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Section 809 Panel Releases Volume I Report to Congress

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Section 809 Panel's mission is to streamline and improve the defense acquisition process so that it can deliver lethality to the warfighter in time to meet global threats. In support of this effort, the Panel has released Volume I of its final report to Congress. This report addresses well documented roadblocks in defense acquisition and introduces future panel work, notably a reimagined Department of Defense relationship with the dynamic defense marketplace that would eliminate the current one-size-fits-all approach and reflect an understanding of how the marketplace is structured and operates.

"The Section 809 Panel's main goal is to make mission come first in the defense acquisition process. That way we provide warfighters what they need, when they need it," said Deidre Lee, Section 809 Commissioner. "Recommendations in Volume I identify and offer alternative approaches to well documented barriers to entry. Together, the multiple volumes of our final report will give Congress tools to create truly bold improvements to defense acquisition," added Lee.

"Our approach builds on the best parts of our current system. It recognizes we must operate in a dynamic marketplace, and it makes simple acquisitions easier and complex acquisitions smarter," stated David Drabkin, Section 809 Panel Commissioner. "Our efforts will complement future defense acquisition frameworks by removing as many of the smaller regulatory and statutory obstacles as possible."

The Panel's Volume I Report to Congress is part of a larger Final Report to Congress, made up of three volumes. Volumes II and III will be released prior to the panel's conclusion in January of 2019. Volume I provides Congress with actionable recommendations that establish a framework for systemic transformation of the dynamic defense marketplace, beginning with changes to commercial buying, contract compliance and audit, small business policies and programs, services contracting, and the repeal of outdated statutory reporting requirements.

"The Panel believes DoD should adopt an outcome-based acquisition system that seeks solutions to problems from across the entire marketplace," stated Michael Madsen, Section 809 Panel Executive Director, discussing the Panel's work to reimagine the defense marketplace. "We are developing a system that provides flexibility, empowers decision making at the lowest level, ensures speed to the marketplace, and encourages collaboration."

The Section 809 Panel is dedicated to achieving its congressional mandate of streamlining and improving the defense acquisition process. The Panel believes bold improvements are needed to create an agile, results-driven acquisition process compelled by our nation's strategic needs.

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