**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACT SHEET**

**DIUx 2.0: Continuing to Expand Outreach to the Innovation Economy**

- In April 2015, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced the creation of the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental, a signature part of his and the Defense Department's outreach to America's innovative technology community. DIUx is a first-of-its-kind unit for the department, staffed by some of DoD's most innovative civilian, active duty, civilian and reserve personnel. With offices in Silicon Valley and Boston, DIUx is strategically poised to access leading-edge technologies and the start-ups and entrepreneurs behind them on behalf of the Department of Defense.

- On May 10, Secretary Carter rolled out DIUx 2.0, with important enhancements to the concept:

    - A consolidated reporting structure -- DIUx now reports directly to the Office of the Secretary.

    - Updating the DIUx management structure by naming a leadership team that includes partners with extensive experience in technology, strategy, business, and management.

    - Leveraging best practices in streamlining and instilling flexibility in contracting with non-traditional firms, and funding to explore commercial technologies that meet U.S. military needs. Those avenues include targeted R&D contracts, other transaction agreements for prototype projects, merit-based prize competitions, and other forms of available acquisition and assistance authorities.

    - Plans for a second DIUx location in Boston to ensure a nationwide strategy of technology scouting that connects innovators everywhere to the military's needs.

- Today, the Secretary announced further enhancements to DIUx's processing power:

    - Officially opening a second DIUx office in Boston, to take advantage of one of the East Coast's most important technology development hubs.

    - Additions to the leadership team: Chief Science Officer Bernadette Johnson, the former chief technology officer at MIT Lincoln Laboratories; and Boston military lead Col. Mike McGinley, a lawyer specializing in cybersecurity issues who serves as an Air Force Reserve cyberwarrior.

    - An operating structure that organizes DIUx into three teams: a Venture Team, which will identify emerging commercial technologies and explore their battlefield potential; a Foundry Team, to identify technologies that require development or adaptation for military applications; and an Engagement Team, which will introduce innovators to national security challenges and the military to entrepreneurs.

    - An innovative engagement mechanism, the Commercial Solutions Opening, to leverage new flexible authorities for prototyping provided by Congress. This uses processes similar to those employed by the private sector and routes funding in as little as 60 days following a proposal.

- Exploring ways to bring together leading minds in the military and DoD who work on biodefense and biological technology together with world-class academic researchers, biotech companies, and entrepreneurs such as Broad Institute Founding Director Eric Lander who attended today's event in Boston.

- DIUx continues to make progress on finding commercial-sector solutions to some of the military's toughest problems. For example:

  - To operate in tight quarters such as caves, tunnels and ships, DIUx is procuring small hand-held drones designed to fly indoors, operate autonomously and map the environment without the need for GPS signal.

  - To counter online propaganda by ISIL, al Qaida and other extremist groups, DIUx is procuring in machine learning technology that can sift through millions of social media posts for specific images, aggregate those posts and provide commanders with rapid awareness of extremist activity on the internet.

  - To increase maritime awareness at reduced cost and risk to personnel and ships, DIUx is procuring wind-powered drones that can operate on the ocean's surface for months at a time and provide operationally and scientifically important data from areas that manned ships can't reach.