

Date: Thu, 07 Oct 2010 14:59:04 -0400

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy Committee on Improving Intelligence" <baruch@cmu.edu>, "Dr. Richard Atkinson - Chair - NRC/DBASSE" <rcatkinson@ucsd.edu>, "Dr. Kenneth Prewitt" <kp2058@columbia.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

Subject: 163. Rapid Response Discussions/Evaluation of the Fischhoff Report; Budget cycles

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues (and Drs. Atkinson and Prewitt):

Would the National Academy of Sciences be willing to take steps to facilitate rapid responses and evaluations of its (Fischhoff) Report on Behavioral Sciences and National Security?

America is - to make a key point - in the midst of a war that has lasted ten years and that is not going well. The world is in a new era where wars are being fought (and, sometimes, peace-making efforts are underway) by behavioral science assumptions. More broadly, there have been catastrophic failures of behavioral science data systems and models linked to failures of government to prevent the [last] global financial crisis. And in a changing, adaptive, complex system, in a world that is moving faster, and with asymmetries of brainpower and money that are not on the side of most national governments and their regulatory capacities.

Often, in deference to the National Academy - and sometimes with a hope to increase the influence of its recommendations - its Reports may not be reviewed in professional journals. But, this time, I hope that the National Academy will work boldly in the opposite direction. We ought to build quickly on this foundation and assure that the DNI, the National Science Board, OSTP and others have the best ideas and an assurance that they know the full range of remaining disagreements and, also, further creative ideas that may be sparked by the Commission's work and vision. There also are federal budget cycles involved, and career pathways, that might be involved for selected recapitalization and followup projects (e.g., the GCAS for global content analysis and rapid, multi-disciplinary applications.)

I do not have specific recommendations. Pre-publication copies of any Report might be helpful. Also, the American Political Science Association has a journal that might be suitable for a special issue, as do a wide range of other professional/scientific societies in the US and abroad.

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