

Meeting Minutes:

- **Meeting Kick-Off** – Jim Lasswell
- ❖ **NDIA National:** Wes Hallman (Sr. VP of Strategy & Polict)
 - Vital Signs 21 (See attached PPT and Executive Summary)– Annual Report on the health and readiness of the Defense Industrial Base (DIB).
 - Not a report on our companies, but on the challenging environment the industrial base operates in.
 - To establish an annual discussion on our Defense Industrial Base Issues – What do we need to change or leave in place to ensure a healthy DIB over time that leaves our nation advantages in every domain of conflict?
 - Report can be found for download here - https://content.ndia.org/-/media/vital-signs/2021/vital-signs_2021_digital.ashx
 - 8 business environments and performance conditions.
 - Scored on more than 50 longitudinal statistical indicators on a scale of 0 to 100.
 - See attached PPT for the variables assessed for those 8 conditions – Political & Regulatory, Demand, Supply Chain, Production Inputs, Competition, Innovation, Industrial Security and Production Capacity & Surge Readiness.
 - Also refer to the PPT for actual grades.
 - Trends
 - Strong recent demand and Competitive Environment.
 - Weak Production Inputs (Workforce), Industrial Security, and Political Regulatory environment.
 - Concern also about our Innovation Competitiveness.
 - Slide 6 shows great info on sectors covered by the Total Obligations in the DoD budget, and the advancement of the amounts being spent on Professional Services and IT.
 - Regarding the concern on Innovation, Federal R&D as a percentage of GDP fell to it's lowest point since 1955, and is a fifth of China's.
 - Private Sector funded research has also fallen precipitously.
 - Both Congressional and General Population support for Defense Spending is falling significantly.
- ❖ **NDIA National (cont.):** Kea Matory (Legislative Policy Director)
 - General Carlyle testified before the Senate regarding SBIR's, which NDIA is continuing to push for focus on.
 - Working with House Armed Services Committee on Acquisition Processes and Procurement.
 - There is a new Defense Task Force on Acquisition Supply Chain Security and Vulnerabilities that NDIA is trying to interface with, and General Carlyle will be doing a round-table with them.
 - Have been able to establish a Defense Workforce Innovation and Industry Caucus with Representative in the House.
 - Also meeting with new Hypersonics Caucus.

- Significance of the American Rescue Plan legislation for our industry is the extension of 3610 which was extended through the end of the year. Other interesting items in ARP for our industry:
 - Reauthorization of the State Small Business Credit – Provides affordable capital to small businesses across the country.
- ❖ **NDIA National (cont.):** M.L. Mackey (Small Business Division)
 - Survey conducted among Small Businesses in the DIB. Summary of Topics that came out of it of importance to SB's to both address and gather info on. And if you have any interest in any of these topics, please reach out to M.L..
 - Supply Chain
 - Really about the health of SB's in the DIB including attraction and retention of workforce.
 - SBIR's
 - Reauthorization/Permanency
 - Funding and Phase III Utilization
 - Contracting
 - OTA's and overall visibility
 - Operational Impacts
 - Trusted Capital
 - CMMC & COVID
 - Recognition
 - SB: How do we communicate the importance of SB's in the DIB?
 - Gov: NDIA National Govt "Excellence in SB Recognition" – Recognizing our Government counterparts on their support of SB's.
 - Mary is looking for input on - What would the evaluation criteria for such an award be?
 - Description of Trait/Characteristics of a superior supporter of SB's.
 - How do we Evaluate?
 - How do we publish how they met criteria, i.e. notifying DIB/Gov of their exceptionalism?
- ❖ **Gold Coast 2021:** Terry McKearney
 - Date has been set – Sep. 1st & 2nd
 - Tracking toward Virtual. Small possibility it could be in-person.
 - Large focus on optimizing collaboration and exposure of virtual booths within the platform.
 - Please volunteer to help! Contact Frank Mueller.
- ❖ **Cybersecurity Update:** Dr. Tony Lopez
 - CMTC and Cascade are putting on a free DFARS Cybersecurity Boot Camp (see attached flyer)
 - April 14th & 16th
 - No fee to participants
 - Limit of 25 participants
- ❖ **CMMC:** Chris Newborn - DAU
 - Update on CMMC – See attached DFARS presentation
 - CMMC DFARS Clause 252.204-7021 is not in force yet.
 - It is DFARS 7019 & 7020 that is the current Regulatory Requirement.

- Important – Review slide 2 of the presentation for the complete life-cycle, and the important thing to understand is that, per OSD, we are in the “Crawl” and “Walk” phases, not in the “Run” phase.
 - It is the “Run” phase where DFARS 7021 will be enforced.
- The issue is that many of the Prime Contractors are telling their Sub’s that they have 6 months to get in compliance with DFARS 7021 (CMMC)
 - But there are currently no Independent Assessors available, and likely will not be for the next 12-18 months.
- **Do** conduct your self-assessment to 7019 & 7020 and upload to SPRS. That is the requirement at this time that can interfere with your contracts if not met.
- From the CMMC Accreditation Board: “...Do not focus training on future requirements (CMMC) at the expense of current requirements...”

❖ **NAVWAR OSBP:** Dan DeConzo

- SBA offering a monthly training series called First Wednesdays that will be about an hour every month. Great chance to knock out some of your Training Requirements.
- Working on the launch of the next NAVWAR Long-Range Forecast, scheduled to come out first week in May.
 - Much effort being put into canvassing all Codes on plans for the next year

❖ **NIWC Pac:** Mary Lake

- Recently posted a small business set-aside RFP to the e-commerce site for a Combat Survivor/Evader Locator UHF Base Station, Network and Communications Infrastructure and Services.
- Market Survey currently posted for Shore-based C4ISR and Command Center Design, Engineering, and Installation Support Services.
 - If you want to try to get this set aside for Small Business, you need to respond to the survey.

❖ **GSA:** Kimberly Ann Sant and Walleed Wabi

- 8(a) STARS is in Source Selection.
- Part 889 vendors on the schedule should be receiving those modifications.
- GSA has posted BICMAC (Best In Class Multiple Award Contract which is the follow-on to the OASIS and HCAT Professional Service Categories. You can check GSA Interact for any updates.

❖ **SBC Co-Chairperson:** Kurt Worden

- Category Manager Updates
 - Hubzone – Joe Bulger, Boarhog
 - 8(a) – Merv Cutler
 - Have been working with State of California Small Business Advisory Council and Goldman Sachs to see how we can better support contracting with 8(a)’s.
 - Looking at having a forum to talk to Defense Industry Partners like NAVWAR and NIWC.
- Small Business Forum with Serco.
 - Going to cover all their major business units.
 - All their Capture Managers will be there. They have very specific needs for Subcontractors and Small Business Primes to win additional business.
 - So Sign Up! Jim Laswell sending out announcement to Small Business e-mail list.