



REFORMING ACQUISITION TO DELIVER FOR OUR WARFIGHTERS

To deter national security threats, our warfighters need to be equipped with the latest technology. But the defense acquisition system is broken and too slow, rigid, and bureaucratic to meet evolving threats. It can take more than a decade before new capabilities are finally deployed, and by then, the threat has changed, the technology is outdated, and the program is over budget.

The FY26 NDAA includes many of the transformative reforms proposed in the Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery (SPEED) Act and focuses defense acquisition on one primary objective: quickly equipping warfighters with needed capabilities in the most cost-effective manner practicable.

Ensures The Acquisition System Delivers For The Warfighter At Speed And Scale

- Creates a new, accelerated requirements process designed to rapidly seek innovative solutions from industry rather than prescribing exquisite systems to be built.
- Streamlines and speeds bureaucratic decision-making by centralizing management of acquisition programs under a single portfolio acquisitions executive (PAE).
- Ensures that life-cycle sustainment decisions are made early in the acquisition process to prevent costly readiness issues and long-term maintenance shortfalls.

Puts Commercial Solutions First

- Requires the Pentagon to look to commercial off-the-shelf solutions before embarking on costly programs to build exquisite systems.
- Removes costly compliance requirements on small businesses providing commercial solutions.
- Strengthens DoW's commercial solutions solicitation procedures to reach more businesses and new entrants.
- Removes barriers to subscription-based services such as private satellite imagery.
- Bridges the Valley of Death by establishing the Bridging Operational Objectives & Support for Transition (BOOST) Program within the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) to align promising technologies with operational needs.

The FY26 NDAA: REFORMING ACQUISITION TO DELIVER FOR OUR WARFIGHTERS

Eliminates Costly Regulatory Burdens

- Exempts smaller acquisition programs from excessive regulatory burdens without sacrificing transparency on critical contracts.
- Implements long-overdue reforms to the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) and directs the Secretary to streamline DoW's implementation of compliance with requirements associated with CAS.

Develops A Mission-Oriented Defense Acquisition Workforce

- Empowers the acquisition workforce to ensure it is prepared for modern challenges and strengthens acquisition professionals' career development.
- Ensures the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) educates and develops high-performing leaders.
- Strengthens the talent pipeline for DoW's acquisition workforce by improving the public-private talent exchange program and establishing a program to appoint members of the Defense Civilian Training Corps to civil service acquisition positions.
- Establishes a working group to address advanced manufacturing workforce shortages and recommend ways to increase employment of individuals with disabilities in this sector.

Reforms Foreign Military Sales

- Requires the Pentagon to establish a framework to improve processes and procedures for technology transfer and foreign disclosure policies.
- Mandates that combatant commands must hire qualified acquisition professionals to advise and assist the command on foreign military sales and other equipment transfers.
- Requires the Pentagon to establish an office to facilitate foreign partners' acquisition of equipment that is not a program of record for U.S. forces.
- Expedites and improves transparency of international arms transfers, including foreign military sales, by streamlining Pentagon bureaucracy.
- Requires the Secretary to ensure that the defense acquisition workforce is aware of foreign partner defense capacity-building priorities and coordinates with the security cooperation workforce to enhance responsiveness to partner requests.
- Requires the Secretary of State to conduct a biennial review to identify defense articles and services that should be eligible for transfer to foreign partners through the direct commercial sales process rather than foreign military sales.

