

Symposium 2025

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

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

AGENDA

Wednesday, 16 July 2025

0715–0800 **Registration**

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 (*confirmed*)

0815–0830 **Welcome**

Vice Admiral Peter Garvin, USN, President, National Defense University (*confirmed*)

0830–0915 **Keynote Speaker**

The Honorable Elbridge A Colby, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (*invited*)

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. Marcy Fowler, Research and Analysis Manager, Open Nuclear Network (invited)

Ms. Lesley Kucharski, Fellow at the Center for Global Security Research (CGSR), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) (confirmed)

Dr. Annie Sundelson, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (confirmed)

1030–1045 Break

1045–1200 Panel 2: 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, and Distinguished Research Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (confirmed)

Additional panelists pending confirmation

1215–1330 Working Lunch Panel: Emerging WMD Researchers

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

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

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 (confirmed)

Dr. Jamie Kwong, Carnegie Nuclear Policy Project (confirmed)

1330–1500 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)

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

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

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

1500–1545 Keynote Speaker

Major General Lyle K. Drew, USAF, Acting Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (invited)

1545–1555 Closing Remarks

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

Thursday, 17 July 2025

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

General Anthony J. Cotton, USAF, Commander, United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) (invited)

0900–1030 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 CWMD Coordinator (GC2), Director, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) (confirmed)

Mr. Jeffrey Nolan, Joint Staff J5, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Policy (confirmed)

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

1030–1045 Break

1045–1130 Keynote Speaker

Dr. Wendin Smith, Associate Administrator and Deputy Under Secretary for Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) (invited)

1130–1145 Closing Remarks

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