

Critical Minerals and National Security

Online Conference
January 10, 2025



CHSG
Climate & Human Security Group

Letter from the Host

On behalf of the U.S. Naval War College, we welcome you to this virtual conference about “[Critical Minerals and National Security](#).” This is the sixth online conference I have hosted at the Naval War College which focus on a variety of nontraditional and transnational security issues.



In 2017, President Trump issued an [Executive Order 13817](#) which drove [A Federal Strategy To Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals](#). This was followed in 2020 with Executive Order 13953 on [Addressing the Threat to Domestic Supply Chain From Reliance on Critical Minerals From Foreign Adversaries and Supporting the Domestic Mining and Processing Industries](#). President Biden expanded on this further with [Executive Order 14017 on America’s Supply Chains](#) in 2021, specifically tasking the Secretary of Defense to identify risks in the supply chain for critical minerals and policy recommendations to mitigate these risks. The DoD delivered the [Securing Defense-Critical Supply Chains](#) in February of 2022.

In addition to this executive direction, the [2022 National Defense Strategy](#) identified adapting and fortifying the defense ecosystem that includes the defense industrial base and global supply chains. This, in turn, strengthens resilience and adaptability of the force. Building on this, in 2023, the Department of Defense released the first ever [National Defense Industrial Strategy \(NDIS\)](#) offering a strategic vision to coordinate and prioritize actions to build a modernized defense industrial ecosystem that is fully aligned with the strategic guidance. The [National Defense Industrial Strategy Implementation Plan for 2025 \(NDIS-IP\)](#) highlights six initiatives including production and supply chains, allied and partner industrial collaboration, and capabilities and infrastructure modernization. These are directly in support of initiative #1: Indo-Pacific Deterrence.

The requirement to attain the necessary critical minerals for DoD capabilities combined with corresponding defense industrial base support has led to the rapid developments with the aim to improve these shortfalls and vulnerabilities. In the context of competition with China, where the majority of the minerals are mined and processed, this event examines the role critical minerals play in the DoD, issues with supply chain, storage and stockpiles, and how we can work with allies and partners to achieve improved resilience.

We are proud to continue our tradition of hosting open and free events exploring the national security significance of these essential topics. This event is made possible through the generous funding of the William B. Ruger Chair of National Security Economics, Professor Peter J. Dombrowski, and the Naval War College Foundation. Thanks to all for their support of this event.

Sincerely,

CAPT Andrea H. Cameron, Ph.D., Ed.D.

Permanent Military Professor

National Security Affairs Department

Director, Climate & Human Security Group

U.S. Naval War College



This is an interactive PDF.

All navigation links are active.
Speaker names on agenda link to speaker bios with return links.

 = USNWC Alumni |  = USNWC Faculty



Agenda

🕒 10:00 – 10:35 AM EST (1500 – 1535 UTC)

Introduction

Captain Andrea H. Cameron, Ph.D., Ed.D., Permanent Military Professor, National Security Affairs Department; Director, Climate & Human Security Studies Group, U.S. Naval War College

NWC Welcome

Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, President, U.S. Naval War College

Keynote Speaker

Ms. Carla N. Zeppieri, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Resilience

🕒 10:35 – 11:25 AM EST (1535 – 1625 UTC)

Panel: Critical Minerals in National Security

- **Critical mineral availability, capabilities, and concerns: Mr. Adam Burstein**, Technical Director, Strategic & Critical Materials, ASD, Industrial Base Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
- **National Defense Stockpile (NDS): Ms. Theresa Leland**, Deputy Administrator, Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials (DLA-SM)
- **AGR policy perspective on strategic engagement with allies and partners: Mr. Gregory Pollock**, Principal Director for Arctic & Global Resilience Policy, ASD Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

🕒 11:25 – 11:30 AM EST (1625 – 1630 UTC)

Closing Remarks

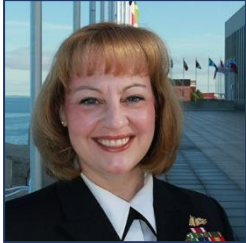
Captain Andrea H. Cameron, Ph.D., Ed.D., Permanent Military Professor, National Security Affairs Department; Director, Climate & Human Security Studies Group, U.S. Naval War College

Biographies

Event Chair

Captain Andrea H. Cameron, Ph.D., Ed.D.

-----Chair



Permanent Military Professor, National Security Affairs Dept.; Founding Director of the Climate and Human Security Studies Group, U.S. Naval War College

Captain Andrea H. Cameron is a Permanent Military Professor teaching policy analysis in the National Security Affairs Department at the U.S. Naval War College and the founding director of the Climate and Human Security Studies Group. She also teaches on climate change and national security. Her academic interests explore non-traditional and transnational security threats and their impact on U.S. strategic, national security and economic interests. These research interests include climate change and security, climate and energy policy, human security topics, and civil-military coordination during humanitarian assistance/disaster relief. Andrea Cameron holds a B.A. degree in Political Science from Marquette University, a M.A. in Human Resource Development from The George Washington University, a M.S. in Military Operational Art and Science from the Air Command and Staff College, an Ed.D. in Educational Technology from Pepperdine University, and a Ph.D. in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School.



Andrea Cameron was a Fulbright Scholar in NATO Security Studies in Belgium for academic year 2022-2023.

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andreahecameron.com

Opening Remarks


Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker

Opening Remarks



President, U.S. Naval War College

Rear Admiral Darryl "D-Day" Walker enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1985 as an Air Traffic Controller. He received his commission in the United States Navy through the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1992. He is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the United States Naval War College.

 D-Day fulfilled various operational tours in the Pacific and Arabian Gulf, including service as the Commander and Executive Officer of the "Cougars" VAQ-139, deployed onboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), as well as the Commodore and Deputy Commodore of the Electronic Attack Wing United States Pacific Fleet, flying the EA-18G Growler. He has amassed an impressive 3900 flight hours and 696 carrier-arrested landings throughout his career.

Walker's shore assignments include Deputy Director, PERS-43; NAE Diversity Director; Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group; Chief of Staff to the Chief Information Officer, Secretary of Defense; Executive Assistant to the 11th Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Executive Assistant to the 32nd Chief of Naval Operations.

As a Flag Officer, Walker served as the Deputy Director of Operations (J-3), U.S. Cyber Command, and most recently as the Deputy Commander of Joint Force Headquarters-Cyber (Navy), United States TENTH Fleet.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation, Navy Commendation Medal, USAF Commendation Medal, and various unit and campaign awards..

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Keynote Speaker

Ms. Carla N. Zeppieri

Keynote



Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Resilience

Ms. Carla N. Zeppieri currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Resilience at the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). She is responsible for assessing the health of the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) and recommending key policies, investments, and actions designed to strengthen the capacity and resilience of the DIB. She oversees the Policy, Analysis, and Transition (PA&T) organization, which evaluates the ability of critical DIB sectors to meet warfighter needs, identifies emerging risks, and informs key policy, program, and budget decisions. Ms. Zeppieri also oversees the Manufacturing Capability Expansion and Investment Prioritization (MCEIP) office, which addresses identified supply chain and industrial base risks through investments and prioritization authorities exercised under the Defense Production Act (DPA) and the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) program.

Ms. Zeppieri most recently served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs as the Acquisition and Sustainment Team Chief, developing, and executing legislative strategy in support of Department of Defense priorities. Prior to joining the Department of Defense, she served as a Professional Staff Member on the House Armed Services Committee where she conducted oversight of research, development, and acquisition programs across the military services, and authored legislation in support of congressional priorities in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Previously, Ms. Zeppieri served as Director, Federal Government Relations for Harris Corporation, managing the company's legislative strategy across the defense, intelligence, space, and transportation businesses. Earlier in her career, she held positions at Raytheon Company, BAE Systems, and as a legislative assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ms. Zeppieri is a graduate of Cornell University and began her career as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy.

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Panel: Critical Minerals in National Security

Moderator:

Captain Andrea H. Cameron, Ph.D., Ed.D. -----Panel

Permanent Military Professor, U.S. Naval War College

Panelists:

Mr. Adam Burstein -----Panel



Technical Director, Strategic & Critical Materials, ASD, Industrial Base Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment

Adam Burstein is the Technical Director for Strategic and Critical Materials (S&CMs) at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy responsible for assessing S&CM supply chain vulnerability and developing policy related to the secure sourcing, stockpiling, investment, and disposition of S&CMs to ensure a secure and resilient Defense Industrial Base.



Prior to his current position, Mr. Burstein was a Country Director for Oceania in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy where he advised on international security policy and helped manage relationships with nations of the Indo-Pacific.

Mr. Burstein previously served as Geospatial Advisor to Headquarters, Department of the Army, assigned to the Office of the Chief of Engineers. He oversaw operational employment of the BuckEye airborne sensor system to Africa and led BuckEye operations deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq. He has served as a geologist and hydrologist supporting Joint operations worldwide.

Mr. Burstein holds an MA from the College of Naval Warfare, is the first U.S. civilian graduate of the Royal School of Military Survey, UK, earning an MSc from Cranfield University, and holds a BS in Geological Sciences from Tufts University.

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Ms. Theresa Leland

Panel



Deputy Administrator, Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials (DLA-SM)

As Deputy Administrator of the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials (DLA-SM), Ms. Leland serves as the principal advisor and consultant to the Administrator, supporting general oversight, management and control of all DLA-SM operations, including inventory management, environment management, market analysis and sales, supply chain assessments, requirements determination, critical material acquisitions, audit, development of legislation and congressional reporting. These activities are in support of the DOD National Defense Stockpile (NDS), a program charged with the mission of reducing U.S. dependence upon foreign sources of strategic and critical materials during times of national emergency.

Ms. Leland was promoted to the Deputy Administrator position in July 2022. She previously served for 7 years as Chief of the Environmental Management Division, DLA-SM, in the Material Management Directorate. In that position, she had full program management for the quality assurance, environmental, occupational health and safety, and radiological programs for all DLA-SM strategic and critical materials, and facilities, nationwide. Prior to her assignment at DLA, she served as an Environmental Protection Specialist with the National Institute of Health (NIH), where she developed and managed the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS). She served in a cross-organizational capacity, chairing committees representing the administrative and scientific components of all 27 NIH institutes and Centers. She led these committees in implementing environmental improvement and cost savings goals, NIH-wide.

Ms. Leland possesses an MS degree in Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University and a BS degree in Biology from Villanova University. She has over 20 years of federal experience.

✉ DLAstrategicMaterials@dla.mil | <https://www.dla.mil/hq/acquisition/strategicmaterials>

Mr. Gregory Pollock

Panel



Principal Director for Arctic & Global Resilience Policy, ASD Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Greg Pollock has served for the past decade in a series of leadership positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, where he currently serves as the Principal Director for the new Arctic and Global Resilience Office.

Mr. Pollock served from 2019-2021 as the Secretary of Defense Chair on the faculty of the National War College, where he taught courses on national security strategy, U.S.-China relations, and the implications of global climate change for national security.

From 2017-2019, Mr. Pollock was the acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Security Cooperation, overseeing the Department's efforts to enhance the ability of U.S. allies and partners to conduct military operations in lieu of, or in coalition with, U.S. forces around the world.

Mr. Pollock has also served previously as the Director for Russia and Arms Control Policy, as the Director for African Affairs, as a Legislative Fellow to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), and as an Analyst in the Department of the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. Prior to his government service, Mr. Pollock was an Advocacy and Research Officer at the International Crisis Group, a leading source of analysis and advice to governments concerning international conflict.

Mr. Pollock is a past Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a prior recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Brookings Legislative Fellowship, the Presidential Management Fellowship, the Senator Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholarship, and the Harold W. Rosenthal Fellowship. He earned his master's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where he was a Teaching and Research Assistant to former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

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[OUSD Policy Arctic and Global Resilience](#)

Thank You

Thank you to the U.S. Naval War College staff and faculty who helped support this event:

President RADM Darryl L. Walker
U.S. Naval War College

Provost Stephen Mariano, Ph.D.
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And many thanks to the speakers and staff who worked so hard to make this an incredibly successful event!