



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

NATO's 2023 'deterrence baseline' and the future of extended nuclear deterrence

Wednesday 19 – Saturday 22 July 2023 | WP3131

In association with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), UK Ministry of Defence, Sandia National Laboratories

Key questions:

- After setting “a new baseline for our deterrence and defence posture” at the June 2022 Madrid summit, what progress have NATO allies made in strengthening deterrence? What new commitments were made in Vilnius?
- How do recent developments in US defence strategy and deterrence policy impact NATO's deterrence posture?
- Is NATO's nuclear deterrent fit for purpose?
- Are further steps to strengthen US extended nuclear deterrence necessary?

Wednesday 19 July

1700	Participants arrive
1830	Drinks reception
1900	Dinner – informal dress

Thursday 20 July

0800-0845	Breakfast
0900-0915	Welcome and introduction Mark Smith Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

In association with:



0915-1045

1. Strengthening deterrence: implementation tasks and challenges

- What are NATO's priorities for strengthening deterrence post-Vilnius? Where does nuclear deterrence fit in those priorities?
- What are the Biden administration's priorities for strengthening regional security and extended deterrence?
- What is the status of the efforts modernise NATO's nuclear forces? To broaden sharing arrangements? To enhance the effectiveness of exercises? To raise NATO's nuclear IQ? Are there significant barriers to progress in implementing these commitments?

Nina Wagner

Principal Director, Nuclear & Countering WMD Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington DC

Sarah Tarry

Director, Defence Policy and Capabilities, NATO HQ, Brussels

1045-1130

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1130-1300

2. NATO's changing nuclear debate

- How have Russian aggression and nuclear threats changed the nuclear debate at NATO and in capitals?
- What impact will NATO's prospective new members have on that debate?
- What more should and can be done to accelerate nuclear learning?

Claudia Major

Head of Research Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

John Rydquist

Deputy Director, Department for Security Policy and International Relations, Ministry of Defence, Stockholm

Wendin Smith

Director of NATO's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Nonproliferation Centre (ACDC) NATO HQ, Brussels

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1430

Free time

1430-1600

3. Re-calibrating the Russian nuclear threat to NATO

- Has Russia's war against Ukraine increased or decreased the danger to the allies posed by Russian nuclear forces? How?
- What lessons might leaders in Moscow have drawn from the Ukraine war about Russian military strategy and posture and about the military and political values of nuclear weapons?
- What lessons might they have drawn about NATO's credibility and about the effectiveness of NATO's nuclear deterrent?

Corentin Brustlein

Deputy Director, Defence Policy and Strategic Foresight, Ministry of Armed Forces, Paris

Katarzyna Zysk

Professor of International Relations and Contemporary History, Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies, Oslo

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1800

4. Rethinking the unthinkable

- Are there plausible pathways to nuclear conflict between Russia and NATO? Which scenarios are most concerning?
- What roles might the nuclear weapons of both sides play in such a conflict?
- Is the alliance's existing nuclear deterrence posture likely to be seen in Moscow as credible and effective in these scenarios?

Greg Weaver

Principal, Strategy to Plans LLC, Washington DC

Diego Cano Prentice

Nuclear Strategy and Policy Lead Staff Officer, NATO Allied Command Transformation, Norfolk, Virginia

1800-1900

Free time

1900

Drinks reception

1930

Dinner

Friday 21 July

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

5. "Information confrontation" and deterrence in Europe

- How does Russia manipulate the information ecosystem to erode deterrence?
- What counters are necessary and appropriate for the allies and alliance?
- What lessons can be learned from past efforts to address this challenge?

Chris Ford

Former US Assistant Secretary of State, Washington DC

Tobias Bunde

Director Research & Policy, Munich Security Conference Foundation, Berlin

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

6. The emerging two-peer challenge and the future of nuclear strategy

- How will China's emergence as a second nuclear peer to the US affect US nuclear deterrence strategy and posture?
- How will extended deterrence, arms control, and hedging practices be affected?
- What are the implications for NATO? How will it need to adapt to support these changes?

Brad Roberts

Director, Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore

Melanie Rosselet

Director, Strategy and Policy, Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), Paris

1230-1330

Lunch

1330-1400

Free time

1400-1530

7. Creating strategic advantage while protecting strategic stability

- In a net assessment framework, does the nuclear deterrence balance in Europe remain stable? If so, why? If not, how has it shifted?
- Is there an imbalance that requires new measures by the US and its allies?
- How does NATO ensure that its nuclear deterrent is “defensive, proportionate, and fully in line with international commitments?”
- In the net assessment framework, does the new technology threaten the new deterrent balance?

Sophie Guelff

Deputy Director, Strategic Advantage Cell, Strategy Unit, National Security Council Secretariat, Cabinet Office, London

Anna Peczeli

Senior Fellow, Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore

1530-1600

Tea/coffee

1600-1730

8. Fit for purpose? Next steps for NATO’s deterrence and defence posture

- For what purposes must NATO’s nuclear deterrent be fit?
- What are its strengths and weaknesses?
- Is the trajectory of improvement keeping pace with the eroding security environment? If not, what innovations are needed?
- How can and should NATO’s posture adapt to its new geography as membership expands?
- What challenges can be anticipated, and how might they be addressed?

Austin Long

Joint Staff J5 Deputy Director for Strategic Stability, US Department of Defense, Arlington

Garret Martin

Deputy Director, Nuclear Policy, Ministry of Defence, London

1730-1830

Free time

1830

Drinks reception

1900

Dinner

Saturday 22 July

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900

Checkout and departures