From:	Cook, Katie
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SECTION 809 PANEL

Daily Media Clips

July 10, 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.

Modern Solution, Ancient Problem: Measuring Military Effectiveness in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

July 9, 2018 | Brad Dewees

A likely apocryphal exchange after the Vietnam War captured the problem of fighting without keeping effectiveness in mind: An American colonel tells a Vietnamese colonel, "You know, you never defeated us on the battlefield." "That may be so," replies the Vietnamese colonel, "but it is also irrelevant."

"What effect?" is a fundamental, though often overlooked, question in national security: What effect did an action have on an adversary, and did it bring us closer to our goals? This question can be asked about a foot patrol to greet local leaders, a bomb dropped on an insurgent position, a cyber-operation to shut down an electric grid, or the awesome display of an aircraft carrier in plain sight of an adversary. The question applies equally to senior policymakers and to junior tacticians. Ignoring it at any level can have grave consequences, not least a tendency to win battles while losing wars.

Important as the "what effect?" question is, its answer is something of a white whale—impossible to fully grasp despite our best efforts. An effect is a change in an adversary's intentions to respect U.S. interests, and intentions exist within the mind of an adversary. Outside of active combat, when direct violence makes intentions plain, we cannot observe what others intend to do. Even if we could see into an adversary's mind, effects play out over too much space and time to be fully perceivable. The effect of a bomb on an insurgent position, for example, is the culmination of reactions by insurgents in the bomb's immediate vicinity, by observers who saw the bomb fall from a distance, by people who heard about the bomb falling, and so on. To answer "what effect?" we would need to understand these reactions in the moments after the bomb's impact, as well as how those immediate reactions matured in the days and weeks after the bomb fell. Measuring all of this is too much to ask of any person or group.

Read more HERE.

Other Articles of Interest

Loren Duggan looks ahead at Congress' confirmation woes, defense spending items this week [Audio]

July 10, 2018 | Federal Drive

DISA awards $49M OTA for background check system

July 9, 2018 | Carten Cordell

Military's readiness problem 'not even close' to being solved, Martha McSally says
July 10, 2018 | Jamie McIntyre

Pentagon finally says how much it saves by canceling 'war games' with South Korea
July 9, 2018 | Jamie McIntyre

Don't drop that mug of Joe, it's worth its weight in gold
July 9, 2018 | Victoria Leoni

The Pentagon Wants to Automate Some Classification Decisions
July 9, 2018 | Joseph Marks

Pentagon's Research Commitment Found to Decline Over Two Decades
July 9, 2018 | Anthony Capaccio

Air Force moves to improve electronic warfare effectiveness
July 9, 2018 | Maddy Longwell

Trump prepares to tackle dicey spending issue at NATO summit
July 10, 2018 | Gabby Morrongiello

Here's a Different Way the Government Could Clean Up Its Data
July 9, 2018 | Alan Balutis

Why China Wants A Super Rocket Like NASA's Space Launch System
July 9, 2018 | Loren Thompson

Larry Allen: Tips for making deadlines, from a federal contracting expert [Audio]
July 9, 2018 | Federal Drive

All things procurement [Audio]
July 8, 2018 | Off the Shelf

Section 809 News

In our Volume 2 Report, we cover topics such as enterprise capability portfolio management, operationalizing the Dynamic Marketplace concept, commercial source selection, the acquisition workforce, the Cost Accounting Standards Board, and services contracting. Additionally, you will see more information on decluttering Title 10 of the U.S. Code. READ!

Register today for the Section 809 Panel Industry Day Conference; taking place on 13 July 2018.

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SECTION 809 PANEL | Streamlining & Codifying Acquisition