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**Reagan Institute Task Force Calls for Strengthening
National Security Innovation Base**
An Innovation Strategy to Meet 21st-Century Threats

Washington, D.C.—The Ronald Reagan Institute’s Task Force on 21st-Century National Security Technology and Workforce today released a [report](#), titled “The Contest for Innovation: Strengthening America’s National Security Innovation Base in an Era of Strategic Competition.” The report outlines the defining national security threats facing the United States and details recommendations to ensure America can maintain its technological advantage, meet the challenges of long-term competition, and protect America’s security and prosperity.

“The defining national security threat facing the United States is competition with a rising China,” said Task Force Co-Chair and former U.S. Senator Jim Talent. “If there is one factor that is going to determine the outcome of this competition, it is the ability to innovate more successfully. Leveraging relevant innovation for national security purposes will require a more risk-tolerant mindset from our national leaders.”

“We will only be able to maintain our technological edge if we strengthen our National Security Innovation Base,” said Task Force Co-Chair and former Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work. “This will require a more coordinated and collaborative effort among all stakeholders—government, academia, and private sector actors. America and its allies have more than enough ingenuity and fortitude to harness an arsenal of technology and innovation in defense of a free and peaceful world.”

The report's recommendations include:

- A “National Security Innovation Committee,” a new U.S. government interagency coordinating body responsible for enabling, developing, guiding, and safeguarding the NSIB.
- A national “STEM Corps,” where students receive free university tuition in national-security-relevant fields and commit to spending several years working within a component of the NSIB ecosystem.
- A “National Security Innovation Base Visa” that would encourage appropriately vetted, highly skilled foreign workers to contribute their education and talents to the benefit of the NSIB.
- A “Partnership for a Strong Innovation Base,” a new international framework to help the NSIB capitalize on the capabilities of the United States’ most trusted allies.
- A number of reforms to the way the Department of Defense does business, with the goal of acculturating its technology acquisition to the more risk-positive nature of the NSIB and driving incentives for private-sector actors to participate more purposefully and robustly in the NSIB.

The National Security Innovation Base is the ecosystem of capital, research, knowledge, capabilities, policies, incentives, and people that turns ideas into innovations and transforms discoveries into useful technology and products to protect our national security. It includes the defense and national security community, private-sector companies, and universities.

The members of the Ronald Reagan Institute Task Force on 21st-Century National Security Technology and Workforce are: **The Honorable Jim Talent**, Senior Fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center and Former U.S. Senator, (R-MO); **the Honorable Robert O. Work**, Senior Counselor for Defense, Center for a New American Security and Former Deputy Secretary of Defense; **Ms. Lisa Atherton**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Textron Systems; **Congressman Jim Banks (R-IN)**, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy Reserve; **Mr. Christian Brose**, Head of Strategy, Anduril Industries and Former Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services; **Ambassador Eric S. Edelman**, Counselor, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments and Former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; **Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI)**, Captain (Ret.), U.S. Marine Corps; **Congressman Andy Kim (D-NJ)**, Former National Security Official; **Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)**, Former National Security Specialist, Department of Defense; **Mr. Donald J. Rosenberg**, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Qualcomm Incorporated; **Dr. Nadia Schadow**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute and Former Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategy; **Mr. Raj Shah**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Arceo.ai and Former Head, Defense Innovation Unit; and **Mr. Matthew Waxman**, Professor, Columbia Law School and Former Principal Deputy Director of Policy Planning, Department of State.

The report can be read by visiting reaganfoundation.org/taskforce.

For more information, visit ronaldreaganinstitute.org or follow the Reagan Institute on Twitter at [@ReaganInstitute](https://twitter.com/ReaganInstitute).

Media Contact: Margeaux Van Horn — margeaux.vanhorn@pinkston.co or 703-722-8930

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