

section of the NDAA for FY 2021 within the acquisition regulations.

Authority: DoD Instruction 5000.35, Defense Acquisition Regulations (DAR) System.

Jennifer D. Johnson,
Editor/Publisher, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD-2021-OS-0056]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Information collection notice.

SUMMARY: Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations, this document provides notice DoD is submitting an Information Collection Request to OMB to collect information on establishing an understanding of the beliefs and attitudes of active component mid-grade (O-4 to O-6) and junior officers (O-2 to O-3) toward diversity and inclusion (D&I), retention and promotion, and specifically any perceived differences of retention and promotion related to race, ethnicity, and gender. The study will identify potential and existing factors that serve as barriers in retention and promotion to inform D&I policies, programs, and procedures.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 16, 2021.

ADDRESSES: The Department has requested emergency processing from OMB for this information collection request by 15 days after publication of this notice. Interested parties can access the supporting materials and collection instrument and submit comments and recommendations to OMB at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 15-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection. They will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Duncan, 571-372-7574, or

whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Officer Retention and Promotion Barrier Analysis is a qualitative study which will include virtual interviews and focus groups with active component mid-grade and junior officers from Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps to examine their beliefs and attitudes toward D&I, retention and promotion, and specifically any perceived differences of retention and promotion related to race, ethnicity, and gender. The study will identify potential and existing factors that serve as barriers which may affect such differences in retention and promotion. The study will assess topics related to retention and promotion such as career progression and mentorship, leadership, workplace climate and culture, and work-life balance. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) will analyze data in aggregate and provide key themes that emerge. In order to meet reporting requirements per the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the study needs to begin in FY 2021 and completed by FY 2022. As required by the NDAA, the study will identify barriers to diversity to assist in developing and implementing plans and processes to resolve or eliminate any barriers to diversity, and reviewing the progress of the Services in implementing previous plans and processes to resolve or eliminate barriers to diversity.

Title: Associated Form; and OMB Number: Officer Retention and Promotion Barrier Analysis; OMB Control Number 0704-ORPB.

Type of Request: Emergency.

Number of Respondents: The study will include 340 respondents (total of 20 interview respondents and 320 focus group participants).

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 340.

Average Burden per Response:

Interviews will require 60 minutes per response. Focus groups will require 90 minutes per response.

Annual Burden Hours: The total annual amount of burden hours for interviews is 20 hours. The total amount of annual burden for focus groups is 480 hours. The total annual burden hours are 500.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Once.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Request for Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the

functions of DoD, including whether the information collected has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of DoD's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Dated: June 28, 2021.

Kayyonne T. Marston,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2021-14075 Filed 6-30-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD-2021-OS-0055]

Request for Information Related to IP Evaluation and Valuation Methods and Techniques

AGENCY: Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Enablers), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Defense is soliciting information from the public (including, but not limited to, the private sector, academia, and other interested parties) related to Intellectual Property (IP) evaluation and valuation methods and techniques.

DATES: The due date for submitting comments is August 2, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: The DoD cannot receive written comments at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comments should be sent electronically to the docket listed above.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. George Winborne, Communications, Knowledge and Performance Management Lead, Intellectual Property Cadre, Office of the USD (Acquisition & Sustainment), at 202–815–3995, or email: george.o.winborne.civ@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoD has been authorized to carry out a Pilot Program on IP Evaluation for Acquisition Programs under Section 801 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. To gain a better understanding of IP valuation and evaluation strategies and recommendations, the Pilot Program seeks to obtain the views of industry, academia, and the public.

Given the broad functional, technical, and operational considerations of the DoD and the assessment scope spanning IP evaluation and valuation methods and techniques, interested parties do not need to respond to every category of information requested or question and may choose to offer additional information pertinent to the topic in the manner or format they prefer.

Interested parties may respond to questions pertinent to their organization's technical focus, expertise, and evaluation and/or valuation capabilities. Submitted responses are entirely voluntary, may be unstructured, and should include only public information (*e.g.*, do not include proprietary, business sensitive, or other forms of confidential information). Although not required, respondents are encouraged to identify the industry, academic, or occupational sector to which they belong.

The following guidance applies generally to all responses to questions in topic areas (1) through (6) below.

A. Each response should consider and identify the extent to which the response may be limited or otherwise affected by—

- The particular industry or academic sector;
- The particular technologies involved;
- The type of IP protections governing the technology;
- The particular type of contract or contracting vehicle used;
- Whether your organization is responding as an IP/technology purchaser, seller, or both; and
- Whether your organization is a prime contractor, subcontractor, or both.

B. Responses should include only public information (*e.g.*, do not include proprietary, business sensitive, or other forms of confidential information). However, if applicable, the response may indicate that additional responsive

information may be available but is not being provided because it is non-public and would be subject to confidentiality restrictions. Preferably, in such cases the response will provide information in a more abstract or generic form that may still provide information responsive to the question, but would not contain any detailed, non-public information.

(1) Assessment Mechanisms for Program IP Evaluation

a. What IP evaluation mechanisms and techniques used by your organization, or your industry or academic sector in general, could be adapted for use in DoD acquisition programs?

Please rank the IP evaluation mechanisms identified in your answer above from the most beneficial to those that are less promising, and provide any relevant examples and rationale for such ranking.

b. What commercially available IP valuation analysis and methods used by your organization, or your industry or academic sector in general, could be adapted for use in DoD acquisition programs?

Please rank the IP valuation analysis and methods identified in your answer above from the most beneficial to those that are less promising, and provide any relevant examples and rationale for such ranking.

a. Please identify any other emerging, innovative, novel, or otherwise “outside of the box” methods for IP valuation, prioritization, and IP evaluation techniques not identified above (in your responses to questions 1a. or 1b.) that could be adapted for use in DoD acquisition programs.

b. Please identify acquisition planning and technology assessment techniques used by your organization, or your industry or academic sector in general, to analyze the use of a commercial product or service or non-developmental item as an alternative to acquiring a product or service that must be specifically developed for a particular DoD acquisition program.

(2) Development of Cost-Effective IP Strategies

a. What does your organization, or your industry or academic sector in general, consider best practices for utilizing IP valuation and evaluation methods to develop cost-effective IP strategies?

b. What factors should DoD consider in developing IP strategies that plan for uncertainties (*e.g.*, design, requirement changes; emergence of disruptive technologies; selection of particular vendors; defining the sustainment

strategy) associated with predicting downstream events, and for identifying appropriate flexibility and other potential options, when these uncertainties become more defined?

(3) Assessment and Management of IP Value and Costs

a. Given the specialized mechanisms governing IP acquisitions in the national defense mission space, how can the DoD best identify, assess, and validate the value of different kinds of IP across the acquisition lifecycle?

(4) Cross-Functional Team of Subject Matter Experts

a. Does your organization, or your industry or academic sector in general, utilize a designated group or team of subject matter experts to identify and manage IP issues on behalf of the organization (*e.g.*, an IP Management Team; or a cadre of cross-functional subject matter experts analogous to that required for DoD at 10 U.S.C. 2322(b))?

b. If so, how is such team or group structured, and what functional areas of subject matter expertise are represented (*e.g.*, intellectual property, law, engineering, contracting, program management, product support and sustainment, financial analysis)?

(5) Engagement With the Private Sector

a. In conducting the Section 801 Pilot Program, how can the DoD best engage the public (including but not limited to the private sector, academia, and other interested parties) to support and inform the development of IP strategies?

b. In general, what processes and procedures can the DoD implement to enable its acquisition programs to better engage with interested parties in identifying appropriate IP evaluation methods in the development of IP strategies, preservation of program flexibility, increases in cost-effectiveness, and improvements in sustainment efforts?

(6) Future Activities

a. What specific topics and questions not discussed above should the DoD consider including as part of future requests for information related to this IP Pilot Program?

b. Please provide any additional comments or recommendations regarding the Section 801 Pilot Program that were not included in your answers above that may improve DoD's acquisition of IP.

c. Although this initial request for information is limited to responses having only publicly available information, the DoD recognizes that respondents may have non-public

information that would otherwise have been responsive to one or more questions. Please indicate whether your organization possesses any such non-public information (e.g., proprietary, business sensitive, or other forms of confidential information) that your organization may be willing to share with the DoD in support of this IP Pilot Program effort in the future, provided that such information could be shared subject to appropriate confidentiality protections. If so, please identify the nature or type of confidentiality protections that would be necessary to allow for such sharing (e.g., use and disclosure authorized only for particular purposes or to particular categories of organizations or individuals). As discussed, please note that your participation is voluntary and that your responses may be unstructured.

Dated: June 25, 2021.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2021-14004 Filed 6-30-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD-2021-OS-0033]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The DoD has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 2, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Duncan, 571-372-7574, or whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Defense Biometric

Identification System (DBIDS) Registration Application; OMB Control Number 0704-0455.

Type of Request: Extension.

Number of Respondents: 2,500,000.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 2,500,000.

Average Burden per Response: 7.5 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 312,500.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain and record the biographic and biometric data connected with positively identifying identity, eligibility for access, and fitness within DBIDS and shared with Identity Matching Engine for Security and Analysts (IMESA)/Interoperability Layer Service (IoLS). The form data is used in the determination of access at DBIDS sites and affiliated systems through use of IMESA/IoLS.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Jasmeet Seehra.

You may also submit comments and recommendations, identified by Docket ID number and title, by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, Docket ID number, and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

DOD Clearance Officer: Ms. Angela Duncan.

Requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Ms. Duncan at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

Dated: June 28, 2021.

Kayyonne T. Marston,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2021-14074 Filed 6-30-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD-2021-OS-0010]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The DoD has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 2, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Angela Duncan, 571-372-7574, or whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Certification of Qualified Products; DD Form 1718; OMB Control Number 0704-0487.

Type of Request: Extension.

Number of Respondents: 1,320.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 1,320.

Average Burden per Response: 30 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 660.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain, certify, and record qualification of products or processes falling under the DoD Qualification Program. Qualification ensures continued product performance, quality, and reliability. DD Form 1718 is sent to manufacturers every two years by the Qualifying Activity when the applicable specification does not contain complete requalification testing, and requests that manufacturers complete the form, certifying that their products still meet the specification requirements as originally tested. DD Form 1718 is included as an exhibit in an appeal or hearing case file as evidence of the reviewers' products or process qualifications in advance of, and independent of, acquisition.