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## NPS Need to Know Newsletter Acquisition Research Program, 2020-05-22

Johnson, Michelle; Asch, Larry

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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Dear ARP friends,

Happy Friday! Issue #9 of ARP's weekly newsletter continues its revised format with minimal links for an easy, link-free scan of this week's headlines and highlights. If you're motivated to learn more about any stories, you can read the full, link-enabled newsletter on the ARP website, as always.

The link to the newsletter is right here: <https://nps.edu/web/acgnresearch/media>

May 22, 2020



Noteworthy in Issue #9: We continue to provide highlights from our 17th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium, sharing research on how DoD can build on current innovations in acquisition. This week's top story explains the Space Force's proposed acquisition system, which shows marked parallels with recommendations made by the Section 809 Panel. We point you to those recommendations, noting those files are now hosted by both ARP and DTIC. And a theme in this week's news: contracting for artificial intelligence in the DoD.

## **ARP Research: Symposium Spotlight**

### **Panel #15: Enabling Innovation Ecosystems in Defense Acquisition**

#### **Understanding the Incentives for Small Businesses to Participate in the Acquisition Process for R&D Intensive Products**

Vivek Bhattacharya (Northwestern University)

**Micro abstract:** DoD could incentivize more firms to enter the procurement process by changing the structure of the SBIR program itself rather than changing the broader defense procurement ecosystem.

[Read the Paper.](#)

[View the Presentation.](#)

## **The Role of New Defense Innovation Intermediaries and the Emerging Defense Innovation Ecosystem**

Jon Wong and Jon Schmid (RAND Corporation)

**Micro abstract:** We conducted analysis on the functions purported to be performed by a set of defense innovation intermediaries (DIIs). Based on analysis of publicly available resources, the DIIs considered here do not report to perform three functions: equity investment, patient capital, and alumni management.

[Read the Paper.](#)

## **Harnessing Rapid Innovative Culture to Invigorate the Adaptive Acquisition Framework**

Matthew MacGregor, Colleen Murphy, Jen Choi, and Ryan Novak (MITRE)

**Micro abstract:** The Adaptive Acquisition Framework provides an opportunity for programs to exercise creativity in a way not possible for many years. It will take acquisition professionals time to grasp the nuances of the options available to them. Acquisition leaders need to encourage their people to explore and use flexibilities and resist the urge to impose restrictions.

Noteworthy in Issue #9: We continue to provide highlights from our 17th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium, sharing research on how DoD can build on current innovations in acquisition. This week's top story explains the Space Force's proposed acquisition system, which shows marked parallels with recommendations made by the Section 809 Panel. We point you to those recommendations, noting those files are now hosted by both ARP and DTIC. And a theme in this week's news: contracting for artificial intelligence in the DoD.

[Read the Paper.](#)

## **This Week's Top Story**

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### **[Space Force proposes 'alternative acquisition system' with less red tape](#)**

Sandra Erwin, Space News

The U.S. Space Force on May 20 delivered a report to congressional committees asking for changes in the rules that currently are in place for buying new weapon systems.

Congress in the legislation that established the U.S. Space Force directed Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett to propose an "alternative acquisition system" for the new service. The report was written by Barrett, the top civilian leader for the Air Force and the Space Force, with input from the chief of space operations for the U.S. Space Force Gen. John Raymond.

The report argues that many of the Pentagon's rules for procurement programs create unnecessary burdens and squelch innovation. The current systems "produces systems that take too long to develop and deploy, cost more than expected, and yield exquisite point solutions to fulfill stable requirements for a closed architecture."

The United States has to modernize fast to keep up with adversaries, Barrett says in the report. "Space threats demand a shift to a system that more broadly delivers agile solutions."

The report proposes nine specific actions:

- Delegate oversight
- Flexibility in budgeting
- Change the definition of "new start"
- Fewer budget line items
- Simplify Pentagon reviews
- Reduce reporting requirements
- Change how "end items" are defined
- Separate Space Force topline budget
- Create separate head of contracting

**Read more online.**

## **Section 809 Panel Updates**

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A number of the changes proposed for Space Force's alternate acquisition parallel recommendations made by the Section 809 Panel, particularly the budget recommendations to group investments by portfolios and to allow new starts during a continuing resolution. See those recommendations online.

[Recommendation 52: Permit the initiation of all new starts, provided Congress has appropriated sufficient funding.](#)

[Recommendation 36: Transition from a program-centric execution model to a portfolio execution model.](#)

Read more of the panel's recommendations on portfolio management and the budget process in the full Volume 3 Report. [Visit the Section 809 Panel page hosted by the Defense Technical Information Center \(DTIC\)](#) and click on the tab for "Volume 3."

## **Events**

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[Former CNO Mullen Talks Leadership, National Security Challenges in a Post-COVID-19 World](#)

MC2 Tom Tonthat, Naval Postgraduate School

Years of leadership experience as a Naval officer, culminating as the Navy's Chief of Naval Operations then as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired Navy Adm. Mike Mullen offered his views on requirements of leaders and national security issues in the post-COVID-19 world during the Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS) first virtual Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL), May 19.

[Click the link to read more and watch recorded video of this week's event.](#)

### **The Big Ideas Exchange (BIX)**

An NPS initiative that brings forward new and potentially game-changing thinking developed by NPS faculty and students to address grand challenges in American national security.

Next event: May 27, 2020.

### **Artificial Intelligence in the DoN**

View recording from this week's NavalX event discussing Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) Community in the Department of the Navy.

## **Acquisition and Innovation**

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### **Booz Allen Hamilton wins massive Pentagon artificial intelligence contract**

Andrew Eversden, C4ISR Net

### **A Pentagon Procurement Program That Seems Doomed to Fail**

Dan Gouré, Real Clear Defense

### **These eight satellites will track hypersonic weapons**

Nathan Strout, C4ISR Net

### **Citing TransDigm, DoD seeks new acquisition powers, and trade groups oppose**

Joe Gould, Defense News

### **JAIC needs its own acquisition authority within next two years, Shanahan says**

Jackson Branett, FedScoop

### **Emerging and Disruptive Technology: Workshop on NATO engagement with Non-Defence Technology Companies**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

### **What Google's New Contract Reveals About the Pentagon's Evolving Clouds**

Patrick Tucker, Defense One

### **Navy hopes new NGEN contract will lead to 'domain singularity'**

Jared Serbu, Federal News Network

## Research and Higher Education

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### [Finally Getting Serious About Professional Military Education](#)

James Lacey, War on the Rocks

### [A culture of learning: Why the Marine Corps is promoting education, training in its new doctrine](#)

Diana Stancy Correll, Marine Times

### [Can College Be Saved in the COVID-19 Era?](#)

John Kroger, Inside Higher Ed

### [Building a Broader Evidence Base for Defense Acquisition Policymaking](#)

Elizabeth M. Bartels, Jeffrey A. Drezner, and Joel B. Predd (RAND Corporation)

## Defense and Federal Government

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### [Pentagon legislation aims to end dependence on China for rare earth minerals](#)

Joe Gould, Defense News

### [Coronavirus pushed Air Force to move industry engagements online. Officials wish it had been sooner.](#)

Jared Serbu, Federal News Network

### [TTS's demand has grown 'significantly' during the pandemic, Anil Cheriyan says](#)

Billy Mitchell, FedScoop

### [Navy still sees ship maintenance delays despite new contracting strategy](#)

Caitlin M. Kenney, Stars and Stripes

### [STRIKWERX Aimed at Quick-Turn Fixes to Global Strike Problems](#)

John A. Tirpak, Air Force Magazine

## COVID-19 and Contracting

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### [Lockheed slated to miss F-35 delivery target in 2020 as supply chain struggles to keep up](#)

Valerie Insinna, Defense News

### [Federal Data Strategy Deadlines Shift Due to COVID-19](#)

Aaron Boyd, NextGov

[3M billed government \\$7.63 for 85-cent earplugs. It now has \\$1 billion COVID contract](#)

Tara Copp, McClatchy

[The White House Is Rewriting Contracting Language to Clarify Security Liability](#)

Marian Baksh, NextGov

## Policy and Regulatory Updates

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[Delegating Authority Under the Defense Production Act to the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation To Respond to the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

Federal Register

## Congress

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[House changes its rules during pandemic, allowing remote voting for the first time in its 231-year history](#)

Mike DeBonis, The Washington Post

[Citing financial cost of pandemic, House liberals demand cut in military spending](#)

Mike DeBonis, The Washington Post

[House panel to hold private Ligado call with FCC and defense officials](#)

Aaron Mehta and Joe Gould, C4ISR Net

[Kenneth Braithwaite Gets Senate Confirmation to be Navy Secretary](#)

Brenda Marie Rivers, GovConWire

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