

**SHAPING THE AGENDA: AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY IN
THE 21ST CENTURY**

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS

The Honorable Dr. Richard Danzig
*Chairman of The Board of Directors,
Center for a New American Security*

The Honorable Dr. Leo Mackay
*Vice President Of Corporate Business Development,
Lockheed Martin Corporation, Member of the Board of Directors, Center for a New
American Security*

**1:30 PM – 8:00 PM
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010**

The Willard InterContinental Hotel's Grand Ballroom

MR. RICHARD DANZIG: Welcome everyone. My name is Richard Danzig. I'm chairman of the Center for a New American Security. It's an absolute delight to be here and to see so many friends and distinguished officials. These are two separate categories in my case but nonetheless, it's wonderful to see you all.

I've been privileged in the four years that the Center for New American Security has existed to be very involved with and to attend each of these conferences. Each year it's an inspiration to have in the order of 1,000 attendees – and you're a rather privileged group because we had to cut off, as usual, participation opportunities – come together to talk seriously about national security.

To see this extraordinary richness of documents – you've got nine reports available to you, both in printed form and showing how with it we are, we've also included CDs of each of these documents. And by the way, we'll be interested if any of you want to give us feedback with regard to the availability of these other electronic modes of communication. To have put together nine reports of the quality that you're seeing and to have such substantive discussion as we'll have today with such distinguished panelists is I think a remarkable achievement.

As chairman of the center I'm particularly aware that we've undergone a transition which for many organizations would be a dramatic thing simply to undertake, put aside the character of the work. We sent 12 people into this administration. I'm proud to say we're actually probably about to send a 13th, Sharon Burke is hopefully soon to be confirmed. I supposed I shouldn't prejudge anything. She's been nominated and awaits confirmation as the director of operational energy programs and plans for the Pentagon. Thirteen or 12 people from the Center for a New American security into government – this is onto itself a notable thing.

But what I find even more remarkable is that we've continued in a rich and vibrant way without damage from, for example, sending Kurt Campbell and Michèle Flournoy, our co-CEOs into government as the under secretary for policy in Michèle's case and the assistant secretary for Asia in Kurt's case. You'll hear from Michèle later today. But to lose two such leaders, I think the fact that we've continued the way we have is a comment on our present leadership and that's Nate Fick and John Nagl who are over here and Kristin Lord who did the key work that underlay the ability to produce these nine reports.

Nate is very remarkable. I just learned today that his book, *One Bullet Away*, not sufficient that it was the New York Times bestseller, et cetera, has now been converted into a symphony. (Laughter.) This is a distinction which is – that never even occurred to me for any of my writings. Maybe a nursery rhyme – and fits well with John Nagl's extraordinary singing voice which together makes us certainly the most musical of think tanks in town.

But in addition, Nate has shown a quality of leadership that has maintained the spirit internally within the institution that has brought a degree of innovativeness to it and has reached out to so many different communities and constituencies that we previously didn't reach. John adds to that qualities of mentorship that I think are very special.

Later today, you'll see Brian Burton recognized as the Bacevich fellow, something very important to all of us. And Brian first came to us as somebody that John brought in while he was an undergraduate. These two leaders have experiences, veterans in Iraq and Afghanistan and bring a perspective that's very unusual to the think tank world, very close to our serving military and very close to having lived so many of the problems we talk about. So we are just greatly indebted to them and to Kristin for what's been achieved.

Having said that, I think the best way to bring these points home to you is to let you actually see them and I defer to Leo MacKay, my fellow director and vice president of Lockheed Martin who's going to tell you a little bit about the day to come. Thank you all and enjoy these hours. (Applause.)

MR. LEO MACKAY: Good afternoon and welcome to our program today. I've got to talk to my booking agent. It's always a hazard to go after Richard. He's always pithy and witty and informed all at once. So thank you, Richard, for getting this kicked off here.

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to speak to you today very quickly about what's become an annual tradition here in Washington. I've been a center director since it was founded in 2007 with Kurt and Michèle and I'm thrilled to see that the center continues after them in the forefront of the national security field today.

We've seen CNAS grow by leaps and bounds but thankfully, one thing that has not changed about the center since its inception is its ability to tackle the most difficult national security issues facing our country. And today is no exception.

One of the things significantly that has changed in the last few years is the environment, the context for making and crafting national security policy, principally but not exclusively in the financial regime. We've been facing a huge financial crisis which by no means is over. Our national debt, indeed the national debt of arguably the entire developed world continues to explode and our resources will be constrained in new and significant ways as we face up to the challenges before us. This is going to affect how we design policies, structure forces and our decision making in keeping the nation secure.

The lineup of discussions that we have for you today on the panel side reflects this new reality and so we'll start off with a look at the future of the force. The administration has already released the QDR, the national security strategy and other attended documents that have provided direction to the national security establishment on an overarching basis.

We're also likely in the next 12 months to have a new team in Washington, very likely, a new secretary of defense but certainly a new commandant of the Marine Corps, a new Army Chief of Staff and a new chairman of the Joint Chiefs will come along in the next year or so. How will this leadership team pick up where their predecessors have left off? How will they balance those constrictive resources? Our first panel is going to address that. And as you see in the literature that we've passed out, we have a distinguished set of discussants and moderator to do that.

Next, we'll look at a different type of pressing issue – Nate Fick, Andrew Exum, here at CNAS have done some excellent writing on Afghanistan and this following panel

will discuss America's enduring interest in the region and therefore, look beyond Afghanistan to what comes next.

It's critical that we look both into the future and outside of the borders of Afghanistan, what will the region look like after we are gone, what effects will a burgeoning India and an intransigent Iran have on the region.

And finally, in our third panel, we'll look at President Obama's strategy of engagement, engagement having been central to the administration's policy today. Not only has the president advocated a renewed report with traditional allies; he's reached out to some erstwhile adversaries, to non-state actors, to new state partners and has even attempted to mobilize civil society. How effective will this broad strategy of engagement be on our diplomacy? What leverage will the United States have vis-à-vis its major partners and emerging power centers like China or other recalcitrant states like Iran or North Korea? Can we sustain U.S. leadership in the international community and if so, at what cost?

And while that session will conclude the three panels that we'll have today, they will set the table for our keynote speech. It will be a very great pleasure for so many of us and I know for so many of you to welcome back Michèle Flournoy who left us as president to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy at the Pentagon. And Michèle will speak about the administration's national security strategy and how to match the administration's priorities in a constrained budget environment.

As Richard mentioned, CNAS has released a series of reports today, nine in total. We welcome your enjoyment of the same but we also welcome your feedback, your critique. They will be found, not only in the handouts but also on our website. It is my pleasure on behalf of the board and the other leadership at CNAS to welcome you to our panel discussions and to the program here today. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(END).