

USSTRATCOM Analytic Agenda 2023 Research Questions

Understanding and anticipating change in the environment and impacts to deterrence strategies:

- What are useful new models for understanding the relationships among multiple nuclear-armed actors?
- What are strategies for deterring two nuclear-armed peer/near-peer competitors simultaneously?
- What impact does two nuclear-armed peer/near-peer competitors have on extended deterrence and assurance?
- How can deterrence be restored? Is a nation's first response its best opportunity to do so?

Understanding the changing deterrence mission and how to accelerate adaptation:

- What are ways to operationalize integrated deterrence across the whole of government?
- How can we shape deterrence of non-nuclear attacks that employ multi-domain and simultaneous effects rising to the strategic level?
- How might the methods by which we deter nuclear use need to be adapted after nuclear use by an adversary?
- How do non-state entities taking actions in a crisis or conflict impact escalation and deterrence?
- What is the risk (probability and consequence) that strategic deterrence will fail given a set of relevant independent variables?

Understanding the requirements of strategic competition and improving the competitive posture of the US and its allies:

- Is strategic stability possible in a tripolar long term competition?
- How does strategic competition, crises, and/or conflict impact extended deterrence? Conversely, how can extending deterrence impact great power competition?
- How has the use of economic warfare and sharp power impacted great power competition?
- How might the U.S. enhance its resilience to counter nuclear coercion? What policies, postures, and/or capabilities could prevent us from being deterred?
- What integrated deterrence lessons learned can be drawn from the Ukraine crisis?