

Brilliant at the Basics:

Preliminary Survey Findings

November 2026

The DIB Collective solicited feedback on the Department of War's 10 IT and 10 OT *Brilliant at the Basics* concepts, receiving survey submissions from DIB Collective participants representing manufacturing, technology, and research-related environments.

The survey was designed to identify practical considerations for DoW as the concepts evolve, not to establish consensus or propose specific implementation requirements.

Several themes emerged across the responses:

- **Operational continuity:** Cybersecurity measures must account for production dependencies, equipment availability, safety, and mission-critical operations.
- **Legacy and proprietary systems:** Organizations frequently rely on equipment and technologies whose security capabilities, maintenance, and replacement options are constrained by equipment manufacturers and vendors.
- **Resource constraints:** Small organizations face significant financial, staffing, and technical challenges when implementing complex security architectures.
- **External dependencies:** Organizations may have limited authority over vendor-managed systems, third-party connectivity, proprietary software, and customer-imposed requirements.
- **Outcome-oriented approaches:** Security objectives should recognize differences in operating environments, technical capabilities, and methods of demonstrating effectiveness.

Two OT considerations were selected by every respondent who answered their respective questions: Unavailable patches in OT vulnerability management and monitoring compatibility in OT continuous monitoring.

The DIB Collective offers these findings as practical considerations for DoW's continued development of the concepts. They reflect input from participating respondents and do not constitute formal policy positions or consensus recommendations of the Collective.