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THE NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
At George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School

5 THINGS YOU MISSED DIGITAL DEFENSE:

Modernizing the Battlefield

February 27, 2019 – Capitol Visitor's Center

1. What national security leaders fear.

The panel agreed that the two biggest threats to the United States are a technological arms race with China and the inability of the public and private sectors to communicate effectively about the cyber threats they face.

2. Investing in the workforce of the future.

Rep. Hurd said that the United States does not have enough skilled technologists to lead in Artificial Intelligence. Gen. Alexander recommended making cybersecurity more like a video game to recruit the next generation. Michael Madsen described the efforts of the Department of Defense to track the coding language skills of its employees and compensate skilled individuals as a step in the right direction.

3. Improving public private partnerships.

The panel highlighted security clearance issues, such as the time-intensive process of obtaining a clearance, a key issue blocking the private sector from being able to find solutions to pressing national security concerns.

4. Rules of engagement.

The panelists agreed that clarifying the rules of engagement is necessary to effectively counter cyberattacks in real time. The panel argued that without clear rules, private organizations do not understand their role after their networks are attacked.

5. Hostile actors in cyberspace.

Gen. Alexander is concerned about Iran flexing its muscles in cyberspace similar to the attack they launched against Saudi Aramco. Rep. Hurd zeroed in on China's investment and technology policy, saying "[i]f we can't do it in China, they shouldn't be able to do it here."



KEYNOTE

Rep. Elissa Slotkin (MI-o8)

PANELISTS

Rep. Will Hurd (TX-23)

Gen. Keith Alexander
(ret.), NSI Advisory Board
Member and former
Director, National Security
Agency

Michael Madsen, Director of
Strategic Engagements,
Defense Innovation Unit

Iram Ali, Public Policy Lead
for Defense and National
Security, Amazon Web
Services (Moderator)