

Pentagon Launches New Future Weapons Research Effort

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Fort Belvoir, VA – The Pentagon is starting a strategic research and development effort focused on developing next-generation technologies in order for the U.S. military to retain its technological advantage on the world stage.

The Pentagon is returning back to a former strategy used in the 1950s and 1980s in order to get ahead on new technology and weapons. The Long Range Research and Development Plan, or LRRDP, allows industry, academia, and small business to competitively work on new ideas and concepts while focused on specific research areas that will result in new military technologies.

"We're largely focused on the future of near peer competition. Our real goal is to identify concepts that will shape future investments," Stephen Welby, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering, said.

The LRRDP consists of five working groups that focus on the following specific technologies: space, undersea, air dominance and strike, air and missile defense and lastly, a technology-driven group with the goal of identifying and integrating commercial technological advancements.

"The idea," Welby explained, "is to discover new technologies, build and test prototypes and help establish new systems and platforms giving the U.S. a continued strategic edge.

The LRRDP plans to work with individual services and the Pentagon's research arm, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, DARPA.

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Caption: Pentagon launches new future weapons research effort to maintain the U.S. strategic edge on the world stage.

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