
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Defense Innovation Unit Experimental Resolution No. 17-06

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) established the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx) as an initiative in 2015 and relaunched as "DIUx 2.0" in May 2016 with a partner construct modeled after the private sector adding satellite offices in Boston, Austin, and Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, the DoD's important organizational and leadership changes to DIUx last year enable the DoD to more efficiently procure breakthrough technology created in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the Austin office is currently reservist-led and operated, and it is a model for how to leverage the Reserve Component to meet the highest DoD priorities with many Austin office reservists being senior executives in Texas companies; and

WHEREAS, the Austin office works out of a high-profile technology startup incubator, connecting DoD to the local innovation ecosystem at a small fraction of the cost of a dedicated office; and

WHEREAS, while DIUx can work with traditional defense contractors, it is also given a unique charter that no other agency in DoD must work with startups and other "non-traditional" companies developing cutting-edge technology that has no easy path into the DoD; and

WHEREAS, unique contracting authority allows DIUx to pursue contracts meant to solve the DoD's most pressing technological challenges and close deals in as little as a month from start to finish – stunning speed for the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, section 222 of the FY17 National Defense Authorization Act provides guidance to DoD to report on the charter and use of funds for DIUx; and

WHEREAS, while the FY17 Defense Appropriations Bill restored \$10 million for DIUx research and development activities, this amount is only one-third of the Department's FY17 request,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress, urge the Congress to sustain or increase resourcing for Defense Innovation Unit Experimental in the budget to ensure that Defense Innovation Unit Experimental has appropriate funding in the Military Personnel, Operations and Maintenance, and Research and Development accounts to keep the DoD at the cutting edge of technology which gets it into the hands of our warfighters quickly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress, urge the Congress to expand this procurement model to other services research functions for developing cutting edge technology.

Adopted by the National Convention 23 July 2017

Source: Department of Texas, 18 April 2017