

9th Annual SMA Conference

Jointly with DHS/S&T and

In cooperation with DNI/NIC

Date: 28-29 October 2015

Jacob E. Smart Building
Joint Base Andrews

Theme

“No War/No Peace...A New Paradigm in International Relations and a New Normal?”

Background:

Since the end of the cold war and with the advent of the new century, new geopolitical realities have emerged that have made classical wars with national military forces pitted against each other far less likely. What we witness are new categories of conflicts that cannot be considered full scale wars in the classical sense but cannot be described as “peace” either. Small scale conflicts are complemented with intense engagement in the Information and other Spheres. These will almost certainly have great implications in the legal domains as well new forms of alliances. Multiple factors have come into play for these trends to emerge. This is a story of change vs continuity and the conference focusses on what has changed since the collapse of the USSR. As such there are structural challenges (Industrial Age bureaucracy built to fight the Cold War) and there are intellectual challenges (intellectual prisons!) that prevent us from adapting and thriving in this new environment.

Such blurring of war and peace we are witnessing is directly related to the softening of previously-considered-"solid" categorical binary distinctions (state/non-state, criminal/noncriminal, licit/illicit, etc.). Much of our diplomatic, legal, and military affairs have been predicated on being to draw clear distinctions between these categories, and many actors are realizing that blurring them provides "strategic ambiguity." Many of the issues associated with the blurring of these categories come to most obvious crystallization in the cyber realm. Many of our adversaries are much better than we are at dealing with and indeed exploiting these fluid situations.

There are several factors contributing to the issue of such "blurring of war and peace":

First, changes to the type of actors involved, which leads to phenomena of the blurring of state/non-state, licit/illicit, organized crime/militant actions, etc.

Second, changes in intent of those actors i.e. some actors view there is an advantage to blurring the lines between peacetime and wartime operations as an approach to advance their interests while circumventing the military strength of those that might oppose them and to avoid providing a pretext for others to intervene militarily against them.

Third, changes in the capabilities/means that make such an approach more viable, e.g. cyber, media operations, the use of proxies, etc.

And fourth and possibly most importantly, changes to the strategic context of international political-security dynamics which will foster and enable such approaches.

Some of these concepts have been around for many decades like MOOTW (Military Operations Other Than War) but there are some fundamental differences that require very different framing and structure and we simply haven't gotten our heads around it as a nation. Government control of information is fading which has given rise to the global citizen phenomena and globalized what were once geographically bounded, nationalist movements. Even terrorism is globalizing. We read headlines, discuss, and face things today that just didn't exist 40 years ago...but our structures to cope were built 70 years ago. We are structured for regime change, to fight nations, and now by proxy, "groups" but we haven't got a clue how to defeat "movements" that don't possess the familiar nation-state COGs and increasingly, that's what we will face. This all speaks to the limits of power as the sources, derivation and locus of power is being completely reinvented. The question is do we need a MOOTW II?

The intent of the Conference is to examine the root causes of these new types of conflicts and their implications and provide a contextual understanding. Emphasis is predominantly on the diagnosing of the underlying causes, about orientation and getting to a meaningful articulation of the problem. In so doing, the conference will emphasize and highlight the need for a "Whole-of-Government" approach to facing and coming to grips with these challenges. These include military power, diplomacy, criminal justice, etc...The Panels will range from those with holistic understanding of these trends to others with a regional focus.

Day 1 (28 October)

Introduction:

Opening Session: Brig Gen Charles Moore (JS/J-39) and Mr. Ben Riley (PD DASD (EC&P))

Key Note Speaker: Gen Breedlove (EUCOM). To be confirmed

Panel 1: No War/No Peace...The New Geopolitical Landscape

Panel Moderator: Mr. Dan Flynn (DNI/NIC)

Panel Members: Van Jackson (CNAS), Dmitry Gorenburg (CNA), and Frank Hoffman (NDU)

Panel 2: No War/No Peace and the New Sources of Power...What is it and who wields it?

Panel Moderator: CAPT Todd Veazie (NCTC)

Potential Panel Members: Dr. Amy Zalman (World Future Society), others to be confirmed

Panel 3: No War/No Peace...Challenges to Homeland Security

Key Note Speaker: Dr. Reggie Brothers (DHS, Under Secretary S&T)

Panel Moderator: Dr. Amy Pate (Univ. of MD/START)

Panel Members: Mr. David Gersten (DHS)

To be Confirmed: Dr. Kay Mereish (DHS/I&A), Dr. Stevan Weine (University of Illinois, Chicago), Dr. Gina Ligon (University of Nebraska, Omaha), Dr. Alejandro Beutel (START, University of Maryland), DR. John Stevenson (START, UMD), Dr. Steve Sin (START, UMD)

Panel 4: No War/No Peace...Challenges in Eurasia

Panel Moderator: Dr. Eugene Rumer (Carnegie)

Panel Members: Dr. Marlene Laruelle, (George Washington University); Dr. Paul Stronski, (Carnegie Endowment); Mr. Robert Nurick, (Atlantic Council)

Panel 5: Q&A Session

Panel Moderators: Dr. Allison Astorino Courtois (NSI), Dr. Ben Jensen (USMC Univ. and AU), Mr. Richard Lum (PACOM), and Ms. Sarah Canna (NSI)

Panel Topics:

- JS and Command Takeaways from the Conference
- Panel Lead Takeaways
- Moderated Audience Participation: What are the Takeaways for you?

Day 2 (29 October)

Introduction:

Key Note Speaker: Mr. Greg Treverton (NIC).

Panel 6: Operational Perspectives: Opportunities and Challenges (Joint Staff and the Commands)

Panel Moderator: Joint Staff/J-39

Panel members: To be confirmed

Panel 7: No War/No Peace...Challenges in the Pacific

Panel Moderator: Dr. Van Jackson (CNAS)

Panel Members: Dr. Zack Cooper (CSIS), Dr. Elbridge Colby (CNAS)

Panel 8: No War/No Peace...So it is complex, but what can we do about it?

Panel Moderator: Dr. Allison Astorino-Courtois (NSI)

Panel Members: Dr Dana Eyre (SoSA), others to be confirmed

Panel 9: Q&A Session

Panel Moderators: Dr. Allison Astorino Courtois (NSI), Dr. Ben Jensen (USMC Univ. and AU), Mr. Richard Lum (PACOM), and Ms. Sarah Canna (NSI)

Panel Topics:

- JS and Command Takeaways from the Conference
- Panel Lead Takeaways
- Moderated Audience Participation: What are the Takeaways for you?

Graduate Students Poster Sessions

Organizer: Dr. Amy Pate (Univ. of MD/START)

Participants: Univ. of MD, Univ. of Nebraska Omaha, Texas A&M, GMU, George Washington Univ., others to be confirmed