



Strategic Weapons in the 21st Century

January 31, 2008
Washington DC

Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory are hosting the second annual Conference on Strategic Weapons in the 21st Century.

The post-cold war, post-9/11 international security environment continues to evolve, while threats from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the rise of international terrorism continue. In this environment, the defense establishment is transforming doctrine, forces, operations, and infrastructure. The Quadrennial Defense and Nuclear Posture Reviews highlighted corresponding goals and identified issues regarding nuclear, conventional, information, and other forces needed to assure and defend allies and to dissuade, deter, and defeat a spectrum of threats in a constrained budget environment.

Policy makers, technologists, and other experts will gather to examine critical issues concerning the roles of strategic weapons in U.S. national security. Invitees will also include representatives of the next generation of strategic thinkers. Discussion will focus on selected issues regarding security policy, defense programs, technological advances, and international developments. This forum provides an ongoing, in depth dialog on topics related to roles of strategic weapons, both nuclear and conventional.

In preparation for the Conference, working groups are developing discussion papers focusing on four substantive areas critical to the future direction for our nation's strategic weapons posture. These papers will be distributed in advance. Topics and working group co-chairs are as follows:

Proliferation Dynamics: Motivations, Intentions and Interactions between Nuclear & Non-nuclear States – Co-Chairs: Bob Einhorn & Bob Joseph

Role of Deterrence in the Post Cold War, Post 9/11 World – Co-Chairs: Elaine Bunn & Richard Mies

Implementation of Strategic Capabilities and their Impacts on Assurance, Dissuasion and Deterrence – Co-Chairs: Bob Barker & Jim Miller

Understanding Key Divergent Views on U.S. Nuclear Policy – Co-Chairs: Chris Chyba & JD Crouch

After brief presentations by working group co-chairs, a roundtable discussion of all Conference participants will address cross-cutting issues and themes. Emphasis will be on clarity rather than consensus, highlighting what we know, what we don't know, and what we need to find out.

Participation is by invitation. For additional information or questions contact Paul White (LANL/NSO) 505-667-6120 (pwhite@lanl.gov) or Ron Lehman (LLNL/CGSR) 925-422-6141 (lehman3@llnl.gov).