

## Cityforum Intelligent Defence and Smart Power 2021 – series of virtual events

A programme of podcasts, webclaves and webinars arranged by Cityforum with guidance from MOD and held with the support of BAE Systems Applied Intelligence

Delivering on the Integrated Review

Website Draft Programme

Principal Sponsor

**BAE SYSTEMS**

The Cityforum Intelligent Defence and Smart Power project looks at how the United Kingdom will develop its defence and security activities over the period to 2030 in the light of the 2021 National Strategy and Defence Review, the principal components of which are the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, the Defence Command Paper ‘Defence in a Competitive Age’ and the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy.

Previous reviews have often been greeted with approval at the time of publication but found to be wanting afterwards and the first session of this programme will take the form of a major scene-setting discussion to examine how we should think about the future in the light of history, and the extent to which an individual country can determine its position in a situation where its opponents set much of the agenda.

The opening discussion is followed by an assessment of capabilities needed above the threshold of armed conflict and of the contribution the United Kingdom will be able to make to safety and security both at home and overseas. The stress on science and technology in warfare that is central to the 2021 reviews is subject to serious discussion. The question of mass, in the light of the proposed reduction in numbers of the British Army and of the flying strength of the RAF, is the subject of particular debate. The reductions that are proposed could lead to stress and overstretch with potentially serious consequences and could well encourage our opponents to use attrition as the basis for what they do. Nuclear remains a central feature of the UK defence posture and deterrence requires strength below the nuclear threshold. The reduction in mass could affect credibility in this regard.

The third session in this series takes further the examination of challenges below the threshold that were a significant feature of the 2020 Cityforum Intelligent Defence and Smart Power programme. An excellent panel looks at the challenges we face in the light of how our rivals think about the world and the agenda looks at how we might develop our responses in collaboration with our alliance partners and other friends.

The final session of this series looks at how to make the case at home and abroad for the Global Britain concept. The Quinlan Theorem says that what we openly prepare for does not happen as our opponents go elsewhere. Operating successfully in such situations requires clever thinking and the maximum use of information that intelligent defence demands. In his recent excellent discussion of the 2021 Review, Paul Cornish has suggested the UK position is now ‘Incoherent, Understrength and Overstretched’. This series of forums, and the recommendations it expects to make, are designed to examine this assessment and think through how Global Britain could organise itself for better effect.

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 10:45 – 12:45 - COMPLETED

**Session One: Global Britain after the Integrated Review – can we be confident of getting it right?**

*This to take the form of a major scene-setting discussion including:*

Professor Klaus Dodds Royal Holloway, University of London; author of ‘Border Wars: The conflicts of tomorrow’ **Confirmed**

*How wishful thinking, motivated reasoning and cognitive failure risk wrong prediction*

Professor Guy Mayraz Behavioural Economist University of Sydney **Confirmed**

*Abundant information and weaknesses in assessment capability – what can we do?*

Ms Suzanne Raine Affiliate Lecturer Centre for Geopolitics Cambridge University; formerly of Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre **Confirmed**

*Thinking through capability requirements in a period of complexity and uncertainty*

**Air Marshal Ed Stringer** *Associate Cityforum; until April 2021 Director General Joint Force Development and Defence Academy* [Confirmed](#)

*Where grand strategy and conceptions of the future meet*

**Ms Malin Severin** *Analyst Futures and Strategic Analysis Programme Swedish Defence Research Agency (seconded to DCDC)* [Confirmed](#)

*Meeting capability requirements in a period of complexity and uncertainty*

**Mr David Short** *Technology Director, Group Technology, OCTO BAE Systems Applied Intelligence* [Confirmed](#)

Followed by a virtual round table discussion, chaired by **Professor Paul Cornish** *Chief Strategist Cityforum* [Confirmed](#) and with a comment from **Hon Frankin D. Kramer** *Distinguished Fellow & Board Member Atlantic Council & Associate Cityforum* [Confirmed](#)

Thursday 15 July 2021 time tbc

**Session Two: Capabilities above the threshold – warfighting in this decade and the next**

Discussion to look at how to equip the military to develop the required specialist skills, maintain sufficient mass and develop the necessary capabilities. The session opens with two introductory contributions on risk, how to approach permanent and persistent engagement, and how to rethink deterrence.

**\*The list of contributors is being finalised by Cityforum\***

*Realism, narcissism, blind-spots and opportunities – determining our requirements and capabilities*

**Professor Anthony Cordesman** *Chair in Strategy CSIS Washington DC* [Confirmed](#)

*Realistic thinking and seductive thinking about warfighting*

**Rt Hon John Spellar MP** *Defence Select Committee* [Confirmed](#)

*Warfighting in the 2020s – resources, flexibility and partnerships*

**General Sir Patrick Sanders** *Commander Strategic Command in conversation with Professor Paul Cornish* *Chief Strategist Cityforum* [Confirmed](#)

(Exact nature of contribution and timing to be specified)

*How does cyber affect war?*

**Dr Chris C. Demchak** *Professor and RDML Grace Hopper Chair of Cyber Security Senior Cyber Scholar, Cyber and Innovation Policy Institute Strategic and Operational Research Department, CNWS United States Naval War College* [Confirmed](#)

*How important is mass? Will the UK have enough in reserve? What brings people into the military and what keeps them there? What can we learn from elsewhere from stress, overstretch, 'learned hopelessness and helplessness'?*

**General Sir Jack Deverell** *Senior Associate Cityforum* [Confirmed](#)

**Professor Paul Britton** *Forensic Psychologist; Associate Cityforum* [Confirmed](#)

**Professor Craig Jackson** *Professor of Occupational Health Psychology Birmingham City University (on stress and overstretch)* [Confirmed](#)

*Bringing all national capabilities to bear*

**Mr Paul Spedding** *Head of Pre-Sales Defence BAE Systems Applied Intelligence* [Confirmed](#)

Followed by a virtual round table, chaired by **Ms Madeleine Moon** *Associate Cityforum; former Chair NATO Parliamentary Assembly* [Confirmed](#) with a comment from **Ms Clementine Starling** *Deputy Director Forward Defense and Fellow Atlantic Council*

Tuesday 20 July 2021 14:00 – 16:00

**Session Three: The contribution of defence to meeting the challenges below the threshold**

State rivalries, instability, climate and bio-hazards, information warfare, non-state actors

- Do we understand the objectives of our opponents?
- Where can the UK be most effective? What can defence offer and how should it equip itself?
- What role for defence in meeting challenges at home? How can we muster support for global engagement?

**\*The list of contributors is being finalised by Cityforum\***

*Opening: What are our campaigning opponents seeking to achieve and how can we match them individually and in alliance?*

Hon Frankin D. Kramer *Distinguished Fellow & Board Member Atlantic Council & Associate Cityforum* **Confirmed**

*Understanding our rivals*

Ms Isabel Hilton *Senior Advisor The China Dialogue Trust & Visiting Professor Lau Institute King's College London* **Confirmed**

Ms Mary Dejevsky *Foreign Affairs Journalist The Independent* **Confirmed**

*Better data, better analytics, better performance*

A panellist from industry **Under discussion**

*Climate change – what needs to be reconsidered*

Lieutenant General Richard Nugee *Climate Change and Strategy Lead MOD* **Confirmed**

*Communicating a case in a period of distortions, disinformation and propaganda*

Mr Carl Miller *DEMOS; Author of 'The Death of the Gods: The New Global Power Grab'* **Confirmed**

Followed by a virtual round table discussion, chaired by Mr Stephen Hawker *Former senior member of the UK security and intelligence community and Senior Associate Cityforum*

**Confirmed** and opened by Air Marshal Ian Gale *Director General Joint Force Development Strategic Command* **Confirmed** and Mr Tim Ripley *Associate Cityforum; Journalist Janes and the Sunday Times* **Confirmed** to comment on the on the actual and potential armed strength of our opponents.

The project to culminate in a podcast on 'Making the case at home and abroad for Global Britain' to include senior figures defence and security, the media, business and politics