From:	Martin, Shayne
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SECTION 809 PANEL

Daily Media Clips

May 15, 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.

Assessing the Health of the Defense Industrial Base

May 15, 2018 | John Adams

"What comes up and is quite alarming … is we have an amazing amount of dependency on China," Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Ellen Lord recently told an audience at a defense industry forum…. that previous DoD complacency has changed to bipartisan concern – and that its looming study will lay out clear plans to mitigate them.

There is bipartisan support for this effort, but Washington's approach to this has been unfocused. The House and Senate armed services committees, for instance, haven't paid nearly enough attention to the maintenance of our defense industrial base, let alone its expansion. They have often instead chipped away at the domestic content requirements that ensure the survival of small- and medium-sized manufacturers whose workers arm our troops. Finding cost savings within a complex bureaucracy is important, but the balance often seems to tilt towards a greater reliance on foreign products as a solution.

Meanwhile, the vulnerabilities in our readiness are truly myriad.

Next is the painstaking process of actually mitigating the vulnerabilities of those supply chains. Just last month, for example, DoD banned the sale of cell phones made by Chinese tech giants Huawei and ZTE in military exchanges worldwide. This is a welcome though woefully tardy acknowledgment that such devices put our globally deployed soldiers at risk of being tracked by Chinese back-doors in the phones themselves. Elsewhere, Congress is reviewing investment restrictions of Chinese takeovers of key technology, and President Trump has imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum to shore up our production capabilities against a backdrop of predatory trade that has decimated the industry. Again, all are positive steps, but more needs to be done, in a comprehensive whole-of-government manner, to sustain and strengthen America's capabilities.

Read more HERE.

Other Articles of Interest

What's Wrong with the DoD's 19 Budget Request, What Congress Can Do To Fix It

May 15, 2018 | Susanna Blume

Bassett: 'No tension' with cross-functional teams

May 13, 2018 | Amber Corrin

Hey, Big Tech, Don't Abandon Uncle Sam's Cyber Warriors
May 14, 2018 | Michael Steed

DoD's Pentagon used IDIQ contracts 40 percent of the time
May 14, 2018 | Joe Gould

Pentagon: Need for speed justifies single-award approach to JEDI cloud contract
May 13, 2018 | Jared Serbu

Summary of the 2019 White House Summit On Artificial Intelligence For American Industry
May 10, 2018 | Office of Science and Technology Policy, EOP

Agile Acquisition 101
May 10, 2018 | Matthew Kennedy

Pentagon to Congress: Multiple awards for JEDI cloud would be too slow, costly
May 14, 2018 | Billy Mitchell

Agency That Vets Pentagon Contractors' Security Isn't Keeping Up With the Threat, Audit Finds
May 14, 2018 | Joseph Marks

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SECTION 809 PANEL | Streamlining & Codifying Acquisition