Departments and agencies of the Department of Defense.

H. Assist the Military Departments in determining when specific prototypes should be diverted from the main stream of development and evaluated by the Services in order to ensure that improvements in weapons come into operational use as soon as possible.

I. Collaborate with other Committees of the Board in the coordination of programs of joint concern.

J. Undertake other appropriate assignments as requested.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

A. The Committee meets at the call of its Chairman, or at such times as it may fix. A Committee quorum must include at least two civilian members and one representative from each of the Military Departments.

B. A unanimous action of a Committee, if transmitted to the members of the Board and to the Departments concerned by the Chairman, RDB, is tantamount to Board action unless, within 14 working days after such transmittal, (1) any Board member requests consideration of the action at a Board meeting, or (2) any Military Department files a dissent with the Chairman, RDB. Committee recommendations that are not unanimous, or that involve issues beyond the competence of the Committee, or that for any other reason require the support of higher authority should be referred to the Chairman, RDB. Any Committee member who wishes his dissent to be considered or transmitted by the Chairman, RDB, must submit his dissenting opinion to the Chairman, RDB, within 14 working days after his Committee meeting.

C. Questions concerning overlapping or conflicting interests between any Committee and other agencies of the Board should be submitted to the Vice Chairman of the Board for resolution.

D. The Committee and its Executive Director function under the general direction of the Vice Chairman.

V. RELATIONSHIPS

The Committee and its staff are expected to coordinate their efforts with other agencies of the Board, the staff agencies of the Secretary of Defense, appropriate agencies of the Military Departments and with other agencies outside the Department of Defense concerning any matter within the field of the Committee where common interest or responsibility exists.

WALTER G. WHITMAN
Chairman

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