

The Defense Management Institute (DMI) was established by the Director of Administration and Management (DA&M) for the Department of Defense (DOD) and is operated by the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). DMI is a non-partisan research organization committed to bridging public and private sector efforts to improve the management, organization, performance improvement and enterprise business operations of the DOD. DMI organizes the practice of “defense management” into the following eight pillars: Management and Governance, Organization and Alignment, Resourcing and Financial Management, Acquisition, Healthcare, Logistics, Data and Information Technology, and Human Resources.

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Articles published by the media since our last issue

Management & Governance

[Hegseth To Unveil Arms Sale Overhaul](#) (*Politico*); [Hegseth’s Acquisition Reform Speech: What Might Come – And What’s Already Underway](#). (*Breaking Defense*)

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is planning to unveil a consequential overhaul of U.S. arms sales that could reshape how the Pentagon sends weapons to allies and help replenish dwindling stockpiles.

[Hegseth Wants AI Used In Inspector General Investigations](#) (*Task & Purpose*)

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth ordered the use of artificial intelligence to “expedite” investigations by the office that looks into workplace discrimination and sexual harassment and in the early stages of Inspector General inquiries. In particular, Hegseth said AI should be put to work in workplace investigations of generals and admirals.

[Nominee For Key Pentagon R&E Post Vows To Accelerate Prototyping, Experimentation](#) (*DefenseScoop*)

President Donald Trump’s nominee to serve as assistant secretary of defense for mission capabilities told lawmakers Tuesday that, if confirmed, he will work to create a sustainable system that ensures innovative capabilities can be rapidly fielded to warfighters.

Organization & Alignment

[Army Preparing To Stand Up New Organization To Oversee Its Data Environment](#) (*DefenseScoop*); [If Data Is The New Ammo, Army May Need Dedicated Data Formations: General](#) (*Breaking Defense*)

The Army is poised to set up a new command or center to oversee the service’s data environment, according to a senior officer. Lt. Gen. Jeth Rey, deputy chief of staff, G-6, told DefenseScoop that he’s slated to brief Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George on Oct. 30 to get final approval of the “plan of action.”

Resourcing & Financial Management

[White House Taps Multiple Accounts To Pay Troops Amid Shutdown](#) (*Federal News Network*)

The White House is tapping into three Defense Department's accounts to pay troops this week as the government shutdown stretches on. A senior White House official confirmed to Federal News Network that the administration has identified \$1.4 billion from the research, development, test and evaluation account — the Defense Department [already used \\$8 billion](#) from the same account to issue mid-month paychecks.

Acquisition

[Amid Shifting Priorities, Transparency Is Key, Says Army Acquisition Head](#) *(Breaking Defense)*; **[Army Secretary Tees Up Acquisition Reforms Amid 'Unprecedented' Top Cover From Trump Administration](#)** *(Federal News Network)*

The Army is reprioritizing some of its programs in line with its [Army Transformation Initiative](#) and looming acquisition shakeup, the head of acquisition told Breaking Defense. But, he added, amid these changes it's vital the service is transparent with vendors on what it is and isn't going to purchase.

[Army Using Wider Scope When it Comes to Writing Requirements](#) *(National Defense)*

A hot topic in the defense acquisition world is the need for requirements reform, with the current process called too complicated and too specific. The Army has taken concrete steps to change its approach with more flexible mechanisms that allow for bigger ideas and riskier decisions.

[PEO Aviation Has 'Doubled Down' On Priorities Amid ATI, Looming Acquisition Shakeup](#) *(Breaking Defense)*

Major programs from the Army's aviation portfolio have been on the chopping block as part of its overarching transformation initiative, dubbed ATI. But between the ATI and the looming acquisition shakeup, the head of the Program Executive Office for Aviation told Breaking Defense that not only will the office's mission remain the same, but he sees the changes as a way to double down on some of the service's biggest priorities.

[Pentagon Stuck in Acquisition 'Cul-de-Sac,' New Report Finds](#) *(National Defense)*

The Defense Department continues to spend heavily on research and development while struggling to field weapon systems in a timely manner, according to a recent [report](#) published by the Center for a New American Security.

[Army Acquisition Chief Anticipates Funding Boost For FUZE Program](#) *(DefenseScoop)*

FUZE, which was announced last month by Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, combines elements of multiple technology innovation programs — including the xTech, Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR), ManTech, and Technology Maturation Initiative efforts — under a more integrated framework to accelerate the delivery of new capabilities to soldiers, according to the service.

[A New Framework Aims To Build A Bridge Across The Defense Acquisition Valley Of Death](#) *(Federal News Network)*

The Pentagon's tech pipeline is littered with promising innovations that never make it to the field. MITRE's new Transition Maturity Framework aims to change that by replacing the slow, siloed acquisition process with a collaborative, data-driven approach.

Healthcare

None this month

Logistics

None this month

Data & Information Technology

[IP, Technical Data Rights Continue to Spark Debate](#) *(National Defense)*

This summer, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “reforming defense acquisition to deliver capability at the speed of relevance.” Members asked senior defense acquisition executives direct questions about the best way to appropriately balance government and industry interests regarding intellectual property and technical data rights.

[Hearing on Defense Department Data Security Threats](#) *(C-SPAN)*

Joseph Kirschbaum, defense capabilities and management director for the Government Accountability Office, joined cybersecurity professionals and telecommunications industry leaders to testify before the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities on data security threats and challenges to the Defense Department and its personnel.

[A First Look At IBM’s New Large Language Model That’s Fine-Tuned For Defense Applications](#)

(DefenseScoop)

IBM is set to launch a new large language model that’s purpose-built for defense and national security applications and trained on data from open-source intelligence provider, Janes.

[Air Force Offers Federal Land For Private-Sector AI Data Centers](#) *(Breaking Defense)*

In an unusual move to boost President Donald Trump’s [ambitious AI agenda](#), the Air Force is now [offering](#) to lease federal land to private companies seeking to build high-powered data centers.

[Pentagon to Launch ‘Mission Network-as-a-Service’ Program](#) *(MeriTalk)*

Katie Arrington, performing the duties of the Pentagon’s chief information officer, announced that the Defense Department (DOD) is developing a new program to streamline and unify its classified data networks.

[CMMC and SWFT: Why the DIB Needs To Embrace Both](#) *(AFCEA)*

The adoption of SWFT technologies should complement Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification efforts.

Human Resources

[Mind the Legal Gap: Embedding Full-Time Spectrum Counsel in DOD Frequency Management](#) *(AFCEA)*

The electromagnetic spectrum is the nervous system of modern military operations, yet the way the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) staffs its spectrum enterprise has not kept pace with the complex, high-velocity legal environment that now shapes every major frequency decision.

Performance Management

Pentagon Leadership Directs DOD Civilian Employee Supervisors To Expedite Removal Of Underperformers (*DefenseScoop*); **DoD Strips Job Protections From Civilian Employees, Directs Managers To Fire With 'Speed And Conviction'** (*Federal News Network*)

Pentagon leaders are moving to further cull the department's civilian workforce by targeting underperformers for removal. In a new directive issued this week, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Anthony Tata laid out processes for weeding out employees who are deemed to be not up to snuff.

Risk Management

None this month