From:	Cook, Katie
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SECTION 809 PANEL

Daily Media Clips

April 3, 2018

The Section 809 Panel is a congressionally mandated panel designed to be a catalyst that restores agility and simplicity to defense acquisition through bold and effective recommendations.

Good morning! We found several articles that you may be interested in.

Failures of Imagination: The Military's Biggest Acquisition Challenge

April 3, 2018 | Jarrett Lane and Michelle Johnson

Being stuck in yesterday's thinking isn't a new problem for the U.S. military. In 1898, Alfred Mahan said that "no service can or should be expected to reform itself." Fast-forward to the 1950s and Curtis LeMay, ever the strategic bombing evangelist, dismissed ICBMs as "f—king firecrackers." And up until a decade or so ago, the idea of using drones to deliver firepower ran up against every pilot in the Defense Department who saw it as a threat to their jobs and identity. It comes as no shock then that the military's requirements generators didn't dream up the Predator drone — the idea started in Abe Karem's garage.

Failures of imagination are a recurring problem for the U.S. military. But in today's fast-paced and highly contested world, this short-sightedness is more dangerous than ever. The speed at which America's adversaries and competitors can field new capabilities and the pace at which technology changes puts the Defense Department at real risk of losing its technological advantage. It is well known that China, for instance, is rapidly developing and deploying new capabilities in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and space that may give it significant military advantages.

A major part of the military's struggle to keep up with, much less stay ahead of, global and technological change lies in its requirements process — the starting point of the acquisition process and, essentially, how the Pentagon figures out what to provide its forces. This approach to major system requirements (known as the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System, or JCIDS) is inward-looking and slow. A 2011 report on the Army, for example, revealed it takes on average 15-22 months to get requirements approved. The Pentagon usually thinks it knows what it needs, and it has no problem taking a long time detailing all the ins and outs of what it wants to buy.

Read more HERE.

Other Articles of Interest

Army acquisition chief wants clearer lines between government, industry intellectual property

April 3, 2018 | Jared Serbu

Office of Naval Research launches program to speed up innovation

April 2, 2018 | Daniel Cebul

Tech group calls for DoD to loosen cloud regulations
April 2, 2018 | Brandon Knapp

Treasury's Fiscal Service wraps up 'incredibly positive' blockchain proof of concept
April 2, 2018 | Tajha Chappellet-Lanier

OPM tells agencies how to respond to cyber workforce needs
April 2, 2018 | Derek B. Johnson

New risk management framework expected to improve DoD cybersecurity
April 2, 2018 | William Jackson

The Pentagon is Letting Hackers Loose on Its Travel Management System
April 2, 2018 | Jack Corrigan

OPM Says Agencies Have One Year To ID Cyber Workforce Gaps
April 2, 2018 | Aaron Boyd

Sequestration could return in 2020 without congressional action [Audio]
April 3, 2018 | Eric White

Section 809 News

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SECTION 809 PANEL | Streamlining & Codifying Acquisition