

## 2021 U.S. Strategic Command Academic Alliance Conference and Workshop

### Call for Abstracts

To shape this year's abstract submissions, we outlined nine tentative themes for the 2021 Academic Alliance Conference. We ask that your abstract submissions are related to one of the following themes:

### Tentative 2021 Themes:

- Social Media and Deterrence
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Multilateral Deterrence: Impact on Deterrence Dynamics
- The Psychology of Influence and its impact on Deterrence
- Deterrence, Assurance, and Competition: How Do We Integrate Them into a Cohesive Strategy?
- Deterrence, Assurance, and Economic Interdependence
- Emergence of New Technology and its impact on Deterrence and Competition
- The Next Deterrence Challenges – Looking Ahead
- Building Stronger Alliances – A Shared Vision for the Future

To address your questions, three virtual opportunities are offered to engage with the Conference Committee in advance of the submission deadline. They are as follows:

- **Session 1: Wednesday, December 16, 2020/0900 – 1015 Central Time/1500 – 1615 UK**

- Login Address: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ZDImNDYxNzUtYzQ5My00NDUyLTg5NTgtOTlkZTI5NmMwYjZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222690a8ae-9df6-4230-b842-9f276ab182e3%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDImNDYxNzUtYzQ5My00NDUyLTg5NTgtOTlkZTI5NmMwYjZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222690a8ae-9df6-4230-b842-9f276ab182e3%22%7d)

- **Session 2: Tuesday, January 5, 2021/1400 – 1515 Central Time/2000 – 2115 UK**

- Login Address: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NjU1MjJjNWUtOTZlZC00MzFjLThlNzUtNzQzZTg0Yzc1OWQ2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222690a8ae-9df6-4230-b842-9f276ab182e3%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NjU1MjJjNWUtOTZlZC00MzFjLThlNzUtNzQzZTg0Yzc1OWQ2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222690a8ae-9df6-4230-b842-9f276ab182e3%22%7d)

- **Session 3: Friday, January 29, 2021/1200 – 1315 Central Time/1800 – 1915 UK**

- Login Address: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NmNlYzUyZiAtMwQ0Ni00YzQ0LWJkNzAtOTIzMic1OTczMjE4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222690a8ae-9df6-4230-b842-9f276ab182e3%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NmNlYzUyZiAtMwQ0Ni00YzQ0LWJkNzAtOTIzMic1OTczMjE4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222690a8ae-9df6-4230-b842-9f276ab182e3%22%7d)

Please follow the instructions below when submitting your abstract.

### Deadlines

- Abstract submission: **February 5, 2021**

Submit here: <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/political-science/research/det-assurance-2021.php>

- If selected: your final paper is due by: **March 15, 2021**
  - Paper Requirements: 10,000 word maximum including abstract, figures, references, and appendices
  - double-spaced
  - Times New Roman
  - font size 12

## Academic Year 2020-2021 Panel Amplifying Questions

Specific questions to consider when researching the proposed themes:

### Theme: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Multilateral Deterrence: Impact on Deterrence Dynamics

- How does deterring multiple near peer adversaries impact deterrence dynamics?
- How is it different than bilateral deterrence?
- How do small nations, rogue nations, and non-state actors complicate multilateral deterrence?

### Theme: Deterrence, Assurance, and Competition: How Do We Integrate Them into a Cohesive Strategy?

- Deterrence, Assurance, and Competition may have competing objectives. Which should have primacy?
- How do we work with Allies and Partners to better compete with adversaries?

### Theme: Deterrence, Assurance, and Economic Interdependence

- How does economic interdependence with our adversaries impact deterrence?
- Does economic interdependence with adversaries impact alliance cohesion?
- How does economic interdependence with our adversaries impact assurance?

### Theme: The Next Deterrence Challenges – Looking Ahead

- Are there Black Swans looming?
- What regions may provide the next deterrence challenge?
- Will the next deterrence challenge not be geographic in nature, but informational? (e.g., Big Data, Artificial Intelligence)

### Theme: Building Stronger Alliances – A Shared Vision for the Future

- During the Cold War the West had a shared narrative. What's the shared narrative for the 21st Century? Can we build one?

### Theme: Social Media and Deterrence

- How has social media changed the speed of communication?
- How do nations use social media for strategic influence?
- How can the U.S. and Allies harness social media for deterrence?
- Social Media as an influence battle field – How do we compete?

### Theme: Emergence of New Technology and its impact on Deterrence and Competition

- How do advancements in technology change the strategic landscape?
- Does this perpetuate the action reaction cycle?
- What's the 21<sup>st</sup> Century version of the "Missile Gap"?

### Theme: The Psychology of Influence and its impact on Deterrence

- Deterrence is influence over a leader's decision-making. How vulnerable are people to influence?
- What is the psychology of decision-making?
- How do heuristics and personal experience impact decision-making?
- How are bias for decision differ from deterrence to armed conflict?

**Theme: The Challenges in Deterring Terrorism and Targeted Violence in the U.S.**

- How can we prevent foreign threat actors from exploiting U.S. travel, trade, financial, and immigration systems for illicit purposes?
- Is it possible to deter or detect violent organization's planned use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and health security dangers?
- How does the U.S. deter and impede illegal trade and travel across air, land, and maritime borders?
- Is it possible to gain awareness of terrorist and violent trends in national and systemic cybersecurity and infrastructure risks?
- Can we deter terrorists from engaging or leveraging pandemic outbreaks or other health incidents?

For more research ideas, please see the Academic Alliance Annual Research Questions on our website: <https://www.stratcom.mil/Academic-Alliance/Research-Topics/>