

POTOMAC INSTITUTE  
FOR POLICY STUDIES

## Tiers of Trust

A National Strategy for US Government Access to  
Trusted and Assured Microelectronics  
As specified in FY17 NDAA Sec. 231

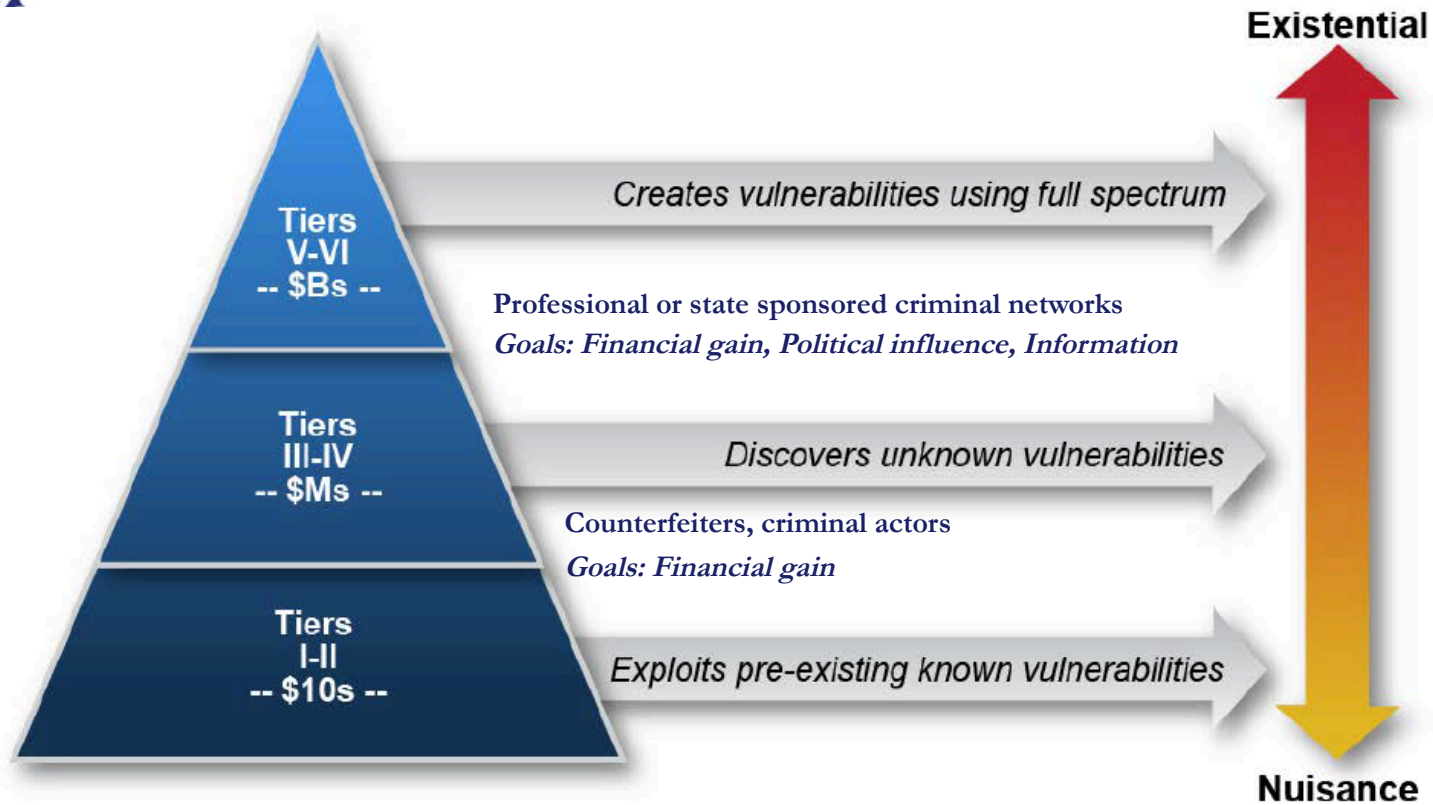
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# DSB Defined Tiers of Threat





# Hardware Cyber Threat Spectrum

Anyone can hack software.  
It takes a nation state  
to attack hardware.

Hardware attacks are by Nation state actors, capable of insertions across the supply chain; significant resources and expertise required.

*Goals: Strategic political, economic, military dominance*

Hardware Vulnerabilities  
created/inserted across supply  
chain

Existing software and  
hardware vulnerabilities  
exploited

Existing  
software/human  
vulnerabilities  
exploited



*Creates vulnerabilities using full spectrum*

Professional or state sponsored criminal networks  
*Goals: Financial gain, Political influence, Information*

*Discovers unknown vulnerabilities*

Counterfeiters, criminal actors  
*Goals: Financial gain*

*Exploits pre-existing known vulnerabilities*

Existential

Nuisance



# Threats to the Hardware Supply Chain



Hardware threats exist throughout the global microelectronics supply chain



**The Supply Chain** – From design and production to deployment  
Malicious insertions, Counterfeits, Clones, Insider Threat

## Research & Design

(Research, Development, Prototyping)

- Un-vetted 3<sup>rd</sup> party IP increases the number of people with knowledge of a design and provides opportunities to corrupt a design
- Zero Day effects can be embedded into a chip's design, go undetected, and be triggered after a chip has been produced

Tier IV, V, VI



## Production

(Fabrication)

- The U.S. is increasingly relying on off-shore foundries to supply components for our critical mission systems
- Only 2% of ASICs used in National Security Space systems come from DoD trusted foundries
- This increases the risk of malicious insertion to include Trojan horses, Kill Switches, and Backdoors

Tier V, VI



<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2008-10-01/dangerous-fakes>

## Supply, Stock and Store

(Testing and Verification, Acquisition)

- Attack vectors exist throughout the entire supply chain to include – design, fabrication, testing, packaging, distribution, and end-of-life
- 53% of counterfeit incidents from 2003 – 2013 were for discontinued (legacy) components

Tier I, II, III



## Deployment

(Deployed mission systems, Logistics & Maintenance, end-of-life)

- Insider threats and counterfeits in the upgrade/refresh process
- Information exploitation
- Electronic warfare
- Kill switches and backdoors can be used
- Poor disposal practices



Tier IV, V





## FY17 NDAA SEC 231. Strategy for Assured Access to Trusted Microelectronics

The Secretary of Defense is shall develop a strategy to ensure that the DoD has assured access to trusted microelectronics, to include:

- 1) Definitions of the various levels of trust required by classes of DoD systems
- 2) Means of classifying systems of the DoD based on the level of trust such systems are required to maintain with respect to microelectronics
- 3) Means by which trust in microelectronics can be assured
- 4) Means to increase the supplier base for assured microelectronics to ensure multiple supply pathways
- 5) An assessment of the microelectronics needs of the DoD in future years, including the need for trusted, rad-hard microelectronics
- 6) An assessment of the microelectronics needs of the DoD that may not be fulfilled by entities outside the DoD
- 7) The resources required to assure access to trusted microelectronics, including infrastructure, workforce, and investments in science and technology
- 8) A research and development strategy to ensure that the DoD can, to the maximum extent practicable, use state of the art commercial microelectronics capabilities or their equivalent, while satisfying the need for trust
- 9) Recommendations for changes in authorities, regulations, and practices, including acquisition policies, financial management, public-private partnerships policies, or in any other relevant areas, that would support the achievement of the goals of the strategy



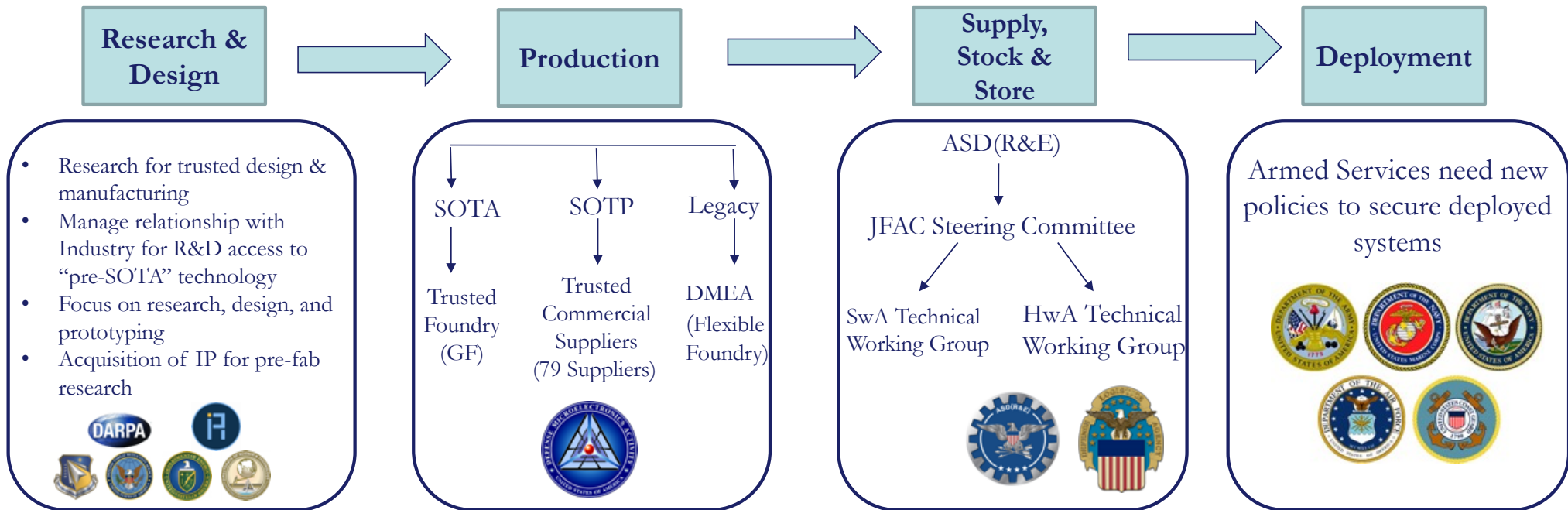
## Presidential Executive Order on Assessing and Strengthening the Manufacturing and Defense Industrial Base and Supply Chain Resiliency of the United States (July 21, 2017)

- I. Policy: A healthy manufacturing and defense industrial base and resilient supply chains are essential to the economic strength and national security of the United States.
- II. Assessment of the Manufacturing Capacity, Defense Industrial Base, and Supply Chain Resiliency of the United States.
  - 1) Report due within 270 days (April 17, 2018)
  - 2) Lead: Sec Defense. Coordinate with: Sec Commerce, Labor, Energy, Homeland Security. Consult with Sec Interior, HHS, OMB, DNI, Asst to President for National Security Affairs, Asst to President on Economic Policy, Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, others as needed.
  - 3) Assessment to include:
    - a) Identify materiel/goods essential to national security
    - b) Identify manufacturing capabilities essential to (a) above, including emerging capabilities
    - c) Identify disruptions/compromise/risks to supply chain that are likely
    - d) Assess resiliency and capacity of manufacturing and defense industrial base and supply chains to meet national security needs:
      - i. Manufacturing and physical capacity of the DIB, and ability to modernize
      - ii. Gaps in DIB including non-existent, extinct, threatened and single-point-of-failure capabilities
      - iii. Supply chains with single point of failure or limited resiliency, including 3<sup>rd</sup> tier and lower suppliers
      - iv. Energy consumption and opportunities to increase resiliency through better energy management
      - v. Domestic education and manufacturing workforce skills
      - vi. Supply chain risks of potentially unfriendly/unstable nations
      - vii. Availability of substitute or alternative sources
    - e) Identify the causes of DIB/supply chain gaps assessed in (d)
    - f) Recommend legislative, regulatory, policy changes, and assess benefits/costs (economic, strategic, national security) over short, medium, and long terms, to avoid/prepare for/ameliorate gaps and strengthen DIB and increase supply chain resiliency.



# Rationalizing & Integrating DoD Capabilities

## The Trusted Microelectronics Supply Chain





# Strategy: Address the entire supply chain

## US Government Solution – DMEA Executive Agent

### The Trusted Microelectronics Supply Chain

Research & Design

Production

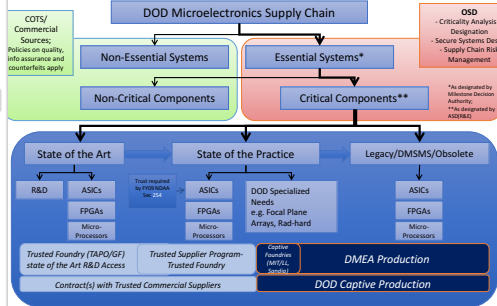
Supply,  
Stock &  
Store

Deployment

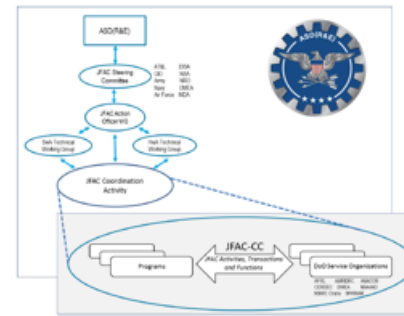
**DARPA** The DARPA solution is a menu of hardware security options that can be selectively applied to tackle known security threats

Protection	Program	Microelectronics Security Threats	Primary Impact
Strategic Performance	Government proprietary	Other	Primary Impact
	Fine Disaggregation	TSC (DARPA): Disaggregates ASICs into non-functional parts	
Strategic Performance	Transience	VAPR: Shutter test, misplacement, or end-of-life ASICs on command	Secondary Impact
	Functional Disaggregation	SPADE: Use secure parts to monitor commercial components packaged together into a single ASIC DAHS: Disaggregate ASICs into functional subcomponents CHIPS: Establish a library of pre-verified, modular ASIC design IP	
Commercial Manufacturing	Observation and Marking	CRAPT: Apply modularity to reduce ASIC design effort and allow portability across foundries iPhase: Observe ASIC functionality until after manufacture	Secondary Impact
	Verification and Validation	SHIELD: Authenticate ASICs at any point in the supply chain TRUST: Reverse engineer ASICs and compare to design	

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### JFAC Organizational Structure



Current DoD Policies Include:

- Defense Industrial Base Sector Specific Plan (2010)
- Mission Assurance Strategy (2012)
- Antiterrorism Force Protection
- Counterfeit Mitigation Policies



Designate DMEA as Executive Agent







# FY17 NDAA Sec 231 Mapped to DOD Responsible Organization

## The Trusted Microelectronics Supply Chain

### Research & Design

#### DARPA

(7) **Resources:** Invest in future infrastructure, workforce, and science and technology needed to assure access to Trusted Microelectronics, both from commercial sources and within DoD [See (4), (5), (6), (8)]

(8) **R&D Strategy for State of the Art Access:** DoD is pursuing a research and development strategy to, where practicable, use state of the art commercial microelectronics capabilities or their equivalent, while satisfying the need for trust, and to partner with industry to drive future developments in electronics. (Co-leads: DARPA and AFRL.) This includes investments in DARPA MTO's research portfolio and Electronics Resurgence Initiative

(9) **c** DARPA should be designated the lead for Trust research & development (R&D) efforts across the DOD, DOE, and Intelligence Community.

### Production

#### DMEA –Executive Agent

(1) and (2) **Establish Policy and Definitions of Levels of Trust:** DoD is developing policy on the various levels of trust required by classes of DoD systems.

(3) **Assure trust in microelectronics** via three complementary means: a) Use commercial sources whenever possible, b) Develop and utilize technologies and techniques for assuring Trust, c) Ensure a long term backup plan (DMEA Flexible Foundry).

(4) **Increase the commercial supplier base to ensure multiple supply pathways.** Continue and expand accreditation through the DMEA Trusted Supplier Program and defense industrial base infrastructure investments when needed.

(5) **Assess and plan for future anticipated microelectronics needs.** DoD anticipates a broad spectrum of future trusted microelectronics needs from commercial to highly secure, including specialty technologies and defense-specific capabilities such as rad-hard. Invest in the Armed Services to refresh critical vulnerable components and develop supply chain risk management and threat mitigation policy and tools.

(6) **Ensure a long-term backup plan to assure access for future microelectronics needs that may not be fulfilled by entities outside DoD.** In order to assure a future supply of critical microelectronics DoD will need to invest in maintaining backup design and production capabilities within DoD. This includes investments in 300mm advanced node and split fabrication production capabilities at DMEA's Flexible Foundry.

(9) **b** DMEA should be elevated to an agency and should be designated the executive agent for providing assured access to trusted microelectronics for the entire US Government.

### Supply, Stock & Store

#### JFAC

(9) **d** The Joint Federated Assurance Center (JFAC) should coordinate hardware verification and validation (V&V) for the entire USG.

### Deployment

#### SERVICES

(9) **e** The Armed Services should develop policy and regulations for supply chain risk management and threat mitigation during acquisition, sustainment, and end of life.



# Policy Recommendations

*FY17 NDAA Sec 231 (9)*

**DMEA should be elevated to an agency and should be designated the executive agent for providing assured access to trusted microelectronics for the entire US Government.**

- **Research & Design:**
  - **(7) Resources: Invest in future infrastructure, workforce, and science and technology** needed to assure access to Trusted Microelectronics, both from commercial sources and within DoD [See (4), (5), (6), (8)]
  - **(8) R&D Strategy for State of the Art Access:** DoD is pursuing a research and development strategy to, where practicable, use state of the art commercial microelectronics capabilities or their equivalent, while satisfying the need for trust, and to partner with industry to drive future developments in electronics. (Co-leads: DARPA and AFRL.) This includes investments in DARPA MTO's research portfolio and Electronics Resurgence Initiative.
  - **(9) c) DARPA** should be designated the lead for Trust research & development (R&D) efforts across the DOD, DOE, and Intelligence Community.
- **Production:**
  - **(1) and (2) Establish Policy and Definitions of Levels of Trust:** DoD is developing policy on the various levels of trust required by classes of DoD systems. DoD is developing a means of classifying systems based on the level of trust such systems are required to maintain with respect to microelectronics, to expand upon the current trust definition (DODI 5200.44).
  - **3) Assure trust in microelectronics** via three complementary means: a) Use commercial sources whenever possible, b) Develop and utilize technologies and techniques for assuring Trust, and c) Ensure a long-term backup plan (government owned and operated capability at DMEA).
  - **(4) Increase the commercial supplier base to ensure multiple supply pathways.** Continue and expand accreditation through the DMEA Trusted Supplier Program and defense industrial base infrastructure investments when needed.
  - **(5) Assess and plan for future anticipated microelectronics needs.** DoD anticipates a broad spectrum of future trusted microelectronics needs from commercial to highly secure, including specialty technologies and defense-specific capabilities such as rad-hard. Invest in the Armed Services to refresh critical vulnerable components and develop supply chain risk management and threat mitigation policy and tools{3
  - **(6) Ensure a long-term backup plan to assure access for future microelectronics needs that may not be fulfilled by entities outside DoD.** In order to assure a future supply of critical microelectronics DoD will need to invest in maintaining backup design and production capabilities within DoD. This includes investments in 300mm advanced node and split fabrication production capabilities at DMEA's Flexible Foundry
  - **(9) b) DMEA** should be elevated to an agency and should be designated the executive agent for providing assured access to trusted microelectronics for the entire US Government.
- **Supply, Stock and Store:**
  - **(9) d) The Joint Federated Assurance Center (JFAC)** should coordinate hardware verification and validation (V&V) for the entire USG.
- **Deployment:**
  - **(9) e) The Armed Services** should develop policy and regulations for supply chain risk management and threat mitigation during acquisition, sustainment, and end of life.
- **(9) a) DoD** should be designated the lead agency across the US Government on Assured Access to Trusted Microelectronics, and coordinate with Department of Energy and ODNI to establish joint



# Questions?