

George Skontos
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Department of Defense analysis

The Department of Defense's (DoD) website is so patriotic in its display of nanotechnology you don't have time to think about the negative effects. They list information such as weapons that are 1000s times more powerful, tanks that are much stronger, and soldiers that are near invincible. In reading all this we are led to believe we are invisible but also forget to notice that all these marvelous weapons can at any point be turned against us. Hell it is nice shooting at someone but getting shot at isn't so fun. Most of the information on the DoD's website talks about the benefits of having new weapons and how America needs to be the greatest strongest military around. It says nothing about how some of these weapons can be used against us. The DoD funds four different agencies: U.S. Army Research Office, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Office of Naval Research, and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The funds the DoD receives come from the National Nanotech Initiative.

The Army mission statement is to "seed scientific and far reaching technological discoveries that enhance Army capabilities".¹ The page is pretty hard to reach and is pretty dry. It is very hard to find information on nanotechnology. All the articles on the web page are not that informative for the public. The website is more for scientist and people familiar with nanotechnology. The Air Force Office of Scientific Research site is a little better. It is not as dry as the Army's one. It has a section on education which encourages academics by providing funds and grants. Its mission is, "Leading the discovery, development, and integration of affordable warfighting technologies for our

¹ <http://www.arl.army.mil/main/main/default.cfm?Action=29&Page=29>

air and space force.”² Again, it is pretty hard to find out exactly what nanotechnologies are being worked on. The Office of Naval Research has the same layout of the previous sites. It is not for the general public to surf that easily. It is very informative but hard to navigate and not for the person that wants to find out about the advances of nanotech in the navy in an easy way. The Navy mission is to “foster, plan, facilitate and transition scientific research in recognition of its paramount importance to enable future naval power and the preservation of national security.”³ Moving onto the DARPA’s site it is very congested with no clear nanotechnology center. Their mission statement seems to be the most powerful one that seems to say that we will develop new technology at whatever cost it takes to keep the U.S. on top. It is as follows: “DARPA’s mission is to maintain the technological superiority of the U.S. military and prevent technological surprise from harming our national security by sponsoring revolutionary, high-payoff research that bridges the gap between fundamental discoveries and their military use.”⁴ It has many articles but is also congested with scientific articles. Actually when searching for nanotechnology at all 4 sites what came up were scientific abstracts, hardly material for the general public to use or even to understand. The four different departments did not have clear nanotechnology centers. They were all subdivisions of different sub-departments.

The DoD provides funding to these different departments and they allocate the money as they see fit.

Looking back at all these websites and by just analyzing their mission statements you can tell they are very pro-technology. It is absurd to think that the DoD would

² <http://www.afrl.af.mil/vision.asp>

³ <http://www.onr.navy.mil/>

⁴ <http://www.darpa.mil/body/mission.html>

believe that technology is a bad thing. According to the four sites, technology is what keeps the U.S. ahead of the game. The websites make you feel really good about the technology that we are building but at the same time it is hard to find articles that are written for the general public.