



FACT SHEET: CONTINUING ACQUISITION REFORM

Armed Services Republicans

This year, Rep. Thornberry will take a **three-pronged approach to improving DOD's acquisition systems**: enforcing reforms already enacted by Congress, continuing momentum by acting on the recommendations of congressionally chartered panels, and laying the foundations for an enduring culture of reform and excellence in acquisitions.

Enforcing Reforms: Congress has enacted over sixty of Rep. Thornberry's reform proposals, and DOD is working hard to implement most of them. Still, on some important reforms, the Pentagon has not yet made enough progress. This year, Rep. Thornberry will propose restricting some DOD funding until progress is made on key provisions, including:

- Development of a policy for Defense Business Systems;
- Establishment of a Modular Open System Approach for Major Defense Acquisition Systems;
- Establishment of an Intellectual Property Policy and Workforce;
- Reforming the 4th Estate; and
- Implementation of Rapid Prototyping and Rapid Fielding Policies.

Maintaining Momentum: Congress has chartered a number of independent panels and studies as part of its acquisition reform efforts; charging them with making recommendations to Congress on useful reforms. This year, Rep. Thornberry acts on some of the recommendations of those panels and other experts, including:

- Establishing a Pilot Program for Data Rights as an Evaluation Factor in acquisitions, a recommendation of the 813 panel;
- Raising the micro purchase threshold to \$25,000 for e-commerce portals, a request from GSA;
- Creating a definition of a subcontract, a recommendation of the 809 panel;
- Redesigning the certification and education requirements of the acquisition workforce, a recommendation of the 809 panel;
- Enhancing defense acquisition workforce carrier fields, also a recommendation of the 809 panel; and
- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Enduring Reform: In an effort to establish a culture of perpetual reform and improvement within DoD's acquisition community, Rep. Thornberry proposes:

- Establishing a Civil Servant Training Corps, modeled after ROTC and leveraging existing programs and authorities, this corps is intended to close critical skills gaps in the existing workforce;
- Requiring the DOD to include in their annual report to Congress on the health of the industrial base, a plan to eliminate vulnerabilities identified by the report; and
- Establish a Center for Acquisition Innovation at an existing university-affiliated research center to provide academic analyses and policy alternatives to Congress and DOD.