

Symposium 2025

Deter, Counter, and Defeat: WMD Challenges for the Joint Warfighter

Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction
Institute for National Strategic Studies
National Defense University

AGENDA

Wednesday, 16 July 2025

0715–0800 **Check-in**

0800–0810 **Administrative Remarks**

Mr. Brendan G. Melley, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

0810–0815 **Introduction**

Dr. Denise Natali, Director, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

0815–0830 **Welcome**

Vice Admiral Peter Garvin, USN, President, National Defense University

0830–0915 **Keynote Speaker**

Rear Admiral Thomas R. “TR” Buchanan, USN, Director, Plans and Policy, J5, U.S. Strategic Command

0915–1030 Panel 1: Reestablishing Deterrence Through Strategic Communications

Ms. Sarah Gamberini, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)

Ms. Lesley Kucharski, Fellow at the Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Dr. Annie Sundelson, Postdoctoral Researcher, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Ms. Marcy Fowler, Research and Analysis Manager, Open Nuclear Network

1030–1045 Break

1045–1200 Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1 (Plenary Room): China’s Nuclear Weapons and Implications for the Joint Warfighter

Mr. Christopher Andrews, Policy Fellow, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)

Dr. Phillip C. Saunders, Director, Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

Mr. Lyle Morris, Senior Fellow on Foreign Policy and National Security, Center for China Analysis, Asia Society Policy Institute

Mr. Ryan Jacimi, Team Chief, Deterrence and Diplomacy Team, Bureau of Arms Control, Deterrence, and Stability, Department of State

Breakout 2 (Ground Floor Main Room): Iran’s Nuclear Program: What’s Next?

Dr. Justin Anderson, Deputy Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)

Dr. Mahsa Rouhi, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Strategy and Military Power, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Respondent)

1215–1330 Panel 2 (Working Lunch): Emerging WMD Researchers

Dr. Justin Anderson, Deputy Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)

Dr. Jamie Kwong, Fellow, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Captain Sarah R. Stevenson, USAF, Ph.D., Nuclear Response Officer, Air Force Technical Applications Center, and Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) Scholar, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Ms. Ashley Bramucci, Assistant Research Fellow, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

1330–1445 Panel 3: Biological Weapons: A New Deterrence Framework

Dr. Diane DiEuliis, Distinguished Research Fellow, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)

Ms. Laura J. Gross, Director, On-Site Inspection and Building Partner Capacity, Defense Threat Reduction Agency

Dr. James Giordano, Director, Center for Disruptive Technology and Future Warfare, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

Dr. Jonathan Forman, Science and Technology Advisor, Emerging Threats and Technology Division, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

1445–1500 Break

1500–1545 Keynote Speaker

Mr. Hunter F. Lutinski, Acting Executive Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency

1545–1555 Closing Remarks

Mr. Brendan G. Melley, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

0730–0800 **Check-in**

0800–0815 **Administrative Remarks and Introduction**

Mr. Brendan G. Melley, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

0815–0900 **Keynote Speaker**

Lieutenant General Andrew J. Gebara, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force

0900–1015 **Panel 4: WMD Education: Strengthening “Strategic IQ” through 2030**

Mr. Brendan G. Melley, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)

Captain Mark K. Anderson, USN, Global Coordinator for CWMD (GC2), Director

Mr. Jeffrey Nolan, Senior Nuclear Weapons Planner and Policy Advisor, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Policy, J5, Joint Staff

Mr. Paul Sigler, Division Chief, Nuclear and CWMD Integration, U.S. Army Nuclear and CWMD Agency

1015–1030 **Break**

1030–1115 **Keynote Speaker**

Mr. David A. Hoagland, Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration

1115–1130 **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Brendan G. Melley, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University