



DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY
AND
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND
CENTER FOR COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
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May 20, 2013

Military, Industry and Academia Partners of the
Basic & Applied Sciences Department
Defense Threat Reduction Agency

SUBJECT: Basic Research Budget and Program Changes

Due to the substantial Federal budget challenges we have been facing from the Budget Control Act of 2011 (a.k.a. sequestration), the Basic & Applied Sciences Department is implementing budget reductions that will reduce the number of future grant awards and opportunities to execute grant option years. There are still unknowns we have to deal with, to include the potential for further reductions in FY14 budget levels, which will pose additional challenges for us all. My intent is to communicate to you potential business process changes and other actions we may be forced to take in order to address these reductions.

The Department will continue to look closely at performers for research progress against planned goals, potential value to DTRA's mission, and for adherence to expected financial performance targets. As you know, we assess technical progress and value for each effort at our annual Technical Review. It is critically important that we see progress in accordance with your statement of work at these reviews. Furthermore, it is imperative that each performer continue to execute their funds in an expeditious manner and fully comply with the terms & conditions of the grants. Failure of performers to comply (e.g., provide routine invoices and expend each increment of funds in a 12-month period) significantly increases the risk of further budget reductions in the Department and could impact the availability of funding for option year awards.

In addition, we are considering several other business practice changes including: the possibility of reducing the funding levels for single and multi- investigator awards to maximize the number of awards, and/or reducing basic awards from 3 years to a single year with 4 option years to provide DTRA more flexibility to react to future fiscal challenges or change our investments based on need.

These are difficult fiscal times and we know these potential changes will affect you and your students greatly. I encourage you to communicate with your Grant Officer Representative if you have any additional concerns. Further, as decisions are made as a result of budget and sequestration challenges, relevant information will be shared with those affected to allow as much time as possible to adjust your plans.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan Ma Pierre".

Joan Ma Pierre
Director, Basic & Applied Sciences Department