

# The National Academies and America's Iron, Steel and Beyond

A. D. Romig, Jr.  
Executive Officer  
National Academy of Engineering  
Washington, DC

Established by an Act of Congress signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, the National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution providing independent scientific and technical advice to the nation whenever called upon. Since its founding, the Academy—including the National Research Council (established in 1916), National Academy of Engineering (1964), and National Academy of Medicine (1970/2015)—has completed thousands of studies on a wide range of topics to guide the nation in both peacetime and wartime. Materials and manufacturing have been at the center of many of these studies since 1863, where the first two studies addressed issues on corrosion and magnetic behavior of iron clad ships. Studies were done on alloys to support the war efforts during WW1, WW2, and the Cold War. These studies and their implications for US security and economic prosperity will be the focus of the lecture and discussion.