

# AGENDA

## Symposium 2024

### Lenses and Mirrors: Reflections on 30 Years of Countering WMD

Thursday, 20 June 2024

- 0715-0800      **Registration**
- 0800-0805      **Administrative Remarks**  
*Mr. Brendan G. Melley*, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University
- 0805-0810      **Introduction**  
*Dr. Denise Natali*, Director, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University
- 0810-0830      **Welcome**  
*Lieutenant General Michael T. Plehn, USAF*, President, National Defense University
- 0830-0915      **Keynote Speaker**  
*Ms. Rebecca Hersman*, Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, “*The Defense Threat Reduction Agency: Partnering to Deter, Prevent, and Prevail.*”
- 0915–1030      **Panel 1: Deterring Strategic Threats**  
*Dr. Justin Anderson*, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (*Moderator*)  
*Dr. Stacie Pettyjohn*, Senior Fellow and Director, Defense Program, Center for a New American Security  
*The Hon. Madelyn Credon*, Nonresident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy, Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology, Brookings Institution  
*Mr. Tyler Hacker*, Research Fellow, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments
- 1030–1045      **Break**
- 1045-1200      **Panel 2: (R)Evolution of Bio-Related Technologies**  
*Dr. Diane DiEuliis*, Distinguished Research Fellow, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (*Moderator*)  
*Dr. Kavita Berger*, Director, Board on Life Sciences Medicine, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
*Dr. Kristin O’Connor*, Director, CB Physical RDA Directorate, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs
- 1200-1330      **Lunch**

**1330-1500**      **Panel 3: CSWMD at 30**  
*Mr. Brendan G. Melley*, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)  
*Mr. Chuck Lutes*, Former Director, CSWMD  
*Dr. W. Seth Carus*, Expert Consultant, CSWMD  
*Mr. John Caves*, Expert Consultant, CSWMD

**1500-1545**      **Keynote Speaker**  
*Lieutenant General Francis Donovan, USMC*, Vice Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, “*The Next Decade of Countering WMD*”

### Friday, 21 June 2024

**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**  
*Rear Admiral Thomas R. Buchanan, USN*, Director, J5 Plans and Policy, U.S. Strategic Command, “*Strategic Deterrence for the Next Decade*”

**0900-1030**      **Panel 4: Building Allied and Partner Resilience to Biological and Chemical Weapon Threats**  
*Ms. Sarah Gamberini*, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)  
*Mr. Paul Dean*, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Deterrence, and Stability, Department of State  
*Dr. Robert S. Pope*, Director, Cooperative Threat Reduction Department, Defense Threat Reduction Agency  
*Ms. Samantha Boyer*, Strategic Partnerships Advisor, U.S. Special Operations Command

**1030-1045**      **Break**

**1045-1200**      **Panel 5: Protecting the Homeland in a Period of Strategic Competition**  
*Mr. Brendan Melley*, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Moderator)  
*Mr. Michael Kaiser*, Deputy Assistant Secretary, CWMD Strategy, Plans and Policy, Department of Homeland Security  
*Ms. Nina Wagner*, Principal Director, Nuclear and CWMD Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense

**1200-1215**      **Closing Remarks**  
*Mr. Brendan Melley*, Director, Center for the Study of WMD, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

## Panel Topics

### **Panel 1: Deterring Strategic Threats**

The 2023 Strategic Posture Commission Report highlighted a growing number of strategic threats facing the United States and its allies and recommended bolstering U.S. strategic capabilities (nuclear and non-nuclear in response). This panel will examine different ways and means for strengthening U.S. integrated deterrence strategies to meet these challenges, to include nuclear forces, advanced conventional strike options, and key deterrence by denial (active and passive) capabilities.

### **Panel 2: (R)Evolution of Bio-Related Technologies**

This panel will feature discussion of the opportunities and risks associated with emerging biotechnology and the growth of the US Bioeconomy. In addition to understanding opportunities for defense and national security, panelists will also discuss dual use risks and threats associated with these emerging capabilities. Panelists will also discuss aspects of the new Biodefense Posture Review such as building tools for biosurveillance and early warning.

### **Panel 3: CSWMD at 30**

This panel will bring together key contributors to the CSWMD mission dating back to 1994. In conjunction with the release of the Center's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication, this panel will highlight the founding of the Center and give a review of milestones and important touchpoints in the Center's history.

### **Panel 4: Building Allied and Partner Resilience to Biological and Chemical Weapon Threats**

This panel will focus on building and maintaining resilience among our allies and partners and, together, reducing the physical and cognitive risks of chemical and biological weapons. The panel will explore challenges and opportunities in capacity building, infrastructure in multilateral and bilateral relationships (e.g., OPCW or the United Kingdom and combined work on Novichok), countering WMD disinformation, WMD-related arms control, and planning with partners on countering biological and chemical weapons threats.

### **Panel 5: Protecting the Homeland in a Period of Strategic Competition**

This panel will examine the U.S. approach to the challenges of WMD proliferation and use has changed as U.S. national security has shifted focus from rogue states and non-state actors to strategic competition. The discussion will also address the way the threat to the U.S. homeland has changed commensurately with that shift. The panelists will offer broad assessments of the degree to which the CWMD approach of the last two decades worked, whether the United States correctly estimated the threat, and the best way to allocate resources to counter and deter contemporary WMD challenges.