



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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## Reasons to Support Pentagon's Decision to Cancel the \$13 Billion Crusader System

On May 8th the Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced they will terminate the Army's Crusader program. Despite some Congressional opposition, the termination of Crusader is a positive action for the military and its capabilities.

### WHY CRUSADER DOESN'T HELP THE MILITARY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

- **The logistics involved with deploying and maintaining the Crusader would pose a considerable strain to transport forces.** As it would be difficult and time-consuming to deploy, it may not be able to even be distributed to the theater of operations in significant numbers. **Furthermore, this weapons acquisition will not impact the military balance between forces if deployed or not.**
- The resources saved through the cancellation of this program will assist other areas of national defense that are in much need of new systems. In particular:
  - **The Air Force has been using B-52 bombers as the mainstay of its attack force since the late 1950s.** A successor is greatly needed to continue an effective force.
  - **Our Air power**, namely the Navy F-14 Tomcat's and F/A-18 Hornet's, as well as the Air Force's F-15 Eagle's, and F-16 Falcon's, **is reaching the end of its life cycle.** It needs to be replaced by newer technology, such as the Joint Strike Fighter, F-22 Raptor, and F/A-18 Super Hornet.
  - **The United States Navy, which boasted a fleet of more than 600 ships during the Reagan administration, is now at 315.** Estimates indicate that the navy ship total could fall to well under 300 in the not-too-distant future. Failure to have a navy of at least 300 ships will hinder the military's ability to fulfill its overseas requirements.
- The Crusader was designed to operate alongside Abram tanks and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles in armored divisions fighting against heavily armed divisions. **The terrorist attacks last year demonstrate that the Pentagon's vision for preparing for future wars during the 1990s was misplaced.** While preparing for a massive war against a visible enemy, we ignored the possibility of fighting extremists in small-localized conflicts. Such conflicts requiring precision guided munitions, such as bombs and cruise missiles, not artillery.
- **The Crusader does not fit into the spectrum of what the military needs to fight the wars of the future.** Unlike World War II where ground forces with massive amounts of tanks and artillery led the battles, Afghanistan is smaller-scale. **Instead the mainstay weapons are precision-guided bombs, missiles, and unmanned reconnaissance aircraft.**