



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BIS TO DEPLOY U.S. AIR FORCE SUPPLY CHAIN SURVEY**

*Joint Project will Collect Data on Supply Chains Affiliated with U.S. Air Force Sustainment*

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) in coordination with the U.S. Department of Defense’s U.S. Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC), is conducting an industrial base survey of the supply chains affiliated with Air Force systems.

The resulting data will present the structure and interdependencies of organizations participating in Air Force sustainment, to include maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) related activities. This assessment will benefit the AFSC and strengthen their ability to identify and resolve supply chain deficiencies, foreign dependencies, and other challenges in the industrial base. Additionally, the survey will track difficulties faced by suppliers, including impacts resulting from the novel coronavirus, and provide opportunities for meaningful feedback and action by the U.S. Government.

BIS has authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (DPA), as amended, to conduct industry wide surveys to assess the financial health and economic competitiveness of U.S. industries that support defense capabilities and requirements.

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For more information on the assessment and overall program, contact Jason Bolton, Program Manager, Defense Industrial Base Division, Office of Technology Evaluation, Bureau of Industry and Security, at [Jason.Bolton@bis.doc.gov](mailto:Jason.Bolton@bis.doc.gov).

## **Questions and Answers (Not posted)**

**Q. What authority does the Bureau of Industry and Security have to conduct this survey?**

**A.** BIS utilizes its unique authority under the DPA to conduct research and analysis of critical technologies and industrial sectors to advance U.S. national security and economic competitiveness. BIS uses industry-specific surveys to obtain production, R&D, export control, employment, and other relevant data to inform U.S. Government policies and proposals.

**Q. What is the U.S. Air Force Sustainment Center?**

**A.** The mission of the U.S. Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC) is to sustain weapon system readiness to generate airpower for America. The AFSC oversees maintenance, repairs, installations, and supply chain activities for the Air Force. Headquartered at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the AFSC is composed of 32,000 mission critical military and civilian personnel who ensure the viability of the Air Force's most sophisticated weapons systems.

**Q. Who requested the assessment?**

**A.** The assessment was requested by the U.S. Department of Defense's U.S. Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC).

**Q. What will the information from the assessment be used for?**

**A.** This assessment is part of a broad initiative to enhance the Air Force's ability to respond to supply chain disruptions and ensure a secure and resilient defense industrial base. The data generated by the survey will also enhance the Air Force's ability to understand and monitor the behavior of the organizations comprising its sustainment ecosystem.

**Q. What type of data will the assessment produce?**

**A.** The assessment will map the Air Force supply chain in great detail. It will identify interdependencies between respondents, suppliers, customers, and government agencies. The instrument will benchmark trends in business practices, competitiveness issues, and financial health across many tiers of the Air Force's sustainment community. Accordingly, recommendations will be generated and shared with government stakeholders to aid in policy planning, outreach, and problem resolution.

**Q. Is a similar assessment being conducted for all branches of the military?**

**A.** The Air Force supply chain survey is the only BIS assessment currently examining a military branch's specific supply chain network. In the future, other military segments of the industrial base will likely be evaluated by BIS.

**Q. Has BIS conducted similar studies in the past?**

**A.** Yes. Since 1986 BIS has conducted over 60 assessments and 150 surveys on a wide range of topics, including shipbuilding, strategic materials, space and aeronautics, rocket propulsion, munitions, and semi-conductors, among others. The results of most of BIS's industrial base assessments can be found here: <https://www.bis.doc.gov/dib>.

**Q. Will the findings from this assessment be publicly available?**

**A.** In order to safeguard the Air Force supply chain and ensure the integrity of respondent information, data will be released only in aggregate form. Data provided by industry is deemed business confidential under the DPA and can be withheld from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

