

(Fed. Cir. 2014) (the inventor “admitted that he never performed the experiments described in the . . . patent, and yet he drafted the examples in the specification entirely in past-tense language.”). No results should be represented as actual results unless they have actually been achieved. Distinguishing prophetic examples from working examples in a clear manner will avoid raising issues relating to the applicant’s duty of disclosure.

### Best Practices

When drafting a patent application, care must be taken to ensure the proper tense is employed to describe experiments and test results so readers can readily distinguish between actual results and predicted results. Any ambiguities should be resolved so a person having ordinary skill in the art reading the disclosure, including those who may not have the level of skill of the inventor, can rely on the disclosure as an accurate description of experiments that support the patent claim coverage. It is a best practice to label examples as prophetic or otherwise separate them from working examples to avoid ambiguities. Such presentation will help a reader easily distinguish prophetic examples from working examples with actual experimental results and will enhance the public’s ability to rely on the patent disclosure.

### Andrew Hirshfeld,

*Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2021–14034 Filed 6–30–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

[Docket ID: USAF–2021–HQ–0003]

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of the Air Force, 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](http://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](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number:* Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (APACS); OMB Control Number 0701–0160.  
*Type of Request:* Extension.  
*Number of Respondents:* 492,000.  
*Responses per Respondent:* 1.  
*Annual Responses:* 492,000.  
*Average Burden per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 246,000.  
*Needs and Uses:* The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain PII which is used by in-country U.S. Embassy approvers to grant country travel clearances, Geographical Combatant Commands approvers to grant theater travel clearances, and by the Office of Secretary of Defense for Policy approvers to grant special area travel clearances. Aircrew PII is used for verification, identification and authentication of travelers for aircraft and personnel travel clearances, as required by DoDD 4500.54E, DoD Foreign Clearance Program.  
*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* On occasion.  
*Respondent’s Obligation:* Voluntary.  
*OMB Desk Officer:* Ms. Jasmeet Sehra.

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](mailto: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. 2021–14073 Filed 6–30–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Defense Acquisition Regulations System

### Early Engagement Opportunity: Implementation of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021

**AGENCY:** Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** DoD announces an early engagement opportunity regarding implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 within the acquisition regulations.

**DATES:** Early inputs should be submitted in writing via the Defense Acquisition Regulations System (DARS) website shown below. The website will be updated when early inputs will no longer be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit early inputs via the DARS website at [https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/early\\_engagement.html](https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/early_engagement.html).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Johnson, Tel: 703–717–8226. Send inquiries via email to [osd.dfars@mail.mil](mailto:osd.dfars@mail.mil) and reference “Early Engagement Opportunity: Implementation of NDAA for FY 2021” in the subject line.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DoD is providing an opportunity for the public to provide early inputs on implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 within the acquisition regulations. The public is invited to submit early inputs on sections of the NDAA for FY 2021 via the DARS website at [https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/early\\_engagement.html](https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/early_engagement.html). The website will be updated when early inputs will no longer be accepted. Please note, this venue does not replace or circumvent the rulemaking process. DARS will engage in formal rulemaking, in accordance with 41 U.S.C. 1707, when it has been determined that rulemaking is required to implement a

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.*

[FR Doc. 2021-14009 Filed 6-30-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-P**

## 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 which may affect such differences 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](http://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]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-P**

## 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.