



2009 Spring Conference
March 26 - 27, 2009
United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, Maryland

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The Center for Strategic and International Studies established the Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) in 2003 in order to develop and sustain a vibrant community of nuclear weapons experts. The PONI yearly conference series brings together junior and senior level professionals from the laboratories, the military, and industry, academia and policy sectors to hear selected presentations on nuclear weapons infrastructure, strategy and policy. PONI holds three regional conferences per year and then a fourth Capstone Conference at United States Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska. The Capstone Conference features selected presentations from preceding regional conferences and offers individuals an opportunity to present their work to senior leadership from across the nuclear enterprise. Those who present at the Capstone Conference will also be invited to publish a paper based on their presentation in a journal produced by CSIS.

We are now accepting proposals for presentations at the 2009 Spring Conference, which will be held on March 26-27 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. This conference, like each conference this year, will generally focus on the following four topics.

- Sustaining Infrastructure Capacities and Competence
- Nuclear Posture and Key Issues for the 2009 Nuclear Posture Review
- Proliferation and Nuclear Terrorism
- Nuclear Arms Reductions, Control and Disarmament

A more detailed version of the 2009 PONI Research Agenda accompanies this call for presentations. Additionally, a \$500 honorarium is being offered for presentations on issues related to Technical Nuclear Forensics. **Presentations are to be no more than 11 slides in length and no longer than 10 minutes.** Your presentation proposal should be no more than 2 pages and, although there are no formal requirements, would ideally include the following.

1. Your name and business/school affiliation
2. Notional title of presentation
3. Issue background (brief)
4. Summary of thesis or argument

The due date for presentation proposals is March 10, 2009. Travel support is available for presenters lacking university or organizational backing. If you have any questions about the submission process for the Spring PONI conference, please contact PONI Coordinator Mark Jansson at (202) 775-3286 or mjansson@csis.org. More information about the Project on Nuclear Issues can be found on the PONI website, located at <http://www.csis.org/isp/poni/>.

2009 PONI Research Agenda*

Sustaining Infrastructure Capacities and Competence

Maintaining competence in nuclear weapons stewardship and management is critical to guaranteeing the ability to fulfill current and future missions. Presentations might address:

- Assuring competence in nuclear weapons management and handling
- Possible relocation of the National Nuclear Security Administration to the Department of Defense
- Balancing laboratory efficiency and performance requirements with a finite budget
- Retaining and developing nuclear weapons expertise in an era when no new weapons are being built or tested
- Complex 2030 implementation

Nuclear Posture and Key Issues for the 2009 Nuclear Posture Review

The forthcoming nuclear posture review will be conducted in a complex environment shaped by changing strategic requirements, political realities and technical constraints. Presentations might address:

- Contemporary deterrence: traditional adversaries, non-state actors and state facilitators
- Extended deterrence: ally and adversary perceptions
- Operationalizing the strategic triad or other potential models
- U.S. declaratory policy
- Ballistic missile defense capabilities and strategic significance
- Getting U.S. and Russian missiles off of hair-trigger alert

Proliferation and Nuclear Terrorism

Nuclear weapons proliferation and the corollary risk of nuclear terrorism comprise what is arguably the greatest threat to U.S. national security. Presentations might address:

- Current and future proliferation risks
- Technical nuclear forensics capabilities (pre and post-detonation) and their role in deterring and responding to terrorism
- Improving the physical security of deployed stockpiles
- Fuel supply guarantees and other options for mitigating proliferation risks
- Strengthening the counter-proliferation framework and institutionalizing the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)
- Securing all nuclear materials and vulnerable sites within four years

Nuclear Arms Reductions, Control and Disarmament

The thinking space around nuclear weapons should encompass a prudent approach to nuclear arms control and reductions as well as to the rejuvenated push for disarmament. Presentations might address:

- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) follow-on and extension
- Negotiating a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty
- Globalizing the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty
- Russia's "doctrinal embrace" of nuclear weapons
- Coalescing U.S. missile defense and arms reductions strategies
- The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) plans for ratification and entry into force
- Multilateral arms control

* This agenda was developed with support and guidance from PONI members and sponsors. It is currently in draft form and will be finalized during roundtable discussions with our French and UK partners on March 10, 2009.