



Concept Paper

Center for Strategic Leadership,
U.S. Army War College



ANNOUNCING THE THIRD ANNUAL PROTEUS “FUTURES” ACADEMIC WORKSHOP, 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2008, AND “CALL FOR PAPERS”

Analyzing Future 21st Century National Security Challenges: Strategic Reconnaissance and Creative Thinking to Prevent Strategic Surprise

The future is not a result of choices among alternative paths offered by the present, but a place that is created—created first in the mind and will, created next in activity. The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found, but made, and the activity of making them, changes both the maker and the destination.

—John Schaar

The United States Army War College in collaboration with the National Intelligence University, Office of the Director of National Intelligence and The Global Futures Forum will sponsor the Third Annual Proteus “Futures” Academic Workshop from 16-18 September 2008 at the Center for Strategic Leadership (CSL), Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. The overall objective of this year’s workshop is to assist in the ongoing efforts identified below by bringing together an international audience of experts from the military, national security and intelligence communities, government and non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector to present papers on global trends that will offer significant challenges and opportunities for United States and its partners well into the 21st century and to exchange ideas and showcase studies on “futuring” methods and processes for gaining foresight and coping with future uncertainty and complexity.

THE FUTURE: WHO’S LOOKING?

Can we see and create the future? Since 9/11 there has been a concentrated effort by the U.S. Government, most specifically the Department of State, the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community to better understand the crosscutting complex challenges that will characterize the future global landscape. Much work has been done in the area. Seminal works like the National Intelligence Council’s “Mapping the Global Future,” the Department of State’s “Project Horizon,” and “Advisory Committee On Transformational Diplomacy: Final Report of The State Department in 2025 Working Group” and the U.S. Joint Forces Command’s Future “Joint Operational Environment (JOE),” all demonstrate that “foresight” can be achieved.

These reports were developed by those who are looking beyond short term and single issues and are focusing over the horizon to examine plausible events, exploring possible convergences, and developing strategic forecasts and scenarios in order to holistically view the future environment. This systems approach to “futuring” and decision making, continued on an iterative basis, will help in the development of viable long term adaptive solutions to existing and emerging extremely complex interdependent issues that cut across generational, cultural, social, political, psychological, religious and economic boundaries.

WORKSHOP FOCUS

The focus of this year effort is “Strategic Reconnaissance,” the art and science of “futuring” or looking over the horizon beyond current or short term events in order to identify, define and examine global and regional future scenarios and

trends that will challenge national and international security in the year 2030. This year's theme centers on identifying and analyzing major future trends (what we see) across various functional areas and examining methods and processes to gain foresight (how do we see).

WORKSHOP DESIGN AND DELIVERABLES

The workshop will be an unclassified event hosted by Proteus USA, centering on paper and panel discussions that focus on the topical panel themes outlined on the next page. The event will begin with a morning plenary session, then a catered lunch with a guest speaker followed by afternoon topical panel paper presentations and discussions. That evening there will be a dinner with an address by a keynote speaker to set the stage for the subsequent working panel sessions and discussions on day two. Day two will consist of panel presentations and a catered lunch with guest speaker. Day three includes panel presentations and discussions, followed by a wrap-up session and workshop summary.

Prior to the workshop, participants and panel chairpersons will receive an electronic portfolio containing security and administrative instructions, workshop agenda, panel assignments, and other reference material. After the workshop, Proteus USA will develop an Executive Workshop Report covering discussions and proceedings. They will also publish a selection of the papers submitted, which are chosen for creativity, quality and manner in which the workshop theme and topics are examined. Each participant will receive a Compact Disc (CD) containing all releasable papers and materials on the final day of the event. The Proteus USA website <https://www.carlisle.army.mil/proteus/workshop/> will also contain this information.

CALL FOR PAPERS

All communities (Government, Interagency, Department of Defense/Military, Intelligence, academia, business and international) are invited to submit papers on future trends and national security issues and challenges related to the panel themes listed below. Abstracts should be no longer than two pages and should be submitted to Proteus USA by 20 May 2008 (See contact information on page 3). Proteus USA will review and select the abstracts for workshop presentation by 1 June 2008. Final papers should be between 4,000 and 10,000 words and contain proper footnotes or endnotes and bibliographies. If an author plans to use presentation slides, the slide deck must be submitted on a CD or sent electronically in PowerPoint to the Proteus USA staff by 10 September 2008. All papers must be delivered on CD or sent electronically to the Proteus USA no later than 15 September 2008. Proteus USA will review any exceptions to these dates on a case by case basis.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Tuesday, 16 September 2008 – The Collins Center

- 0730 – 0900 Participant Arrival and Workshop Registration
- 0900 – 1145 Plenary Session: Proteus: Future Threats and Opportunities
- 1145 – 1245 Lunch, Cafeteria Style
- 1300 – 1700 Panel Paper Presentations and Discussions
- 1800 – 2100 Cocktails and Dinner w/Guest Speaker

Wednesday, 17 September 2008 – The Collins Center

- 0730 – 0830 Continental Breakfast
- 0830 – 1200 Panel Paper Presentations and Discussions
- 1200 – 1300 Lunch w/Keynote Speaker
- 1315 – 1730 Panel Paper Presentations and Discussions (Dinner on your own)

Thursday, 18 September 2008 – The Collins Center

- 0730 – 0830 Continental Breakfast
- 0830 – 1130 Panel Paper Presentations and Discussions
- 1130 – 1200 Wrap-Up and Workshop Summary

PANELS AND EXAMPLES OF PAPER AND PRESENTATION TOPICS

** Note: the first four general categories and topical subject areas are not unique and were derived from a survey of the National Intelligence Council, Department of Defense, and Department of State documents mentioned above.

1. Future Trends and Implications in Governance, Politics, and Conflict

- Failing/Failed and Fragmenting States, Near Peer competitors (Economic and Military) Global/Regional Governance and Alliances, Emergent Leverages
- Non-state Actors: Super Empowered Individuals, Transnational Groups, Religious, Radical, Ethnic, Ideological and Criminal entities
- The Westphalian System, Mega Cities/City States, Ungoverned Spaces

2. Future Trends and Implications in Demography, Societies and Cultures

- Social, Cultural Value Shifts, Religious and Ideological Movements
- Demographic dynamics: Growth, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Migration and Urbanization
- Education Health and Disease

3. Future Trends and Implications in Economics, Resources, Globalization and the Environment

- Global and Regional Markets and Trade agreements, International Labor, Wealth Distribution
- U.S. Economic Sustainability, Peer Economic Competition, the Global Business Environment and Practices, E-commerce, International Mega Businesses/Corporations, Foreign/U.S. investments
- Energy and Resource Depletion, Competition and Conflict, Alternative Energy Resources
- Environmental Changes that affect the above

4. Future Trends and Implications in Science and Technology

- Information Age Technology: Artificial Intelligence, Information and Knowledge Systems, Communications and Computing
- Nano, Micro and Bio Technology Advancements, Techno-convergence and Weapons of Mass Effect

5. Advanced Futures and Foresight Analytical Methods, Processes and Approaches

- Futuring: Horizon Scanning, Trend Analysis, Forecasting, Multiple Scenario Generation, Sense-Making and Path Finding
- Other Methods: Alternative Futures, High/Low Probability, Pattern, Cross-Impact analyses, Scenario Fusion/Counterfactual reasoning, Profiling International change Processes and Data mining

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information regarding Proteus or this event, please go to the Proteus website: <https://www.carlisle.army.mil/proteus/workshop/>, or contact either Mr. Bill Wimbish at 717-245-3366 or Mr. Pat Cohn at 717-245-3196. Email: william.wimbish@us.army.mil, patrick.cohn@us.army.mil or CARL_proteus@conus.army.mil. Mailing Address: Center for Strategic Leadership, ATTN: Proteus USA, 650 Wright Avenue, Carlisle PA 17013- 5050