

Creation of the Office of Defense Coordination (ODC) Randall L. Simpson named Interim ODC Director

To carry out our national security mission, it is critical to maintain a strong, coordinated relationship with the Department of Defense (DOD). The Laboratory must develop strategies that allow it to best support the DOD with respect to both the nuclear deterrent, and in areas where our unique science and technology capabilities can be brought to bear for the advantage of US war fighters and peace keepers. To facilitate and coordinate the Lab's strategies and support activities for the DOD, I am establishing, in the Director's Office, the Office of Defense Coordination (ODC).

To allow the Lab to better support the DOD, the ODC will serve as the unified point-of-contact to the Department for the Director's Office, and maintain relationships with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, and the Military Departments. The ODC will be the Laboratory-wide clearinghouse for information regarding the DOD as a partner and sponsor, including tracking DOD priorities, requirements, and points of contact. At the request of the DOD, it will coordinate educational and outreach activities, and provide subject matter expertise through personnel assignments and other mechanisms. The ODC will also conduct internal studies and analyses of emerging threats and recommend seed funding for technology development with the potential to respond to DOD needs. Information provided through the ODC will assist in aligning Laboratory capabilities to serve DOD missions.

The ODC Director will report to the Laboratory Director and the office's efforts and priorities will be overseen by a Laboratory DOD Council (DODC) comprised of the WCI, GS and NIF&PS PADs and a rotating member from among the discipline ADs. The chair of the DODC will rotate, with the WCI PAD serving initially, and the Associate Director for Engineering serving as the fourth member. The ODC Director will work closely with the DODC to prioritize strategies and initiatives.

Organizational Structure and Responsibilities

The ODC will consist of three elements: systems analysis, strategic partnerships, and special projects.

The systems analysis element will be responsible for conducting trade studies, analyzing emerging threats, and identifying potential technical solutions relevant to addressing capability shortfalls and gaps based on DOD priorities and needs. Topics for analysis will be proposed and prioritized by the DODC, in coordination with the Laboratory Director and the ODC Director. A lead for this element will be identified, supported by two to three other analysts, plus rotating expertise from inside the Laboratory as needed for specific projects.

The strategic partnerships element will be the primary Laboratory interface to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, and the Combatant Commands. It will also maintain cognizance of Laboratory interactions with the departments and key DOD agencies. It will assist in coordinating Laboratory's responses to requests for information, support, and visits. The substantial support LLNL currently provides to USSTRATCOM will continue, now as part of this element of ODC.

The special projects element will undertake short duration technology maturation and intelligence studies under the auspices of the Laboratory Director, including managing and reviewing the Strategic Studies Program.

The ODC will also be responsible for, among other activities, tracking all Laboratory Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) and Change of Station (COS) assignments, in coordination with Strategic Human Resources Management. The ODC will lead an effort that develops IPA/COS placement strategies and tactical support for Laboratory offsite assignments.

The ODC and the Center for Global Security Research (CGSR) will collaborate to enable successful performance of their missions. CGSR will continue in its role as a bridge between the Laboratory and the broad national security policy community. Brad Roberts, Director of CGSR will report directly to the Laboratory Director.

A chart for this new organizational construct appears below.

Implementation

The ODC is established effective March 9, 2017. The Director position will be posted and a search will commence immediately. I have asked Randy Simpson to assume the ODC Directorship on an interim basis, until a permanent Director is named. Randy will be responsible for standing up the ODC and he will return to his current position when a permanent ODC Director is selected. Also at my request, Craig Wuest has agreed to serve as the Systems Analysis Group Leader in an acting capacity while the position is posted. Other leadership positions will be announced by the ODC Director. The ODC replaces the National Security Office (NSO) and the DOD Program Development Office and consolidates many of the functions of these offices. I want to thank Bob Vince for his leadership as Director of NSO. Bob will remain in ODC and work with Randy Simpson to ensure a smooth transition.

Oversight of the Nuclear Weapons National Security Vault, which was previously the responsibility of the NSO, will move to the WCI Principal Directorate.

The creation of the ODC is a culmination of considerations and discussions with internal and external Laboratory stakeholders. My expectation is that ODC will further strengthen and better facilitate the Laboratory’s strong relationships and partnerships with the DOD, in furtherance of our national security missions.

