



Public Policy and Nuclear Threats Boot Camp

University of California

Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

JULY 5 – 15, 2026



LEADERSHIP



Linton Brooks

Former Undersecretary of the National Nuclear Security Administration & Scholar in Residence

Ambassador Linton F. Brooks is an independent consultant on national security issues, a Distinguished Research Fellow at the National Defense University, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on International Security and Arms Control. Ambassador Brooks has over six decades of experience in national security, much of it associated with nuclear weapons. He served from July 2002 to January 2007 as Administrator of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, where he was responsible for the U.S. nuclear weapons program and for the Department of Energy's international nuclear nonproliferation programs. His government service includes service as Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration, Assistant Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Chief U.S. Negotiator for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, Director of Defense Programs and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff and a number of Navy and Defense Department assignments as a 30-year career naval officer. Ambassador Brooks holds degrees in Physics from Duke University and in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland and is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Naval War College. Since 2008, he has served as an Expert in Residence during the annual Public Policy and Nuclear Threats program.



Neil Narang
Program Director

Professor Neil Narang is co-director of the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) and associate vice president for the University of California National Laboratories (UCNL) in the Office of the President. In 2015-2016, he served as a senior advisor in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship. He is currently an advisor to the Director's Office of Los Alamos National Laboratory, a faculty affiliate at the Stanford University Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), and a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Narang specializes in international relations, with a focus on issues of international security and conflict management. Specifically, his research explores the role of signaling under uncertainty in situations of bargaining and cooperation, particularly as it applies to two substantive domains: (1) crisis bargaining in both interstate and civil war, and (2) cooperation through nuclear and conventional military alliances. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, among others.

At UCNL, Narang supports the governance, contract administration, and strategic partnership for UCNL. This includes assisting with the management of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. At IGCC, Narang manages projects on grand strategy and great power competition, including projects on international reputation/credibility, the future of alliances, emerging technologies and strategic stability, nuclear security and extended deterrence, and the impact of economic interdependence on international security.

He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from UC San Diego and he holds a B.A. in Molecular Cell Biology and Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.

SPEAKERS



Michael Albertson

[Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#)

Michael Albertson is the deputy director of the Center for Global Security Research (CGSR) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Prior to CGSR, he served for 16 years in the federal government, handling a wide variety of nuclear deterrence, Russia, and nuclear arms control-related portfolios at the National Security Council Staff, State Department, Defense Department, and Intelligence Community. He is a member of the steering committee at the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC).



Kim Budil

[Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#)

Kimberly S. Budil is the director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she leads a workforce of approximately 9,000 employees and manages an annual operating budget in excess of \$3.25 billion. As director, she sets the strategic vision and guides the successful execution of programs and operations to enhance national security. She leads the development and implementation of the Laboratory's scientific vision, goals and objectives, and engages with the senior leadership of the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, and other federal agencies, as well as senior leaders across government, academia and the private sector. She serves on several boards and participates in numerous professional and community outreach activities. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. Budil holds a Ph.D. in engineering and applied science from the University of California, Davis, and a B.S. in physics from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



M. Elaine Bunn

Consultant

M. Elaine Bunn, a consultant on strategic issues, is a non-resident fellow at CSIS' Project on Nuclear Issues, NDU's Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and the Royal United Services Institute. She chairs the Nuclear Deterrence External Advisory Board for Sandia National Laboratory. She served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy from March 2013 to January 2017. Previously, she worked in international security policy at NDU's Institute for National Strategic Studies (2000-2013) and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (1980-2000). She has published articles and book chapters on deterrence, assurance of allies, strategic planning, nuclear policy, and missile defense, and speaks frequently on these issues at U.S. and international conferences.



Tobey Dalton

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Toby Dalton is senior fellow and co-director of the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His work focuses primarily on nuclear proliferation, nuclear energy, and international security, with emphasis on East Asia and South Asia. Before joining Carnegie he served in policy advisory position at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, was posted at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, and was a professional staff member on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was a Luce Scholar at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Seoul, Korea. He holds a PhD in public policy from the George Washington University.



Rebecca Gibbons

University of Southern Maine and Center for Strategic and International Studies

Rebecca Davis Gibbons is an associate professor of political science at the University of Southern Maine and a non-resident Senior Associate at the Project on Nuclear Issues at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She previously served as a fellow and associate of the Project on Managing the Atom at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and co-chaired the Beyond Nuclear Deterrence Working Group within the Research Network on Rethinking Nuclear Deterrence. Before becoming an academic, Dr. Gibbons taught elementary school among the Bikini community on Kili Island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and served as a national security policy analyst at SAIC providing support to Headquarters Air Force Strategic Stability and Countering WMD Division (AF/A10-S). Her book *The Hegemon's Tool Kit: US Leadership and the Politics of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime* was published by Cornell University Press in 2022.



Bethany Goldblum

University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Bethany Goldblum is an associate professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley and faculty scientist in the Nuclear Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Her research focuses on neutron detection, scintillation physics, experimental nuclear data, and nuclear weapons policy. She is Director of the recently awarded Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (NSSC), a multi-institution initiative that brings together nine universities and six U.S. DOE National Laboratories to train the next generation of nuclear security experts. Prior to this, she served as executive director of two earlier iterations of the NSSC. Goldblum also leads the Bay Area Neutron Group, a research team advancing neutron detection technologies, and founded and directs the Nuclear Policy Working Group, an interdisciplinary team of scholars developing policy solutions to strengthen global nuclear security. She is author or co-author of more than 100 publications in nuclear science and policy. Goldblum

holds a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.



Risa Haddal

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Risa Haddal is a nonproliferation and international security expert with over 20 years of experience in nuclear safeguards, export controls, and global security. She is currently an International Security Analyst at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), where she leads projects on nuclear safeguards, export controls, space security, and artificial intelligence for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and U.S. Department of State. Previously, Risa worked at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for five years, analyzing trade and open-source data to support nuclear safeguards. She led major research efforts and contributed directly to field inspections and State evaluations. Earlier, she spent over eight years at Sandia National Laboratories as a Senior Member of Technical Staff managing multidisciplinary teams focused on satellite imagery, machine learning, and nuclear safeguards. Risa has also held roles at the U.S. Department of State and the Department of the Treasury, working on nonproliferation policy and intelligence analysis. She holds a Master's in International Policy Studies from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and a Bachelor's in Politics and International Relations from Scripps College. She is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and has received several honors, including the IAEA Director General's Recognition Award and multiple U.S. Department of State Honor Awards.



Newell Highsmith

Newell Highsmith served for 30 years as an attorney at the U.S. Department of State, primarily on issues related to arms control and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles. He was the Assistant Legal Adviser for Arms Control and Nonproliferation from 2002 to 2013 before taking on broader responsibilities as a Deputy Legal Adviser from 2013 to 2017. He also worked on arms control and nonproliferation issues at the National Security Council (1996-98). He served as primary or sole legal adviser

on the U.S. delegations that negotiated: the 1994 Agreed Framework with North Korea; the 2008 Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation with India; and the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran. In addition, he helped shape the U.S. response to: Syria's use of chemical weapons; Syria's construction of a clandestine nuclear reactor; Russia's violations of its arms control obligations; Indian and Pakistani nuclear testing; Libya's renunciation of weapons of mass destruction; and Iraq's nuclear weapons program. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harvard Law School.



Laura Holgate

Ambassador (ret.), United States of America

Laura Holgate is an experienced national security leader with proven track record in reducing threats and managing risks from nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological weapons and advocating for safe, secure nuclear energy. She was twice ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations in Vienna, Austria and formerly Vice President at the Nuclear Threat Initiative, Special Assistant to the President at the National Security Council, and senior official at Departments of Energy and Defense. Amb. Holgate is frequently quoted and published in print and TV and is a sought-after public speaker on nuclear energy, nuclear security, chemical weapons, bioterrorism, and related international organizations.



Chris Inglis

The Honorable John C. (Chris) Inglis

Mr. Inglis serves on the boards of AIG, MITRE, Huntington Bancshares, and Andesite and as an advisor to Paladin Capital and Ballistic Ventures. Mr. Inglis was the first Senate confirmed U.S. National Cyber Director from 2021-23, the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer from 2006-14, and, at various times across the period 1982-2025, a member of the departments of Computer/Cyber Science, and Mechanical Engineering at the U.S. Military, Naval Academy, and Air Force Academies. His public service includes 28 years of fulltime service at the NSA, and post-NSA stints on various federal and

private sector advisory panels to include the U.S. Cyberspace Solarium Commission (2019-2020) which recommended a range of strategic initiatives that underpin current U.S. cyber strategy, to include the creation of a Senate confirmed U.S. National Cyber Director. Mr. Inglis holds graduate degrees from Columbia, Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities, and an honorary doctorate from the U.S. National Intelligence University. In more than 30 years of active and reserve military service, Mr. Inglis was rated as a U.S. Air Force command pilot and retired with the rank of Brigadier General.



Michael Kimmage

The Kennan Institute

Michael Kimmage is the director of the Kennan Institute, an independent think tank in Washington, DC. He served as the State Department's Office of Policy Planning from 2014 to 2016, where he held the Russia/Ukraine portfolio. He is the author, among other books, of *Collisions: The War in Ukraine and the Origins of the New Global Instability*, published by Oxford University Press in 2024.



Kim Knight

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Kim Knight is an associate program leader for the Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), coordinating Crisis Response NEST assets and associated training. Dr. Knight earned her Ph.D. by traveling the globe to collect, characterize, and interpret samples, informing the timing of massive volcanic events in Earth history before moving to the University of Chicago as a post-doctoral researcher to study the forensic record of early solar system condensates and stellar dust. Knight started her career at LLNL in 2008, specializing in characterization of fuel cycle and post-event nuclear materials. She remains a recognized expert in the application of nuclear forensics.



Douglas Loverro

Loverro Consulting, LLC

Mr. Douglas Loverro is a highly regarded national space thinker and leader who currently serves as President, Loverro Consulting, LLC. He has served in a variety of very senior government positions, including at NASA, where he led Human Exploration, in the DoD, where he led space policy, and in multiple DoD and NRO space program leadership roles over a more than 45-year career. He currently serves on the boards of multiple defense and intelligence space firms, and continues to advise government on systems, strategies, and uses of space in the national interest. In addition to his consulting practice, he is an Adjunct Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analysis, a Non-Resident Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on International Security and Arms Control.



Thom Mason

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Thomas (Thom) Mason is the Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory and President and CEO of Triad National Security, LLC. He provides strategic leadership for the Laboratory's national security, science, and mission-delivery portfolio, guiding long-term priorities, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring operational excellence across one of the nation's most complex scientific institutions.



Amy McAuliffe

University of Notre Dame

Amy McAuliffe is a Visiting Distinguished Professor of the Practice at the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs and a Fellow at the Notre Dame International Security Center. A former senior CIA official, she has extensive experience in intelligence, national security, foreign policy, weapons proliferation, emerging technologies, and counterterrorism. During her CIA career, McAuliffe served as Chair of the National Intelligence Council, Director of the President's Daily Brief, Assistant Director for

Weapons and Counterproliferation, Deputy Assistant Director for Counterterrorism, and Director of the Office of Middle East and North African Analysis. She led intelligence analysis on major global challenges, including China's rise, Iran's regional activities and nuclear program, terrorism, and emerging military technologies. Recognized for her expertise in strategic analysis and forecasting, McAuliffe helped revitalize the production of National Intelligence Estimates and advanced intelligence assessments on issues ranging from ISIS to Chinese and Russian technological developments. McAuliffe is also widely respected for her leadership and commitment to mentoring future national security professionals. Her honors include the Presidential Rank Award, the CIA's Langer Award, two CIA Director's Awards, and the U.S. Special Operations Command Medal. She holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame, American University, and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.



George Miller

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Dr. George H. Miller is Director Emeritus, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; he was the tenth Director of the Laboratory, serving from March 2006 through December 2011. Prior to becoming Laboratory Director, he served in a number of senior leadership positions at the Laboratory, including: the head of the thermonuclear design division, Associate Director in charge of the nuclear weapons program, Associate Director for National Security Programs, and Associate Director for the National Ignition Facility. Prior to 1980 Dr. Miller was a design physicist in the thermonuclear design division, responsible for 16 nuclear tests and development of the B77/B83 and W84 warheads. Dr. Miller was a major participant in the development of the Stockpile Stewardship Program and a member of the USSTRATCOM Strategic Advisory Group and Chairman of its Science, Technology, and Transformation Panel. Upon retirement, he was presented with the Gold Medal from the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Defense award for Distinguished Public Service by the Secretary of the Air Force. In 2021 Dr. Miller was the recipient of the John S. Foster Medal for his contributions to U.S. national security. He

received his BS, MS and PhD in physics from the College of William and Mary.



Rolf Mowatt-Larssen

Consultant

Rolf Mowatt-Larssen is a national security expert with more than four decades of experience in intelligence, counterproliferation, and nuclear security. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, he served as an Army officer from 1976 to 1982 before joining the Central Intelligence Agency, where he worked from 1983 to 2005. During his CIA career, he held a variety of senior positions focused on international security, weapons proliferation, and intelligence operations. From 2005 to 2008, Mowatt-Larssen served at the U.S. Department of Energy, where he focused on countering nuclear threats and strengthening U.S. national security. He subsequently joined Harvard University, where he was affiliated with the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs from 2009 to 2022, conducting research and writing on nuclear security, terrorism, intelligence, and Russian affairs. In 2022, he joined the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), where he continues to contribute to efforts aimed at reducing global nuclear risks and preventing catastrophic threats. Mowatt-Larssen is the author of two books and is widely recognized for his expertise on nuclear security, intelligence, counterterrorism, and international affairs.



Sulgiye Park

Stanford University

Sulgiye Park is a Research Scholar at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University. As an early-career scholar at the intersection of nuclear science, international and regional security, her research focuses on nuclear fuel cycles, nonproliferation and strategic challenges related to the Korean Peninsula. Drawing on a technical background and interdisciplinary experience spanning scientific and policy communities, she brings perspectives that integrate regional expertise and analytical approaches to emerging security challenges.



Andrew Reddie

University of California, Berkeley

Andrew W. Reddie is an Associate Research Professor at the University of California, Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, and Founder of the Berkeley Risk and Security Lab. His research at the intersection of technology, politics, and security examines how technology shapes international order, with a focus on nuclear weapons policy, cybersecurity, AI governance, and innovation. His methodological work focuses on the use of experiments and wargaming methods. Andrew serves in faculty leadership roles at UC Berkeley's Center for Security in Politics, the Berkeley APEC Study Center, and the UC-wide Disaster Resilience Network. He is also an affiliate of UC Berkeley's Institute of International Studies, the Nuclear Science and Security Consortium, the Institute of East Asian Studies, and the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity, as well as the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. He is a non-resident fellow within the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and a non-resident fellow at Sandia National Laboratories within the Cooperative Monitoring Center (CMC) within the Center for Global Security and Cooperation. Andrew received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.Phil. in International Relations from Oxford University, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2019.



Brad Roberts

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Dr. Brad Roberts has served as director of the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory since 2015. From 2009 to 2013, he was deputy assistant secretary of defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy. In this role, he served as policy director of the Obama administration's Nuclear Posture Review and Ballistic Missile Defense Review and led their implementation. Prior to entering government service, Dr. Roberts was a research fellow at the Institute for Defense Analyses and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, editor of The Washington Quarterly, and an adjunct professor at George

Washington University. Between leaving the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 2013 and assuming his current responsibilities, Dr. Roberts was a consulting professor at Stanford University and William Perry Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC). While at CISAC, he authored a book entitled *The Case for US Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century*, which won the Choice Award for Outstanding Academic Title in 2016.



Laura Rockwood

Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Laura Rockwood is a Senior Fellow at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). She retired from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November 2013 as the Section Head for Non-Proliferation and Policy Making in the Office of Legal Affairs after 28 years of service. During her time with the IAEA, she was the senior legal advisor on all aspects of the negotiation, interpretation, and implementation of IAEA safeguards. Prior to her current position at the VCDNP, Laura served as the Executive Director of the Open Nuclear Network (ONN) (2019-2022) and as the VCDNP's Executive Director (2015-2019). She is currently a member of ONN's Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees of VERTIC.



Lynn Rusten

National Security Consultant

Lynn Rusten is an independent national security consultant and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis. Rusten served as the vice president for the Nuclear Threat Initiative's Global Nuclear Policy Program from 2018 through 2024, where she led efforts to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons use and proliferation. With expertise in nuclear arms control, nonproliferation, and national security policy, Rusten has held senior positions in the White House, Department of State, and Congress. She served as the senior director for arms control and nonproliferation on the White House National Security Council staff and held key roles at the Department of State, including chief of staff for the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation and senior advisor in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and

Compliance, where she led the interagency process supporting the negotiation and ratification of New START. Earlier in her career, she was a senior professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee and director of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on International Security and Arms Control, and she held positions at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the Congressional Research Service. Rusten holds an MS in national security strategy from the National War College, an MA in Russian and East European studies from the University of Michigan, and a BA in government with high honors from Oberlin College.



John Scott

Los Alamos National Laboratory

John Scott is the Division Leader for X-Theoretical Design, the weapon physics design division at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). He started at LANL in 1998 as a postdoc in the weapon design division after completing his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. During his career, John has served as the system point of contact for two weapons systems and was the Lead Secondary Designer for the Reliable Replacement Warhead project at LANL. He also served as the Group Leader for the Integrated Design and Assessment Group within the Theoretical Design Division and as the Deputy Division Leader for stockpile work in the Theoretical Design Division. John served in the leadership for the LANL National Security and International Studies office and was a member of the Director's Red Team for annual assessment from 2020 to 2022.



Michael Singh

Washington Institute for Near-East Policy

Michael Singh is managing director and senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Mr. Singh was senior director for Middle East Affairs at the White House from 2007-2008, and a director on the NSC staff from 2005-2007. Earlier, he served as special assistant to Secretaries of State Powell and Rice, and at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv. Mr. Singh served as a Senate-confirmed member of the board of directors of the United States Institute of

Peace from 2022-2025. He co-chaired the Congressionally-appointed Syria Study Group, and served on the Congressional Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. In addition, he co-chaired Mitt Romney's State Department transition team in 2012, and served as Middle East advisor to the Romney campaign. Mr. Singh has been an adjunct fellow at the Belfer Center at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and an economics instructor at Harvard College, as well as a visiting scholar at ETH Zürich. Mr. Singh also serves on the boards of the Vandenberg Coalition, a network of foreign policy practitioners advancing an internationalist US foreign policy, and of Welcome.US, a bipartisan organization dedicated to assisting refugees. He is a graduate of Princeton and Harvard universities, and lives in Virginia.



Robert Soofer

U.S. Department of War

Dr. Robert Soofer is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Nuclear Deterrence and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy (NCWMD). In this capacity, Dr. Soofer supports the Assistant Secretary of War in the role of principal advisor to the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary of War for Policy and Undersecretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment on nuclear weapons, nuclear energy, chemical and biological defense programs, chemical demilitarization, and treaty management. He holds leadership, management, and advisory responsibility for the following offices: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense; Nuclear Matters; Defense Threat Reduction Agency; and Nuclear Deterrence and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy.



William Tobey

Los Alamos National Laboratory

William Tobey directs the Center for National Security and International Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He is also a Senior Fellow (nonresident) with the Avoiding Great Power Wars Project at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (BCSIA). From 2009-2021, Tobey was a Senior Fellow and Lecturer at BCSIA, writing and teaching about nuclear deterrence, arms control, nonproliferation, and security. Tobey served as Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration from 2006-2009. There, he managed the U.S. government's largest program to prevent nuclear proliferation and terrorism by detecting, securing, and disposing of dangerous nuclear material. He also served on the National Security Council Staff under three presidents, in defense policy, arms control, and counter-proliferation positions. He has participated in international negotiations ranging from the START talks with the Soviet Union to the Six Party Talks with North Korea. Tobey also has a decade of experience in investment banking and venture capital. He currently chairs the Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and is on the board of Global Santa Fe, the local world affairs council. He was a member of the board of the World Institute for Nuclear Security from 2010 to 2024, the last twelve as chair. He was also elected to the executive committee of the nonproliferation division of the American Nuclear Society, serving until 2024. His awards include the Secretary of Energy's Exceptional Service Award and the National Nuclear Security Administration Gold Medal.



John Kawika Warden

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

John Kawika Warden is a Senior Deterrence Analyst at the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He is also an affiliate of the Center for Nuclear Security Policy (CNSP) within MIT's Security Studies Program. His areas of focus include U.S. defense strategy and foreign policy; nuclear weapons and deterrence; escalation, stability, and arms control; and

technology and the future of warfare. Mr. Warden has previously served as the Director for Strategic Stability and Arms Control at the National Security Council, on the professional staff of the House Armed Services Committee, as a Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analyses, as a Senior Policy Analyst at Science Applications International Corporation, as a Senior Fellow at Pacific Forum, and as a Program Coordinator at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He holds an M.A. in Security Studies from Georgetown University and a B.A. in Political Science and History from Northwestern University.



Dean Wilkening

Dr. Dean Wilkening was a senior staff scientist in the Precision Strike Mission Area at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory working on long-range precision strike kill chains, especially for hypersonic weapons. Previous research involved various technical and policy aspects of ballistic missile defense, bioterrorism and nuclear weapons. He has participated in Defense Science Board Studies on Advanced Ballistic and Cruise Missile Threats, Constrained Military Operations, and Multi-Domain Effects, and was a member of US National Academy of Science committees on biological terrorism and ballistic missile defense. Prior to joining APL, he worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation, and the RAND Corporation. He received his PhD in physics from Harvard University, is a fellow of the American Physical Society, and has published over 60 journal articles, book chapters and monographs on a range of security topics.



Heather Williams

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Dr. Heather Williams is the director of the Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) and a senior fellow in the Defense and Security Department at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). She is an affiliate with the MIT Center for Nuclear Security Policy, an associate fellow with the Project on Managing the Atom at the Harvard Kennedy School, and a senior associate fellow with the Royal United Services Institute in London. Dr. Williams is a member of the UN

Secretary-General Advisory Board on Disarmament Affairs, and she has been a member of the Defense Science Board and the Department of State International Security Advisory Board. Until 2022, she was a senior lecturer (associate professor) at King's College London and served as a specialist adviser to the House of Lords International Relations Committee. Dr. Williams has a PhD in war studies from King's College London, an MA in security policy studies from the George Washington University, and a BA in international relations and Russian studies from Boston University.



Tong Zhao

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Tong Zhao is a Senior Fellow at the Nuclear Policy Program and the China Center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Formerly based in Beijing, he now conducts research in Washington on nuclear deterrence, nonproliferation, arms control, emerging military technologies, China's security policy, and regional security in the Asia-Pacific. With a technical background, he also serves as a nonresident researcher with Princeton University's Science and Global Security Program. He holds a PhD in science, technology, and international affairs from Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as an MA in international relations and a BS in physics from Tsinghua University. He is the author of "Political Drivers of China's Changing Nuclear Policy: Implications for U.S.-China Nuclear Relations and International Security", "Tides of Change: China's Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarines and Strategic Stability" and "Narrowing the U.S.-China Gap on Missile Defense: How to Help Forestall a Nuclear Arms Race." He has published in The Atlantic, The Economist, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and New York Times, among others.



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