

Welcome to
Mississippi Aerospace
and Defense
Symposium 2025



MISSISSIPPI AEROSPACE
& DEFENSE SYMPOSIUM

Grab Your Badges and Breakfast!

Registration

Sponsored By:



Breakfast

Sponsored By:





MADS

Welcoming Remarks

SPEAKER

The Honorable Tate Reeves
65th Governor of Mississippi



**Mississippi Aerospace
and Defense
Symposium 2025**



Forging the Future: Public-Private Partnerships in Space Innovation

SPEAKERS



Frank Klein
RocketLab



Nathan Murray
*University of
Mississippi*



Charlton Hedden
U.S. Space Force



Clay Walker
Relativity Space

Mississippi Aerospace and Defense Symposium 2025

15 Minute Break



**MISSISSIPPI AEROSPACE
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MADS

Mississippi's Defense Innovation Landscape: Pioneering Technologies for National Security

SPEAKERS



Rakhee Khambati
Reflect Orbital



Bret Perry
Anduril



Tom Marotta
The Spaceport Company

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MISSISSIPPI AEROSPACE & DEFENSE SYMPOSIUM



MADS

Talent Pipeline: Building Mississippi's Aerospace and Defense Workforce

SPEAKERS



John McKay
Mississippi Manufacturers
Association (MMA)



Trey Smith
Accelerate Mississippi

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Lunch

Sponsored by:



Mississippi Power



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MADS

**Cyber and
Technology Center**

SPEAKERS



Jim Martin
*Mississippi State
University*



Shawn Wolfe
*Cyber Crime
Division*



Martin Rivera
*Mississippi Cyber
Initiative*



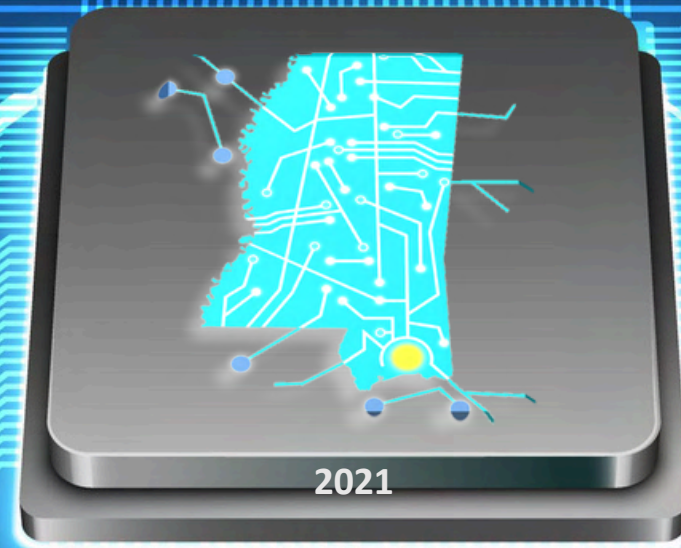
**Senator Scott
Delano**
District 50, Mississippi



Robert Eikhoff
*Federal Bureau of
Investigation*

**Mississippi Aerospace
and Defense
Symposium 2025**

MISSISSIPPI CYBER INITIATIVE



MISSISSIPPI CYBER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

COMING 2027



FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE LEGISLATURE

15 Minute Break



**MISSISSIPPI AEROSPACE
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Federal Outlook

SPEAKERS



Mike Clementi
Icebreaker Strategies



PJ Waldrop
***Mississippi Development
Authority***

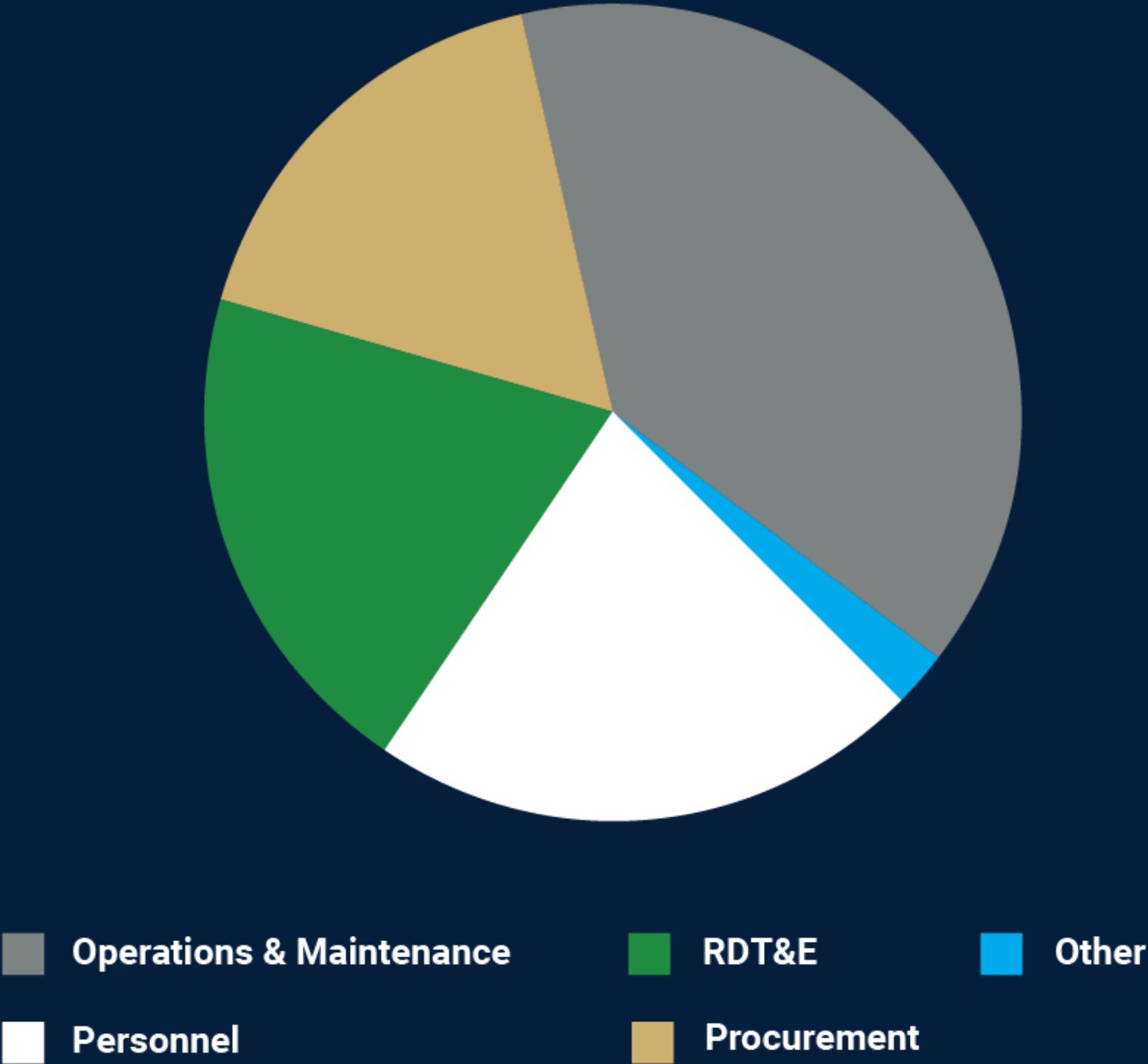


Brett Richards
Jones Walker

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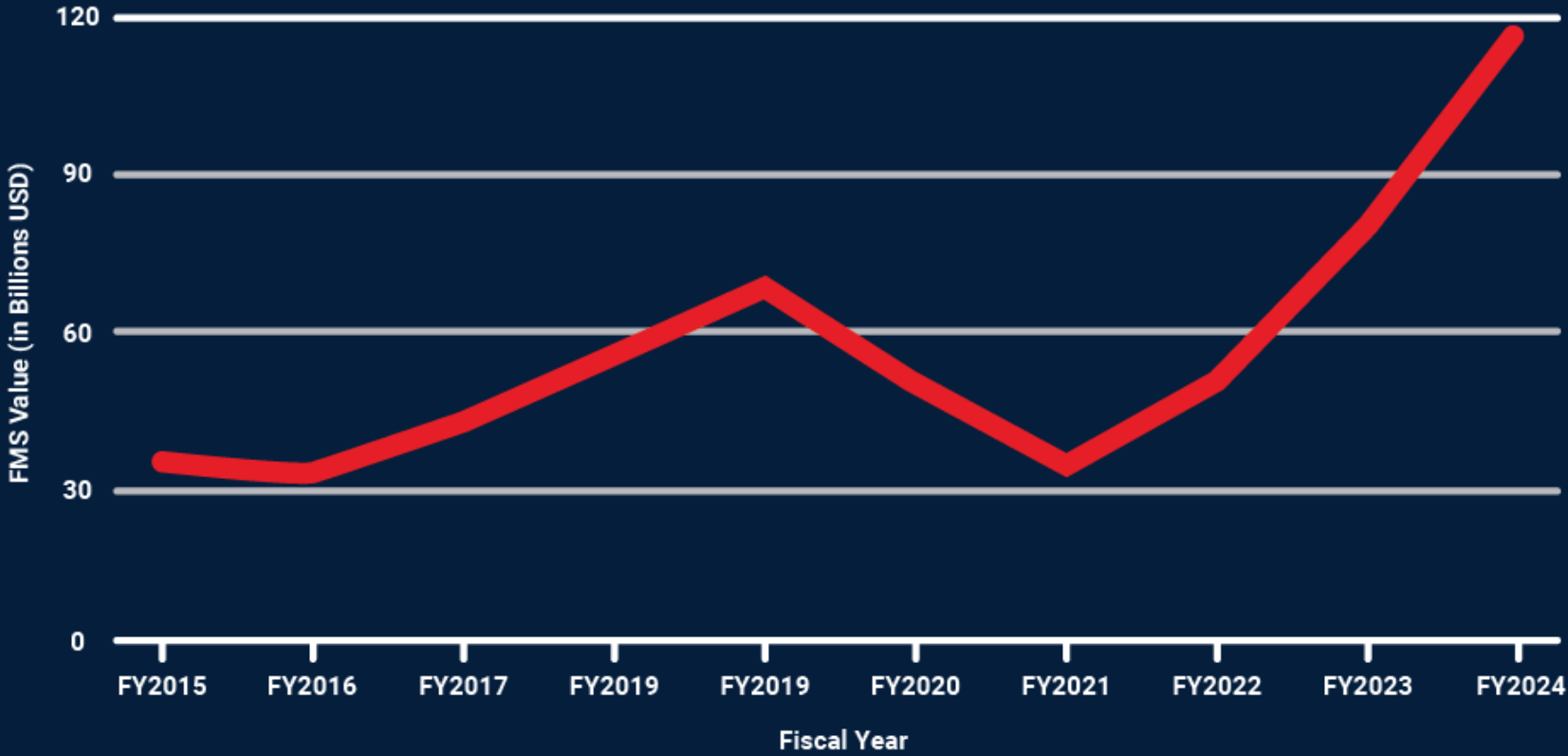
Defense Spending and Economic Scale

M e t r i c	Statistic (2025 est.)
Total U.S. Defense Budget (FY2026)	\$ 890 B
DoW share of U.S. Gross Domestic P rod uct	3.1%
DoW Contract Obligations (FY2024)	≈ \$450B
Average annual DoW contract growth (2020-2024)	+5.6%



Defense Trends

Metric	Statistic (2025 est.)
DoW R&D budget (FY2026 request)	\$143B Fundingup
AI & Autonomy programs	+25% year-over-year
Number of DIU commercial projects since 2020	500 projects, \$5B+ total
Academic R&D funding via DoW	\$6.8B annually
Foreign Military Sales (FMS) in 2024	\$120B (record)



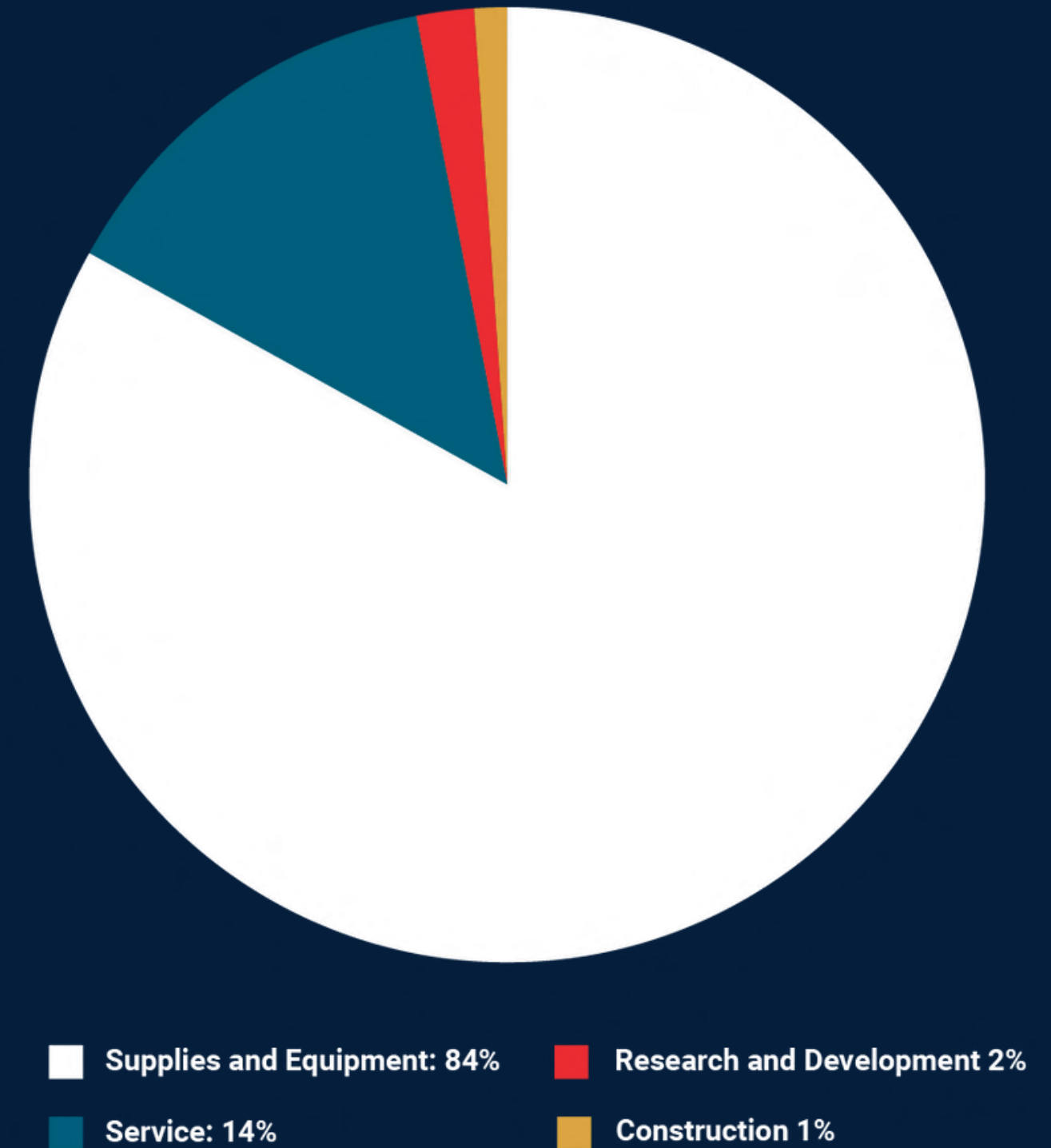
Foreign Military Sales Growth Since 2015

Mississippi Ranks High in Defense Spending

Among States

- #5 - 6.1% OF STATE GDP
- #20 - \$7B CONTRACT SPENDING
- #22 - \$8.9B SPENT IN STATE
- #23 - 35,016 NUMBER OF PERSONNEL
- #24 - \$128.9M GRANT SPENDING
- #25 - \$1.8B PERSONNEL SPENDING

- #35 - IN POPULATION



What's new?

Trump Administration 2.0

Trumpas President:

- Always fast paced and unpredictable, the second Trump Administration has been consistent only in its inconsistency and willingness to move quickly and break things.
- There have been many leadership changes and quick policy shifts.

Executive Orders;

- The current Administration has issued 209 Executive Orders, surpassing the 200 issued during the entirety of Trump's first term
 - These EOs have had an impact on funding including personal, procurements, environment, science, and defense.

Federal Program Elimination:

- Particularly at the beginning of his term but continuing at a lower but sustained rate since, the Trump Administration has attempted a sweeping overhaul of the Federal government.
- This has taken the form of eliminating entire agencies (USAID), scaling back or adding new restrictions to Federal programs (Medicare), and canceling funding for disfavored goals (green energy funds).
- The federal workforce has shrunk by approximately 154,000 employees, down from 2.1 million at the start of President Trump's term.
- A surge in deferred retirements has further reduced staffing capacity, impacting the execution of federal missions.

Leadership Changes:

- Personnel is Policy in any administration, and the Trump Administration has shifted around personnel as quickly as it has upended policy.

Current Funding Process - Government Shutdown

Traditional Budget Process:

- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) typically submits the President's budget request to Congress on the first Monday in February.
- However, with a change in Administration, delays are common. This year, the FY 2026 abbreviated budget was submitted on May 2, 2025.

Impact of the Reconciliation Process:

- The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), passed through reconciliation, disrupted the usual format:
 - Many standard budget charts and detailed justification were omitted in the President's submission.
 - Congress faced challenges in distinguishing funding sources – whether through Appropriations or Reconciliation – when drafting appropriations bills.
 - As of now, OMB has released some (not all) spending plans, leaving uncertainty around how OBBB funds will be allocated.

Impoundment of Funds (Pocket Recissions):

- Congress has the power of the Purse – normally not the President, but:
 - More decision making is moving to OMB on funding matter – away from Congress
 - Separate but equal branches of government.
 - OMB Circular – Guidance on budget formulation has been updated that allows for impoundment
- Congressional Budgets- OMB's perspective is that the Congressional budget funding levels are a high-water mark, allowing OMB to appropriate below this number

Higher tension between the two parties

- Threat and then actual layoffs of civil servants has angered the Democrats.

Current Funding Process - Government Shutdown

Impact of Budget Reconciliation Process:

- The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR 1), passed through the budget reconciliation process, disrupted the usual format:
 - Many standard budget charts and detailed justification were omitted in the President's submission.
 - Congress faced challenges in distinguishing funding sources – Appropriations or Reconciliation – when drafting appropriations bills.
 - As of now, OMB has not released all spending plans, leaving uncertainty around how OBBB funds will be allocated.
- **IMPORTANT:** The FY 25 budgets for the most part were suppressed because the Federal Government was operating under a continuation resolution – at FY 24 levels.
 - Normally, Federal agencies would have more money from the prior year to carry over into the CR
 - During this CR, Federal agencies don't have that extra buffer.

Some progress.. But long way to go

- Three packages are ready.
 - Agriculture, Legislative, and Milcon bill
 - Second tranche is Defense and Labor HHS
 - Timing uncertain

Comparative Analysis of Federal Shutdowns

SHUTDOWN PERIOD	LENGTH (DAYS)	NOTES
Oct 1 – Oct 17, 2013	16 days	Caused by budget/ACA disputes
Jan 20 – Jan 23, 2018	3 days	Short "partial" lapse
Dec 22, 2018 – Jan 25, 2019	35 days	Longest in U.S. history

Key Defense Provisions in the ‘Big Beautiful Bill’

Total Additional Defense Funding: \$150 Billion

This is supplemental to the regular defense budget, bringing total FY2026 defense spending to over **\$1.04 trillion**

Strategic Allocations:

- **\$25 Billion** for the **Golden Dome for America**: A missile defense shield modeled after Israel’s Iron Dome.
- **\$21 Billion** to **restock ammunition** and address shortages.
- **\$9 Billion** for **service member quality-of-life improvements**, including housing and healthcare.
- **\$34 Billion** for **shipbuilding** to counter China’s naval expansion.
- **\$33 Billion** for **drone systems and autonomous platforms**, including:
 - \$13.5B for small uncrewed systems
 - \$9B for collaborative combat aircraft
 - \$3B for advanced surveillance platforms

Other Notable Measures:

- Redirects unspent domestic program funds to defense.
- Supports drone manufacturing via Blue UAS and Green UAS certification programs.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Region – Emerging Leader in Industry

1. Buy-in from local government, state government and federal officials.
2. Universities investing lots of resources across the State (not just MS Gulf Coast) including in workforce development
3. Focused partnerships with groups like the Gulf Coast Business Council and other economic development groups

Defense Acquisition Reforms in FY2026 NDAA

General NDAA Acquisition Reform Highlights

- Over 100 statutory provisions repealed or amended to streamline acquisition and reduce bureaucracy.
- Portfolio-based acquisition replaces program-centric models:
 - Program Executive Officers (PEOs) redefined as Portfolio Acquisition Executives with broader authority over requirements, funding, and procurement.
- Capstone requirements established for portfolios to promote iterative development and competition.
- Software acquisition reforms:
 - Alternative pathways for testing and evaluation.
 - Expanded use of the Software Acquisition Pathway.
- Commercial Solutions Openings (CSOs) streamlined:
 - Removal of approval thresholds.
 - Authority for sole-source follow-on awards after successful prototypes.

Chairman Wicker's FORGED Act Provisions

The **FORGED Act** (Fostering Reform and Government Efficiency in Defense) was partially incorporated into the Senate NDAA version.

Its goal: modernize the Pentagon's acquisition system and boost innovation by reducing barriers for nontraditional contractors.

Key Elements from the FORGED Act in the NDAA:

1. Expanded Definition of Nontraditional Contractors:

- Includes firms without significant government R&D or reimbursed bid/proposal costs.

2. Commercial Procurement as Default:

- Nontraditional firms treated as commercial vendors unless DoD justifies otherwise.
- Encourages use of commercial products and services over bespoke development.

3. Regulatory Relief for Startups:

- Exemptions from burdensome rules that hinder small and innovative firms.
- Removes need for separate financial systems for commercial-model companies.

4. Portfolio Acquisition Strategy:

- Shifts focus from individual programs to capability portfolios.
- Allows trade-offs in cost/schedule across related technologies.

5. Streamlined Testing & Qualification:

- Accelerates qualification procedures.
- Promotes multiple sourcing and reverse engineering to enhance competition.



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September 2-4, 2026
Sheraton Flowood, MS

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**AEROSPACE AND
DEFENSE ALLIANCE
OF MISSISSIPPI**



Triple Helix of Innovation: Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise

SPEAKERS



Dr. Kelly Lucas
*University of
Southern Mississippi*



Dexter Malley
*Keesler Air
Force Base*



Dr. Dylan Temple
Integer Technologies



Dr. Leila Hamdan
*University of
Southern Mississippi*

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TRIPLE HELIX OF INNOVATION: THE ROGER F. WICKER CENTER FOR OCEAN ENTERPRISE



WICKER CENTER FOR OCC









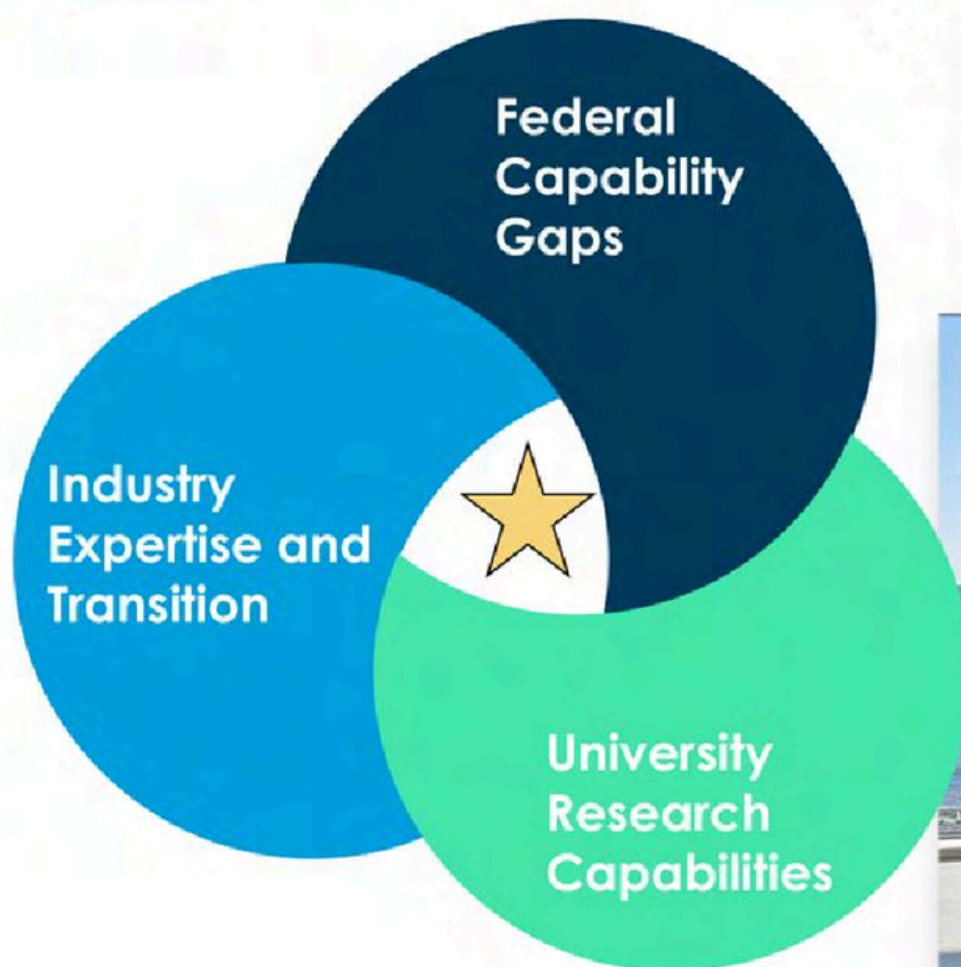




INTEGER
TECHNOLOGIES



Integer is **#95** out of America's 5000 fastest growing private companies.





MADS

Networking Reception



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 2025 | 6:00PM | ROGER F. WICKER CENTER



★ AMERICA'S SEAFOOD ★



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE



CHANDELEUR
ISLAND
BREWING COMPANY

Reception Transportation Information

Golden Nugget Departure
| Main Entrance Lobby |
4:45pm & 5:30pm

Roger F. Wicker Center
Departure | 7:30pm &
8:00pm

If you do not plan to take the bus, carpooling from the Golden Nugget is encouraged due to parking space. Driver must have valid car insurance and ID.
All passengers must have valid ID.

Do not use the main gate for the Port of Gulfport on 30th Avenue.

Do not ride share, the ride share driver will not be allowed beyond the gate.