

THE EMERGING VOICES SERIES: STRATEGY, SECURITY & DEFENCE AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

MONDAY 2 MARCH, 2026: 0830-1630 (MST)

FULTON CENTER, ASU TEMPE CAMPUS

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Opening Remarks

Speaker: Brigadier (Ret) Dr Ian Langford, Executive Director, Security & Defence PLuS

Time: 9:15 AM – 10:00 AM

Keynote Fireside

Speakers:

- Congressman Greg Stanton, United States Representative, Arizona's 4th District
- Dr Lily McElwee, President and CEO, Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations

Moderator:

- Brigadier (Ret) Dr Ian Langford, Executive Director, Security & Defence PLuS

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Panel 1: Experience, Innovation, and Leadership in a Changing Security Environment

Speakers:

- Lieutenant General (Ret) Jennifer Short, United States Air Force
- Jim Carouso, CSIS Senior Adviser and Senior United States Diplomat
- Mariam Kvaratskhelia, Research Associate, Future Security Scenarios Lab, New America
- Ryan Leavitt, PhD Candidate in Political Science, Arizona State University & Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force

Moderator:

- Dr Kristin Lord, Vice President, Global Strategy and Engagement, Arizona State University

Time: 11:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Networking Coffee Break

Time: 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Panel 2: Alliance Dynamics, International Cooperation and Security in the Indo-Pacific

Speakers:

- Paul Rennie OBE, British Consul-General Los Angeles

- Dr John Blaxland, Professor of International Security and Intelligence Studies and Director of the North America Liaison Office, Australian National University
- Peggy-Jean Allin, Research Analyst, Advanced Capabilities for National Security Institute, Arizona State University
- Wanting Lee, PhD Candidate in Political Science, Arizona State University

Moderator:

- Dr Ryan Shaw, Managing Director of Strategic Initiatives and Senior University Advisor to the President, Office of University Affairs, Arizona State University

Time: 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch Break

Time: 1:00 PM – 1:45 PM

Afternoon Fireside

Speakers:

- Abraham Denmark, Partner, Asia Group, Former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Defense
- Dr Noelle Troutman, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Northern Iowa; Former Security & Defence PLuS Postdoctoral Fellow

Moderator:

- Dr Chris Howard, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Arizona State University

Time: 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM

Panel 3 - Critical Infrastructure and National Resilience

Speakers:

- Ali Torabi, CEO, Lawrence Semiconductors
- Josh Lane, VP, Business Development, Utility Engineering
- Dr Deniz Berfin Karakoc, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence, Arizona State University
- Chris (Chih-Hua) Tseng, Non-Resident Fellow, Research Institute for Democracy, Society and Emerging Technology

Moderator:

- Dr Alicia Ellis, Director, MA in Global Security Program, School of Politics & Global Studies, Arizona State University

Time: 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Networking Coffee Break



Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Panel 4 - Strategic Frontiers: Space, AI, and the Future of Defence

Speakers:

- Dr Laurie Leshin, University Professor for Space Futures, Former Director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Lynndy Smith, President and CEO, Arizona Defense and Industry Coalition
- Dr Hannah Kerner, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence, Arizona State University
- Myke C. Cohen, PhD Student in Human Systems Engineering, Arizona State University and Associate Scientist, Aptima, Inc.

Moderator:

- Dr Nadya Bliss, Executive Director, Advanced Capabilities for National Security Institute, Arizona State University

Time: 4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Closing Remarks

Speaker: Brigadier (Ret) Dr Ian Langford, Executive Director, Security & Defence PLuS

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Networking Evening Reception