

**Strategic Weapons in the 21st Century:
Hedging Against Uncertainty**

January 29, 2009

“Forces, Infrastructure, Science and Technology”

This session of the conference was planned around the following questions:

- What options in force readiness, infrastructure responsiveness, and R&D futures would permit hedging safely at lower stockpile numbers, fewer deployed weapons, and reduced alert levels?
- What forces, infrastructure, and S&T investments will be required as we reduce the number of nuclear weapons?
- How do you posture the forces in the absence of a well-defined threat?
- What are the technical challenges associated with a responsive infrastructure that is designed to support the lowest possible levels yet ensure our security against any adverse future developments?
- How do we address tactical vs. strategic responsiveness?

Following are the papers by the two principals who presented and led the discussion for the session. Professor Sidney Drell’s paper focuses on DOE issues, most notably the need and approach for maintaining expertise in light of the success to date of the Stockpile Stewardship Program. ADM Richard Mies (ret) takes a broad view of the challenges to managing risks and uncertainties associated with nuclear weapons as we face the future.