



# SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## EDUCATE AND PROMOTE BUDGET STABILITY

We must return to predictable, stable defense funding through concerted education and advocacy with Congress and the administration. For more than a decade, government has failed to provide predictable and stable budgets for national defense. We have had to plan under the crippling mandates of sequestration and the Budget Control Act, and then delay or adjust plans during multiple continuing resolutions. Instability, underfunding, and limitations on new program funding have had a cumulative and corrosive effect on the Services' ability to properly organize, train, and equip our forces. **DESIRED OUTCOME:** A return to predictable and stable defense funding.



## FOSTER SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS

Small businesses make up 80% of the National Defense Industrial Association's corporate membership. Barriers to entry and unaffordable compliance requirements shut out these vital contributors from our national defense and security. Small businesses are often incubators of innovation that are so vital to our competitive advantage. As important, our Tier I and II producers of major weapons systems and platforms rely on small business throughout their supply chains. Facilitating cybersecurity and other compliance requirements while leveling the playing field is crucial to diversity and resiliency. **DESIRED OUTCOME:** Achieve increased diversity and resiliency in the defense industrial base. Increase NDIA's small-business membership along with small business's understanding of and ability to comply with cybersecurity and other requirements to level the playing field and ensure the long-term diversity, resiliency, and success of our entire industrial base.



## GAIN ACQUISITION AGILITY AND REGULATORY MODERNIZATION

We must educate regulators about the damage caused by outdated policies and regulations, and ultimately help develop strategies to limit acquisition and regulatory burdens. Burdensome acquisition requirements and antiquated regulatory policies generate difficult—sometimes prohibitive—mandates across the defense industrial base. Compliance requirements often add substantial cost to programs and stifle innovation. Most importantly, complex requirements and outdated regulations prevent cutting-edge capabilities and processes from reaching our warfighters. **DESIRED OUTCOME:** Regulators and legislators gain a strong understanding about the damage caused by outdated policies and regulations, and act to develop and implement strategies to limit acquisition and regulatory burdens.



## PROMOTE INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY AND PROCESS

Innovation is the single most important aspect in overcoming the threats of our near-peer competitors to provide the most effective capabilities to our warfighters. We must foster and facilitate the rapid testing, acquisition, and fielding of innovative capabilities, processes, and training to our fighting forces. We must also look for ways to speed the transition of promising technology and processes from the laboratory to production to maintain currency and competitive edge.

**DESIRED OUTCOME:** Establish a rapid transition of promising technology and processes from the laboratory to production to mitigate the possibility of strategic surprise, maintain U.S. competitive advantage in key warfighting areas, and sustain our capability overmatch.



## EXPAND SECURITY COOPERATION AND INTEROPERABILITY

We must find ways to accelerate and expand foreign military and direct commercial sales to increase the capability and integration of our allies and partners, to ensure effective combined operations in combat. In time of major conflict, the United States will never fight alone. We will depend on the capability, capacity and interoperability of our partners and allies to prevail in great power conflicts and simultaneous regional conflicts. Our partners and allies are eager to obtain U.S. capabilities to ensure regional and global security, but the burdensome and frequently redundant system of vetting the transfer of technology often slows or even prohibits foreign acquisition of defense-related capabilities. **DESIRED OUTCOME:** The United States implements policies to accelerate and expand foreign military and direct commercial sales, leading to increased capability and integration of our allies and partners and driving more effective combined operations in combat.



## ACT AS A THOUGHT LEADER TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE AND WORKFORCE

The needs and concerns of the defense industrial base and associated workforce have not been adequately addressed in service and defense strategies. These vital institutions are at the foundation of our ability as a nation to provide the equipment and training required to be the premier fighting force on the planet. We must provide a forum for government, industry, and academia to acknowledge and address the critical issues of the defense industrial base and workforce related to resiliency, infrastructure, and qualifications. **DESIRED OUTCOME:** Achieve a more effective defense industrial base and workforce through diversity and inclusion. An annual process to define their health and resiliency, plus identify shortfalls, deficiencies and threats to both. Develop policies and legislative proposals to mitigate shortfalls, deficiencies and threats. A forum for government, industry, think tanks and academia to define and address resiliency, infrastructure, training and education to solidify and enhance the industrial base and workforce.

## WITH ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT

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