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### Articles published by the media since our last issue

#### Management & Governance

##### **DOGE given the power to review most DOD contracts** *(Inside Defense)*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has empowered cost-cutters at the "Department of Government Efficiency" to review all of the Pentagon's unclassified contracts, minus a few exemptions, [according to a new memo released on 28 May](#).

##### **Congress pressing Army for answers on potential OIB downsizing** *(Inside Defense)*

While details of the Army's sweeping plan to transform are scant, top officials as of late have slowly peeled back the curtain on a broad blueprint to speed and scale the industrial base using private partnerships -- likely at the expense of some depots and arsenals, deemed too slow and outdated to revive its crippled capacity.

##### **New DoD memo outlines review process for IT consulting contracts** *(Federal News Network)*

“The memo provides a means for DoD leaders to more closely scrutinize our requirements for the covered contracts listed in the memo,” John Tenaglia said. The Defense Department’s new [memo](#) expands on how contracts for IT consulting, management services and advisory support will be reviewed, establishing a formal approval process in line with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s recent directive.

#### Organization & Alignment

##### **Hegseth Orders Major Restructuring of DOD’s Independent Weapons Testing Office** *(Inside Defense)*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has directed the downsizing and reorganization of the independent office that oversees Pentagon weapons testing, according to a [new memo released on 28 May](#).

##### **OPINION – America’s maritime future depends on building our workforce today** *(Breaking Defense)*

Matt Sermon, head of the Navy's Maritime Industrial Base Program, in this op-ed puts out the call for a larger shipbuilding workforce as a national security imperative.

### [How many people are in the US military? A demographic overview](#) *(USA Facts)*

The US military is the third-largest active military in the world.

### [Where are US troops stationed?](#) *(USA Facts)*

As of March 2025, the US military consisted of 2,862,089 active-duty, reserve, and civilian personnel worldwide.

## **Resourcing & Financial Management**

### [Recruitment Task Force Seeks to Capitalize on 2025 Enlistment Surge](#) *(Department of Defense)*

Just two years ago, the outlook for military recruitment was bleak. A 15,000-soldier shortfall — the Army's deepest gap since the draft ended in 1973 — forced commanders to trim training rotations and rethink end-strength projections, while lawmakers warned the all-volunteer force faced its most serious manning crisis in half a century.

## **Acquisition**

### [DOD to 'redouble' efforts to favor commercial procurements](#) *(Inside Defense)*

The Defense Department is working in compliance with a White House executive order to ensure it doesn't default to procuring expensive, custom-made systems and services when commercially available items can be found, according to a new Pentagon [memo](#).

### [Army acquisition chief nominee pledges for more 'agile, flexible and adaptable' requirements](#) *(Inside Defense)*

Brent Ingraham, the Trump administration's nominee to be the next assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, believes the service's requirements process must be more "agile, flexible and adaptable," in line with recent rhetoric from top service leaders about the need to get away from long-term programs of record.

### [OPINION: The defense acquisition system is broken — it's time for an overhaul](#) *(Defense News)*

The United States' industrial might helped save the free world in World War II. William Knudsen, the Detroit auto titan turned wartime production chief, put it simply: "We won because we smothered the enemy in an avalanche of production."

### [House appropriators call for new Space Force acquisition pilot](#) *(Breaking Defense)*

A key problem identified by the HAC is the fact that the military services do not allow program officers responsible for acquisition oversight to remain in their posts long enough to gain the necessary expertise.

### [SPEED Act Promises Meaningful Acquisition Reform](#) *(National Defense Magazine)*; [HASC leaders release new defense acquisition reform plan to SPEED weapons buying](#) *(Breaking Defense)*

Last fall, several members of the House of Representatives published a joint opinion editorial focused on prioritizing a shift in culture and leadership at the Defense Department as part of an ongoing, bipartisan effort to recalibrate the acquisition system to better acquire, scale and field defense technology.

### [Tim Sheehy Proposes New Bills to Modernize Defense Acquisitions](#) *(Executive Gov)*

Sen. Tim Sheehy, R-Mont., has introduced new legislation to update the Department of Defense's acquisition process and better support the U.S. defense industrial base.

#### **House Armed Services Leaders Want Sweeping Overhaul of DoD Acquisition System** *(MeriTalk)*

The Pentagon's process for acquiring military capabilities is due for a total replacement – not just a fix – according to the House Armed Services Committee's top leaders from both sides of the aisle.

#### **Senate confirms Michael Duffey, Trump's pick for Pentagon acquisition chief** *(Defense Scoop)*

The Senate voted 51-46 on 3 June to confirm Michael Duffey as undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment.

#### **Inside the Pentagon CIO's push to overhaul antiquated software acquisition practices** *(Defense Scoop)*

In an exclusive interview with DefenseScoop, acting Pentagon CIO Katie Arrington outlined how her Software Fast Track initiative will help the DOD streamline acquisition of modern capabilities.

#### **Pentagon begins recruiting its next cohort of disruptive defense acquisition fellows** *(Defense Scoop)*

DIU is now accepting applications for the next round of Immersive Commercial Acquisition Program fellowships.

### **Healthcare**

#### **Senate GOP's Megabill: Navigating Fiscal Shifts in Financials, Healthcare, and Defense** *(AInvest)*

The Senate GOP's Megabill, finalized in June 2025, is a sprawling legislative package reshaping fiscal policy, defense spending, and social programs. While its passage remains uncertain, the bill's provisions—tax cuts for high earners, Medicaid funding reductions, and a \$150 billion defense boost—create clear sector-specific opportunities and risks.

#### **Senator John Cornyn responds to Tricare troubles** *(News4 San Antonio)*

Senator John Cornyn is addressing issues plaguing Tricare beneficiaries across the country, specifically TriWest.

#### **Humana's cautious defense of Medicare Advantage** *(Health Care Dive)*

At the insurer's investor day on Monday, Humana struck a middle ground in defending the importance of the privatized Medicare program while allowing that there's room for improvement.

### **Logistics**

#### **DLA modernizes distribution network for contested warfare** *(Defense Logistics Agency)*

The Defense Logistics Agency is modernizing its distribution network to ensure the military can sustain operations in increasingly complex and contested environments.

#### **Agency shifts logistics strategy for readiness in unpredictable conditions** *(Defense Logistics Agency)*

The Defense Logistics Agency is shifting its approach to supply chain readiness, the agency's director said at the DLA Supply Chain Alliance Symposium and Exhibition at the Greater Richmond Convention Center June 12.

#### **SupplyCore Secures \$150M DLA Contracts for MRO Supplies** *(GovConWire)*

SupplyCore has secured two contracts from the Defense Logistics Agency with a potential cumulative value of \$150 million to provide facilities maintenance, repair and operations supplies.

### **DLA R&D Roundup Identifies 16 Enterprise Problem Statements** *(Executive Gov)*

The Defense Logistics Agency's research and development arm recently hosted its annual Roundup Meeting, where leaders from across the agency reviewed 16 enterprise problem statements.

### **Data & Information Technology**

#### **DOD Efforts to Buy and Maintain IT Systems Are Billions Over Budget and Delayed** *(Government Accountability Office)*

The Department of Defense is spending billions modernizing the IT systems it uses for everything from health care and human capital needs to logistics and contracting. These efforts to modernize IT aim to improve how DOD does business, conducts day-to-day operations, and increase cybersecurity. But several of DOD's efforts have seen large cost increases and are behind schedule by a year or more.

#### **GAO Flags Cyber, Data Metrics Failures in DoD IT Projects** *(MeriTalk)*

A Federal watchdog report is sounding the alarm over missing cybersecurity plans, weak performance tracking, and major delays across some of the Defense Department's (DoD) priciest tech programs.

#### **Army made 'breakthrough' with live data in recent exercise, commander says** *(Inside Defense)*

U.S. soldiers who participated in the recent Arcane Thunder multinational exercise this month made a "breakthrough" in their ability to rapidly transmit and utilize data on the battlefield, a senior Army official told reporters on 30 May.

#### **Defense Department signs OpenAI for \$200 million 'frontier AI' pilot project** *(The Register)*

The US Department of Defense has contracted OpenAI to run a pilot program that will create "frontier AI," but it's not clear what they're building together.

#### **OpenAI's \$200M DoD contract could squeeze frenemy Microsoft** *(Tech Crunch)*

OpenAI said on 17 June the U.S. Department of Defense granted it a contract for up to \$200 million to help the agency identify and build prototype systems that use its frontier models for administrative tasks and more.

### **Human Resources**

None this month

### **Risk Management**

#### **DoD issues first RFI to overhaul risk management framework** *(Federal News Network)*; **DOD CIO Seeks Input on Risk Management Framework Modernization Effort** *(Executive Gov)*

The Defense Department has issued its first [call to industry](#) in a promised effort to "blow up" its implementation of the Risk Management Framework, the scheme the department uses to assess and certify the cybersecurity of its IT systems.

#### **Sessions Opens Hearing on the Department of Defense's Fraud Risk Management** *(House Oversight Committee)*

Subcommittee on Government Operations Chairman Pete Sessions (R-Texas) delivered opening remarks at June 4's hearing on "[Safeguarding Procurement: Examining Fraud Risk Management in the Department of Defense.](#)"

#### **DOD seeks feedback on revamping adoption of risk management framework** *(Inside Defense)*

The Defense Department has released a request for information to get feedback on making reforms to the Risk Management Framework, the Pentagon's approach to address cyber risk management across its systems.

### **Performance Management**

#### **OPM's new performance management rules are (mostly) spot on** (GovExec)

OPM's new performance management rules aim to end inflated ratings and eliminate pass-fail systems—but do they go too far in prescribing a one-size-fits-all approach?

#### **No better way to manage performance** (GovExec)

OPM's new performance management guidance looks to refine how federal agencies tackle employee performance, but to reach its mark, the federal government's HR agency should explore how to empower employee problem-solving.

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### **New Documents**

- [DoD CIO RFI for Risk Management Framework \(RMF\) Revamp](#) (Department of Defense)
- [Implementation of Executive Order 14222 - Department of Government Efficiency Cost Efficiency Initiative: Contract Guidance](#) (Department of Defense)
- [Implementation of Department of Government Efficiency Cost Efficiency Initiative](#) (Department of Defense)
- [Reorganization of the Office of the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation](#) (Department of Defense)
- [IT Systems Annual Assessment: DOD Needs to Improve Performance Reporting and Cybersecurity Planning](#) (Government Accountability Office)
- [Testimony: Examining Fraud Risk Management in the Department of Defense](#) (Government Accountability Office)

### **New CRS Reports**

- [Defense Primer: Military Officers](#) (Jun. 3)
- [Regulating Artificial Intelligence: U.S. and International Approaches and Considerations for Congress](#) (Jun. 4)
- [The Sikes Act: An Overview of Conservation on Military Lands](#) (Jun. 6)
- [Military Tuition Assistance Program: Background and Issues](#) (Jun. 11)
- [Defense Primer: Military Enlisted Personnel](#) (Jun. 11)
- [Evaluating the Defense Production Act](#) (Jun. 12)
- [DOD Cost Overruns and The Nunn-McCurdy Act](#) (Jun. 12)
- [Defense Primer: Reserve Forces](#) (Jun. 13)
- [Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Veteran Disability: Background and Issues for Congress](#) (Jun. 16)
- [Military Applications of Extended Reality](#) (Jun. 17)
- [FY2025 Defense Appropriations: Summary of Funding](#) (Jun. 20)

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