

# 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)

**1330–1445    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)

***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**)*

**1445–1500 Break**

**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**)*

**0900–1015    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 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*)

**1015–1030    Break**

**1030–1115    Keynote Speaker**

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

**1115–1130    Closing Remarks**

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