

Making the Kessel Run: Re-Insourcing Software Development in the U.S. Air Force



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Research Question

Why and how did the Air Force stand up the Kessel Run organization to internally develop software in lieu of the traditional method of procurement by contracting ?



Literature

- Make or Buy?
- Competencies & Competitive Advantage
- (Transaction) Costs
- OMB Circular A-76
- DoD Directive 1100.4
- Government-Wide Category Management Guidance



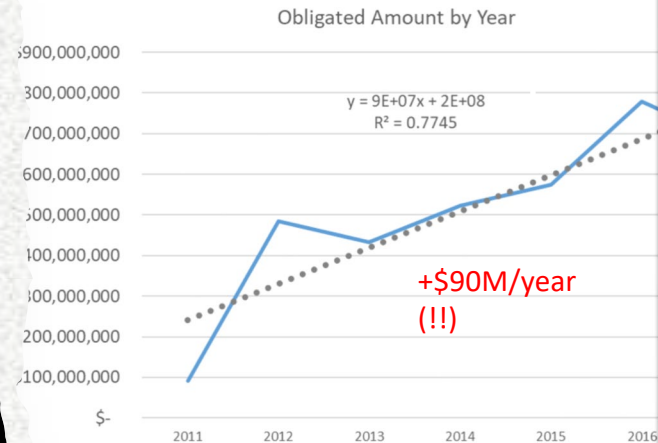
Research Approach

- Explanatory case study (Yin, 2018)
- Good for “why” and “how” questions (like ours)
- Triangulated data
 - Information from Kessel Run
 - Information from 3d parties
 - Interviews with Kessel Run key personnel



Why make the Kessel Run?

- Software development spending?
- Failed AOC 10.2 project?
- Improve software development speed & agility?
- Capability development?





I wasn't afraid or ashamed to share my opinions. Kessel Run was one of the most productive experiences of my career. Psychological safety is key in an organization that values diversity.



Making the Kessel Run



“It’s the ship that made the Kessel Run in less than twelve parsecs...She’s fast enough for you, old man.”

– Han Solo, Star Wars: A New Hope



KESSEL RUN



Questions?



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