

# Opportunities, Challenges, and Realities of Funding Your Research with the DoD

Lorraine St. Onge, Ph.D.

# Disclaimer

The opinions, interpretations, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the presenter and are not necessarily endorsed by the U.S. Army and/or the U.S. Department of Defense.

# Shared RDT&E Goals

- Auburn and Army researchers share goals.
  - Bring in funding.
  - Publish and present findings.
  - Engage in technology transfer.
  - Establish partnerships.
  - Mentor the next generation of researchers.
  - Align with the organization's mission.
- But, Army RDT&E must also,
  - Align with Army priorities.
  - Have a technology or knowledge product recipient.

# Proactive Partnership Engagement

- Learn which Army organizations conduct RDT&E similar to Auburn.
  - Attend Army Conferences and Meetings.
    - Military Health System Research Symposium
    - Army S&T Symposium and Showcase
  - Explore the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC),  
<https://discover.dtic.mil/products-services/>.
  - Join the Federal Laboratory Consortium,  
<https://www.federallabs.org/>.

# Proactive Partnership Engagement

- Contact and visit potential Army partners.
  - Present Auburn RDT&E.
  - Tour and talk with leadership and SMEs.
  - Outline the pathway(s) to partnership.
- Participate in and help place students in Army internships.
  - Army Educational Outreach Program, <https://www.usaeop.com/>.
  - Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Program, <https://orise.orau.gov/>.
  - Army Futures Command Summer Student Program

# Types of Partnership Agreements

- Cooperative Research & Development Agreement (CRADA) (15 U.S.C. §3710a)
  - Cooperative Research & Development Agreement for Material Transfer, or Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)
- Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) (10 U.S.C. §2194)

# Cooperative Research and Development Agreement

- Federal laboratory and nonfederal party conduct RDT&E-related activities consistent with the laboratory's mission.
- The laboratory can commit resources (personnel, facilities, equipment, data) but not funds. The nonfederal party can commit similar resources and funds.
- Defines background intellectual property, IP rights, liability, data protection, etc.

# CRADA

- Information resulting from work performed under a CRADA protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act for up to 5 years.
- Not subject to Federal Acquisition Regulations.
- Statement of work describes background, responsibilities, deliverables, funding, travel, etc.
- Duration routinely 3 years.
- Language, regulated by Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, may require layers of reviews.



# Material Transfer Agreement

- Federal laboratory and nonfederal party exchange equipment, materials, information, and data, not funds.
- Laboratory can receive or provide resources.
- Usually short duration.
- No cooperative effort is contemplated.

# Educational Partnership Agreement

- Partnership between a Federal laboratory and K through post-graduate educational institution for the purpose of encouraging and enhancing study in scientific disciplines.
  - Loan and transfer of surplus laboratory equipment.
  - Include faculty & students in laboratory projects.
  - Laboratory staff provide instruction.
- Helps the laboratory attract qualified students and future employees.
- May require a background investigation.

# Understand the Partner

- Learn about the Army's administrative intricacies.
  - Multi-year funding cycles, funding flow and uses.
  - Research must be militarily relevant and impactful, and align with the mission.
  - Chain of command, Layers of reviews.
  - Plan for loss of Army researchers.
  - Background investigations.
  - Establish partnership agreements early on.

Questions?  
Comments?  
Discussion?