

CNSR

Coalition for National Security Research

November 20, 2002

The Honorable Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge Jr.
Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics
3010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-3010

Dear Under Secretary Aldridge:

We, the undersigned members of the Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), encourage the Bush Administration to strongly support Defense Department science and technology programs in the fiscal year 2004 budget request and in the future years' defense plan. We endorse the recommendations of the Defense Science Board and the 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review Report that three percent of the Defense Department's budget should be allocated to DOD's basic, applied and advanced technology development (6.1, 6.2, and 6.3) programs.

Strong support of these programs is critical as the nation addresses new threats to national security. The benefits of a robust DOD S&T investment are evident as our Armed Services respond to unprecedented challenges to national security. Supporting a military research enterprise at the level recommended by the DSB and the QDR in the administration's request to Congress will allow DOD planned and directed science to strategically contribute to our military's technological superiority and its ability to respond to its future responsibilities. This funding would ensure that U.S. Armed Forces always have access to new technologies at the frontiers of science.

DOD's S&T programs provide critical investments in scientific disciplines vital to ensuring future security, including engineering, mathematics, and physical, computer, and behavioral sciences. These S&T programs make essential contributions to national defense by fueling innovation and training future scientists and engineers. Defense S&T programs support research in our nation's universities, DOD laboratories, and private sector laboratories, linking fundamental scientific discoveries and future military applications.

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We commend the support the Administration and Congress have provided for the 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 programs in the FY2003 Defense appropriations bill. To sustain this momentum, CNSR recommends that the Bush Administration maintain a strong investment for core 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 programs in the FY 2004 Defense Department request and future years defense plan.

Sincerely,

American Chemical Society
American Institute of Aeronautics and
Astronautics
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Psychological Association
American Society of Mechanical Engineers,
DOD Task Force
ASEE Engineering Deans Council
Association of American Universities
AVS Science and Technology Society
Coalition of EPSCoR States
Computer Research Association
Consortium for Oceanographic Research
and Education
Cornell University
Duke University
Federation of Materials Societies
Georgia Institute of Technology
IEEE-USA
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Materials Research Society
National Association of State Universities
and Land-Grant Colleges
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
The International Society for Optical
Engineering
The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society
Tombes and Associates, LLC
University of California
University of Dayton
University of Michigan
University of Pittsburgh
University of Tennessee
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech
Wayne State University

c: James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force
Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army
Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy
Mitchell E. Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget