

Section 809 Panel Interim Report
May 2017



Advisory Panel on Streamlining and Codifying Acquisition Regulations

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Bold. Simple. Effective.

The Section 809 Panel is charged with making recommendations that will shape DoD's acquisition system into one that is bold, simple, and effective. Highlighted here are key problems and the perspective from which the panel plans to address them. Learn more at section809panel.org.

Adapt at the Speed of a Changing World

The United States is operating in a global environment that is more fluid, more interconnected, and faster evolving than at any point in history. To adapt to this reality, the acquisition process must be agile enough to respond to rapidly evolving threats, and fast enough to develop and deliver new capabilities within the arc of emerging threats.



Leverage the Dynamic Defense Marketplace

The defense industrial base has changed, and to maintain technological advantage, DoD increasingly must leverage the commercial marketplace. To be successful in this broader marketplace requires a fundamental change in the DoD-commercial relationship. DoD must become an attractive customer with which commercial firms want to do business. This need requires DoD to be a more sophisticated buyer that is responsive to market dynamics, company interests, and the greater economic landscape.



Allocate Resources Effectively

The U.S. military faces multiple threats posed by increasingly capable adversaries and uncertain domains of warfare. It also contends with constrained defense budgets. To more effectively and efficiently allocate resources, DoD must better align and coordinate how it budgets, sets requirements, and acquires what it needs, to include not only major weapon systems, but also the services and low-dollar items that make up more than half of DoD contract spending.



Simplify Acquisition

Some of the regulations and statutes governing defense acquisition are outdated or no longer applicable and should be amended or repealed to make the system more effective and efficient, and expand the number of companies willing to do business with DoD.



Enable the Workforce

The current acquisition laws and regulations are overly complex, difficult to understand and implement, and contain requirements that result in people making suboptimal decisions and being risk-averse. DoD needs an acquisition system that is simple, understandable, and executable by people operating in an environment that empowers and incentivizes them to make decisions that lead to positive outcomes.

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