From:	Cook, Katie
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SECTION 809 PANEL

Daily Media Clips

January 30, 2018

The Section 809 Panel is a congressionally mandated panel designed to be a catalyst that restores agility and simplicity to defense acquisition through bold and effective recommendations.

Good morning! We found several articles that you may be interested in.

America's Military is Choking on Old Technology

January 29, 2018 | Leo Blanken, Jason Lepore, Stephen Rodriguez

In a seminal 1958 article, Edward Katzenbach wrote about how militaries had been determined to maintain large horse cavalry formations well into the 20th century — "a capacity for survival that border[ed] on the miraculous" — despite overwhelming evidence from World War I that a cavalry charge on the modern battlefield was ludicrous. In the words of the last U.S. Army chief of cavalry, who insisted on maintaining tactical horses in the face of armored vehicles, "When better roller skates are made, Cavalry horses will wear them."

The U.S. military has come a long way since then — but there's still reason to believe it may be willing to put shiny new roller skates on horses. It's no secret that the Department of Defense is working to keep pace with rapid technology developments in the private sector. But the debate has focused mostly on the acquisition of technology. There is a paucity of discussion around the converse: innovative ways of discarding technology. But, absent a concerted commitment, dismantling the obsolete aspects of America's existing force will likely be a larger challenge than building the force of tomorrow.

The current rate of technological change may make many current U.S. military systems obsolete in the coming decades. Advances in artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, material science, and nanotechnology threaten to produce qualitative — not just incremental — change in the conduct of warfare in the near future. Although the U.S. has spent far more on standing military forces than other countries, for far longer, this accumulated advantage is also a vulnerability. It presents an opportunity for Washington's international adversaries and competitors to reap the advantage of their backwardness and leapfrog the U.S. with emerging technology. This is exacerbated by the Pentagon's commitment to significant investment in existing systems, the proverbial "last year's model."

Read more HERE.

Other Articles of Interest

Defense Innovation Board to Tackle DoD's Software Acquisition Problems, Using Software

January 30, 2018 | Jared Serbu

Navy Plans to Spend $100 Million on Cyber Through New Other Transaction Authority

January 30, 2018 | Jared Serbu

US Army Secretary Open to Foreign Designs for New Combat Vehicle
January 29, 2018 | Sebastian Sprenger

Congressional Hawks Want Straight Talk on Military Readiness Problems
January 29, 2018 | Joe Gould

Congress Struggles to Clinch Budget Deal
January 29, 2018 | Rachael Bade and Burgess Everett

The Pentagon Has a Cyber Policy Appointee and he's Well Known in DoD
January 29, 2018 | Mark Pomerleau

Next Steps in Improving Government Performance
January 29, 2018 | John Kamensky

Federal Workforce Bills Worth Watching in Congress this Winter
January 29, 2018 | Nicole Ogrysko

Section 809 News

Do you have a recommendation for the Section 809 Panel? GREAT! We want to hear from you. Go to our website at https://section809panel.org/recommendations/ and send us your thoughts.

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SECTION 809 PANEL | Streamlining & Codifying Acquisition