

UNCLASSIFIED

## Executive Summary of the Thirty-Fifth Plenary Meeting



Department of Defense

Threat Reduction Advisory Committee

July 15-16, 2015

Arlington, VA

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS: UNCLASSIFIED

OPR: DTRA/J2/5/8R-AC (Advisory Committees and Programs Office)

DATE: September 1, 2015

UNCLASSIFIED

**Executive Summary**  
**Of The Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Department of Defense**  
**Threat Reduction Advisory Committee**  
**July 15-16, 2015**  
**CENTRA Technology, Inc.**  
**Arlington, VA**

**Certified True and Correct.**

**APPROVED:**



**Ronald F. Lehman, II**  
**Chair**  
**Threat Reduction Advisory Committee**

OPR: J2/5/8R-AC (Advisory Committees and Programs Office)  
DATE: September 1, 2015



UNCLASSIFIED  
Executive Summary of the 35th TRAC Plenary

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Thirty-Fifth meeting of the Department of Defense (DoD) Threat Reduction Advisory Committee (TRAC) convened July 15-16, 2015 in Arlington, VA.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix and 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.155, it was determined that this meeting of the TRAC concerned classified information and matters covered by 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(1) and as such, the meeting was closed to the public. The meeting subject matter involved classified information directly related to national security issues. Access to such information is limited to personnel with appropriate security clearances and a specific “need to know.” Disclosure of the DoD Threat Reduction Advisory Committee (TRAC) deliberations would have a grave impact on United States (U.S.) National Security; therefore, all activities were withheld in the public interest and were announced in the Federal Register. Appendices A and B list the meeting agenda and attendees.

TRAC Chair, Ambassador Ronald Lehman, opened the Thirty-Fifth TRAC Plenary by welcoming committee members, senior leaders, and guests. Ambassador Lehman’s opening remarks recognized the recently appointed TRAC member, Honorable Graham Allison, and highlighted successful recommendations previously developed by the Committee. He elaborated that the TRAC’s success was due in part to early coordination with key U.S. Government leaders on areas of concern before they became significant problems. The Chair also commended the Committee for the information gathering work conducted in between meetings. These sessions enable the TRAC to provide timely recommendations involving some of DoD’s most challenging issues.

Following Ambassador Lehman, the Principal Deputy Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs (NCB), Dr. Arthur T. Hopkins, provided brief comments to the TRAC on the status of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L) and current issues for DoD. Dr. Hopkins focused the conversation on the Anthrax Report conducted by his office. At the time of the meeting the report was in its final phase of preparation for the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the public. Specifics of the report were not releasable at the time of the meeting. The TRAC expressed interest in learning more about the report once it is released.

Dr. Robert Kadlec, a former TRAC member, joined the group to receive the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service in recognition of his service as a TRAC member from 2012-2015. He shared some of his thoughts on U.S. relations with China and other



UNCLASSIFIED  
Executive Summary of the 35th TRAC Plenary

---

issues related to combating weapons of mass destruction (CWMD) that he is currently working on in his new position with the U.S. Senate.

Ms. Anne Harrington followed by providing an overview of the National Nuclear Security Administration where she serves as the Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation. Ms. Harrington's brief focused on the three pillars of her organization, which are prevent, counter, and respond, in order to support actions across the nuclear threat spectrum. The briefing also touched on the current and historical funding lines for the organization, which was of great interest to the TRAC. Ms. Harrington also touched on work her office is doing with the Department of Defense and the Department of State to discuss the mapping of priority countries. She also mentioned the intersections her office has with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

The TRAC then received a classified brief on Russian Weapons Technology from the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee.

Dr. John Fischer, Directory of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Chemical and Biological Defense Division provided the group an overview on work DHS is conducting to counter chemical and biological threats to the U.S. Much of the discussion was classified, but he primarily spoke of the ability of DHS to leverage advances in science and technology to develop new methods to protect the nation from chemical and biological threats, either naturally occurring or mad-made.

The first day concluded with a TRAC only wrap-up discussion and conversing about expectations going into the second day.

The second day opened with comments from the Chair outlining the presentations for the day.

Honorable Joseph Benkert, Nuclear Strategic Stability (NSS) preparatory group lead, shared information from the group's research on NSS issues. In particular, he highlighted revelations from recent meetings with the U.S Navy and U.S. Air Force to discuss their nuclear programs and their current acquisition plans. The group is continuing to research regional crisis/conflict effects and what requirements exist for regional strategic stability, extended deterrence, and assurance of Allies.

Honorable Michael Nacht and Ms. Eileen Vergino, preparatory group leads for the review on North Korea weapons of mass destruction elimination mission, provided an update to the TRAC on efforts to date. The information gathering group has met several times to shape and define the vision



UNCLASSIFIED  
Executive Summary of the 35th TRAC Plenary

---

for the review. The co-leads provided the Committee with a brief overview of the previous meetings, which were all held at a classified level.

Following the discussion on North Korea, Mr. Kenneth Myers, Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency & USSTRATCOM Center for Combating WMD & Standing Joint Force Headquarters-Elimination (DTRA/SCC-WMD/SJFHQ-E), joined the group to discuss current engagements and prospects for the future direction of the Agency. Mr. Myers spoke of some challenges the organization is facing today due to budget constraints and an aging workforce. He also spoke of improvements made, which include the recent stand up on the J10 Directorate in response to the Nuclear Enterprise Review. The J10 will coordinate with the DoD, the Services, and other U.S. Government agencies to ensure the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear deterrent and support CWMD missions. Additionally, the agency is developing play books to assist in planning for potential crises the DoD could face. The Director spoke optimistically about the future despite his growing concern with the budget constraints.

Dr. Miriam John and Ambassador Robert Joseph then provided a brief overview of the DTRA/SCC-WMD/SJFHQ-E Futures preparatory group. This effort will review emerging issues for the Agency/Center with the goal to provide recommendations on emerging trends that could involve WMD threats; budget and organizational challenges; and, the successful management of multiple demand signals from sources across the U.S. Government. The group has held several information gathering sessions with key stakeholders to obtain a baseline of knowledge and information.

Ms. Cara Abercrombie, from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Asia and Pacific Security Affairs, joined the group to discuss current policy towards China. She highlighted on-going confidence building measures being pursued such as the notification of military activities in the area, the exchange of military observers, and the airing of policy changes. The TRAC was extremely interested in better understanding the policy towards China as it relates to the Korean Peninsula. Ms. Abercrombie noted the numerous sensitivities and challenges working in this area and stressed that the U.S. must also maintain a competitive edge in science and technology developments.

Following Ms. Abercrombie, the TRAC concluded the day with discussion on potential new topic areas, primarily focusing on Russia and China as challenging areas for the Department where the TRAC can contribute. The group will wait for specific taskings from the Sponsor.

Ambassador Lehman adjourned the meeting at 1500 on July 16, 2015.



UNCLASSIFIED  
Executive Summary of the 35th TRAC Plenary

---

**APPENDIX A**  
**MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2015**

0830	Designated Federal Officer Remarks	Mr. Hostyn/TRAC
0840	Chairman's Remarks	AMB Lehman
0900	NNSA Overview of Nuclear Nonproliferation	Ms. Harrington
1030	Break	
1045	China Discussion/Service Award	Dr. Kadlec
1230	Working Lunch	
1300	Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee & Russian Weapons Technology	Dr. Kline
1430	Break	
1445	Emerging Chemical & Biological Threats	Dr. Fischer
1600	Executive Session	TRAC ONLY
1630	Closing Remarks/Adjourn	AMB Lehman/Dr. John



UNCLASSIFIED  
Executive Summary of the 35th TRAC Plenary

---

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015**

0830	Chairman's Remarks	Amb Lehman
0900	Nuclear Strategic Stability Deliberations	TRAC ONLY HON Benkert
0930	North Korea Preparatory Group Update	TRAC ONLY HON Nacht/Ms. Vergino
1000	Break	
1015	DTRA/SCC-WMD/SJFHQ-E Preparatory Group Update	TRAC ONLY Dr. John/AMB Joseph
1100	DTRA/SCC-WMD/SJFHQ-E Discussion	Mr. Myers
1215	Working Lunch	
1300	OSD Policy/Asian and Pacific Security Affairs	Ms. Abercrombie
1430	TRAC Way Forward	TRAC ONLY Amb Lehman
1500	Adjourn	



UNCLASSIFIED  
Executive Summary of the 35th TRAC Plenary

---

**APPENDIX B**

**35<sup>th</sup> TRAC PLENARY**

**July 15-16, 2015**

**Attendee List**

**TRAC Members**

Honorable Graham Allison	Dr. Miriam E. John
Honorable Joseph A. Benkert	Ambassador Robert G. Joseph
Rear Admiral Kenneth W. Bernard, USPHS (Ret.)	Ambassador Ronald F. Lehman, II
Honorable Richard Falkenrath	Honorable Michael Nacht
Dr. Gigi Gronvall	Dr. John Reichart
Vice Admiral Robert S. Harward, USN (Ret.)	Ms. Joan B. Rohlifing
Ms. Mary Alice Hayward	Dr. Jeffrey M. Starr
	Ms. Eileen Vergino

**Guests**

Ms. Cara Abercrombie	Mr. Charles Marquez
Mr. Mark Beddoes	Mr. Michael McMillon
Mr. Doug Bruder	Mr. Kenneth Myers
Dr. John Fischer	
Ms. Anne Harrington	
Dr. Arthur T. Hopkins	
Major General John Horner	
Dr. Robert Kadlec	
Dr. Richard Kline	
Dr. Michael Kuliasha	
Ms. Kimberly Litherland	
Captain Anthony Lott	
Mr. Hunter Lutinski	