Michael Miklaucic
Senior Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, and Editor-in-Chief, PRISM

Dinner Lecture

American Deterrence is Failing

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SPEAKER’S BIOGRAPHY
MICHAEL MIKLAUCIC

Michael Miklaucic is a Senior Fellow of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at National Defense University, and the Editor-in-Chief of *PRISM*, NDU’s flagship journal of national and international security. He previously served in various positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of State, including USAID representative on the Civilian Response Corps Inter-Agency Task Force, as the Senior Program Officer in the USAID Office of Democracy and Governance, and Rule of Law Specialist in the Center for Democracy and Governance. In 2002-2003 he served as the Department of State Deputy for War Crimes Issues. In that position he was responsible for U.S. relations with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), war crimes issues and negotiations in East Timor and Cambodia, and the early implementation of the Sudan Peace Act. He attended the University of California, the London School of Economics, and the School for Advanced International Studies. He is a visiting Lecturer at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and sits on several academic and professional advisory boards.
LECTURE ABSTRACT

There is a problem with deterrence; it’s not working. Not that we are about to descend into nuclear Armageddon. But aside from nuclear wars, the United States’ deterrence paradigm does not seem to be deterring much recently. Our adversaries—principally Russia and China—do not seem cowed, either by the risk of failure to achieve their objectives or by the fear of retaliation. Both have been seizing the initiative with aggressive behavior ranging from information warfare, through the full range of gray zone tactics, all the way to the illegal military invasion and occupation of a sovereign neighboring state. Either the theory of deterrence is wrong, or the West is doing deterrence wrong.
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