



2020 DC Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge

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Speaker Biographies



Dr. Ben Buchanan

Assistant Teaching Professor, Walsh School of Foreign Service; Georgetown University

Ben Buchanan is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where he conducts research on the intersection of cybersecurity and statecraft. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University's Cybersecurity Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, where he

conducted research on the intersection of cybersecurity and statecraft. His first book, The Cybersecurity Dilemma, was published by Oxford University Press in 2017. Previously, he has written journal articles and peer-reviewed papers on artificial intelligence, attributing cyberattacks, deterrence in cyber operations, cryptography, election cybersecurity, and the spread of malicious code between nations and non-state actors. He is also a regular contributor to War on the Rocks and Lawfare, and has published opeds in the Washington Post and other outlets. Ben received his PhD in War Studies from King's College London, where he was a Marshall Scholar. He earned masters and undergraduate degrees from Georgetown University.



Ms. Winnona DeSombre

Security Engineer, Threat Analysis Group, Google

Winnona DeSombre is a Security Engineer at Google's Threat Analysis Group, tracking advanced persistent threats that target Google users. She also works as a non-resident research fellow with the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, contributing to the Cyber Project. In recent years, Winnona constructed risk rule calculation software to combat social media influence

campaigns through Harvard Kennedy School's Defending Digital Democracy Project, spoke at the Forbes 30 under 30 Summit and DEFCON, and was featured in Threatcare's "Tribe of Hackers" book, containing career advice from some of the world's

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best information security professionals. Her research has been featured in publications including Foreign Policy, Motherboard, and CyberScoop.



Dr. Nina Kollars

Associate Professor, Strategic & Operational Research Department Naval War College

Dr. Nina Kollars is a non-resident fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point and an editorial board member for the Special Operations Journal. Her research interests are on cyber security and military innovation. She has published in numerous magazines and journals to include: "The Rise of Smart Machines: The Unique Peril of Intelligent Software Agents in Defense and Intelligence" in Palgrave Handbook

of Security, Risk and Intelligence; "SOFWERX's Return on Collision: Measuring Open Collaborative Innovation" in Special Operations Journal; and "Cyber Beyond Third Offset: A Call for Warfighter-Led Innovation" in War on the Rocks co-written with Jacquelyn Schneider.



Dr. Trey Herr

Director, Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council

Dr. Trey Herr is the Director of the Cyber Statecraft Initiative under the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council. His team works on the role of the technology industry in geopolitics, cyber conflict, the security of the internet, cyber safety, and growing a more capable cybersecurity policy workforce. Previously, he was a Senior Security Strategist with Microsoft handling cloud

computing and supply chain security policy as well as a fellow with the Belfer Cybersecurity Project at Harvard Kennedy School and a non-resident fellow with the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He holds a PhD in Political Science and BS in Musical Theatre and Political Science



The Hon, Jane Holl Lute

Board Director, Atlantic Council; President and Chief Executive Officer, SICPA North America; Special Advisor, United Nations

The Hon. Jane Holl Lute serves as a board director at the Atlantic Council and is the President and CEO of SICPA North America, a company that specializes in providing solutions to protect the integrity and value of products, processes, and documents. Ms. Lute also serves as Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United

Nations, where she has held several positions in peacekeeping and peace building. Previously, Ms. Lute served as Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from 2009-2013. She also served as Chief Executive Officer of the Center for

Internet Security (CIS), an operating not-for-profit organization and home of the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) providing cybersecurity services for state, local, tribal and territorial governments. Ms. Lute is a member of several international commissions focused on cybersecurity and the future of the Internet. She began her distinguished career in the United States Army and served on the National Security Council staff under both Presidents George H.W. Bush and William Jefferson Clinton. Ms. Lute holds a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University and a J.D. from Georgetown University. She is a member of the Virginia bar.

Mr. Barry Pavel

Senior Vice President and Director, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council

Barry Pavel is senior vice president and director of the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council, focusing on emerging security challenges, defense strategies and capabilities, and key European and global defense issues.

Prior to joining the Atlantic Council, he was a career member of the Senior Executive Service in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy for almost eighteen years. From October 2008 to July 2010, he served as the special assistant to the President and senior director for defense policy and strategy on the National Security Council (NSC) staff, serving both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. In this capacity, Pavel led the development of five of the first eight Obama Administration Presidential Study Directives. He was the initiator and architect of the NSC's first-ever National Security Priorities Review and a key contributor to the President's 2010 National Security Strategy. He led the NSC's oversight of the four Defense Department strategic reviews (the Quadrennial Defense Review, Nuclear Posture Review, Ballistic Missile Defense Review, and Space Posture Review), including the President's September 2009 decision on European missile defense and all presidential decisions on nuclear policy and posture; co-led the development of the president's June 2010 National Space Policy; and contributed to the president's policies on Europe and NATO, Korea, cyberspace, Defense Department operational plans and activities, military family policy, and other matters.

Prior to this position, Pavel was the chief of staff and principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for special operations/low-intensity conflict and interdependent capabilities. He helped Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Vickers develop policy on the capabilities and operational employment of special operations forces, strategic forces, and conventional forces. His main areas of work covered strategic capabilities policy, including development of the first Defense Department cyber deterrence strategy and better aligning the department's approach to cyberspace activities and capabilities with defense strategy and policy.

From October 1993 to November 2006, Pavel led or contributed to a broad range of defense strategy and planning initiatives for both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations. He led the Clinton administration's development of the Defense Planning Guidance and the defense planning for the first round of NATO enlargement. He also

contributed to President Clinton's National Security Strategies and the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). As the principal director for strategy, he also played a leading role in the conduct of the 2001 QDR, the global defense posture realignment, and the development of the 2005 US National Defense Strategy. Other main work areas included: the Secretary of Defense's Security Cooperation Guidance and the first Interagency Security Cooperation Strategy Conference; the Unified Command Plan; post-9/11 deterrence policy (including deterrence of terrorist networks and regional nuclear powers); strategies for reducing ungoverned areas; and a long-range planning construct that accounts for trends and "strategic shocks" that could significantly change Department of Defense's role in national security.

Pavel holds an MA in security studies and an MPA in international relations from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and a BA in applied mathematics and economics from Brown University. Mr. Pavel served in the Strategy, Forces, and Resources Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), where he specialized in research on force planning and coauthored numerous IDA reports and publications.

Pavel received a Presidential Rank Award in 2007 in recognition of his career accomplishments. He also has served as a key adviser to policy leadership on civil service professional development and mentorship. He is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and speaks and writes on a wide range of foreign and security policy issues. He also is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Dr. Thomas Rid

Professor of Strategic Studies, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

Rid brings to Johns Hopkins more than a decade of experience in international security and intelligence studies, previously serving as a Professor of Security Studies in the Department of War Studies at King's College London, where he developed a Cyber Security module that bridged the gap between technological and political debates.

Rid has recently shared his expertise on information security through testimony before the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, as well as insights on intelligence with the German Bundestag and the UK Parliament.

Rid closely tracked the election interference in 2016, and was one of the first named sources to call out the hack-and-leak as a Russian intelligence operation, only one day after details became public.

He has held positions at the RAND Corporation in Washington, the Institut Français des Relations Internationales in Paris, and served as a visiting scholar at Hebrew University and Shalem Center in Jerusalem. From 2007 to 2008, Rid served as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins SAIS. He holds a PhD and MA in Social Science from Humboldt University in Berlin.



Mr. Bradford J. Willke

Assistant Director (Acting), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; US Department of Homeland Security

Bradford Willke serves as the Assistant Director (Acting) for Stakeholder Engagement, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). He leads the Agency's strategic relationship formation and management for its stakeholders, partners, and customers. His team provides a "front door" to customers looking for CISA's capacity

building and risk reducing products and services; and his programs convene industry, state and local government, academic, and non-profit partners to channel common goals and objectives into meaningful community of interest outcomes to manage national risk.

During his ten plus years with DHS, he served as the Senior Advisor for stakeholder engagement – instrumental in unifying strategic and operational efforts to deliver cyber preparedness, risk mitigation and incident response activities, and in aligning cyber security resources, governance, and policy analysis to the needs of critical infrastructure and state and local government. Mr. Willke also was the Eastern U.S. Supervisory Cyber Security Advisor (CSA) and Chief of CSA Field Operations. Before joining DHS, Mr. Willke led field studies and research projects in cyber security for more than 10 years while in the Software Engineering Institute's CERT® Division. Three of his proudest achievements while at CERT were in creating the OCTAVE™ suite of information security risk assessments, in leading the DHS cyber investigative efforts related to the 2003 Northeast U.S. Power Outage and in drafting all of the key cyber findings in the joint DOE-DHS final "Black Out" report, and in developing the Cyber Resilience Review – a practical evaluation method based on the CERT Resilience Management Model™.

Mr. Willke was a law enforcement specialist in the United States Air Force. His recognized skills with IT networks, database design and programming, and security management resulted in becoming his unit's IT operations and cyber security manager – a position previously reserved for more senior personnel.

Mr. Willke completed the Senior Executive Fellows program, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Executive Education. He holds a master's degree in Legal Studies, specializing in Homeland Security, from California University of Pennsylvania, a professional certificate in Information Protection and Security from the University of New Haven, a bachelor's degree in Information Systems Technologies from Southern Illinois University, and an associate degree in Criminal Justice from the Community College of the Air Force.