

Middlebury Institute of
International Studies at Monterey

THE JAMES MARTIN

Center for Nonproliferation Studies

News & Views: March 2016

2016 McElvany Prize offers \$10,000 for best essay

Prestigious essay contest open to young scholars

In an effort to spur new thinking and creative solutions in the field of WMD nonproliferation and disarmament, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and its journal, the *Nonproliferation Review*, launched the 2016 Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge with the grand prize of \$10,000 and a runner's up prize of \$2,000.

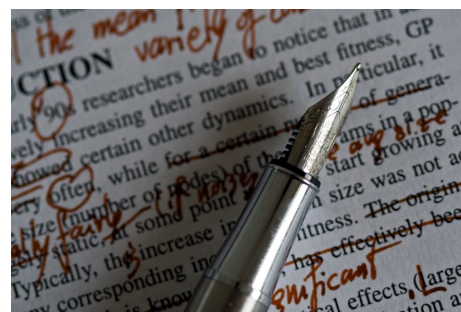


Image credit: [Nic McPhee Flickr](#)

The essays with the most outstanding new ideas and proposals will also be published in the *Nonproliferation Review* in 2017.

This year's contest is open to those enrolled in a master's or doctoral program, or those who have received their graduate or PhD degree no more than five years prior to the contest deadline of September 9, 2015.

For more information, [visit our website](#).

IAEA partners with VCDNP to promote CPPNM

Director General Amano attaches high priority to securing entry-into-force

On February 22, 2016, CNS's Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP), in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), hosted a high-level event to promote

the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) with a view to securing its entry-into-force. Fourteen ambassadors representing states that, while party to the CPPNM, have yet to become party to the amendment participated.

In his [remarks to the meeting](#), IAEA Director General Yukiyo Amano called the amendment "the most important area of unfinished business in nuclear security."

[Read more.](#)



IAEA Director General Yukiyo Amano at the event on Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material hosted by the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. _Photo D. Calma_IAEA_

Islamic State's confirmed use of chemical weapons



Photo: Roberto Schmidt/AFP/Getty Images; via georgetownsecuritystudiesreview.org

New analysis by Research Associate Farnaz Alimhehri examines why the the West is panicking

On February 12, 2016, CIA Director John Brennan confirmed that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) used chemical weapons - specifically mustard and chlorine gas - and may use them again, as it has the capacity to produce more.

ISIL's chemical weapons use raises serious concerns about non-state actors' access to WMD and reinforces fears of a possible terrorist attack with them in the West. The European Union (EU) member states have begun individually training their forces on how to respond to a CBRN attack, and the United States has also been reconsidering various options to mitigate the impact of an unconventional attack on US soil.

These preparations beg the question: what makes a CBRN attack more concerning than a conventional one? Four factors stand out:

[Read more.](#)

CNS course at Diplomatic Academy of Chile

Senior CNS experts strengthen nonproliferation and disarmament training of Chilean diplomats



Elena Sokova and Nikolai Sokov with students of the Santiago-based Diplomatic Academy

On March 14-18, Deputy Director of CNS Elena Sokova and CNS Senior Fellow Dr. Nikolai Sokov taught a short course at the Diplomatic Academy of Chile in Santiago focused on the nuclear nonproliferation regime, nuclear security, arms control and nuclear disarmament, and other key issues on the international security agenda. The course was attended by second-year students of the Diplomatic Academy, who will, upon graduation, work at the Foreign Ministry.

The course is part of a strong and growing relationship between the Foreign Ministry of Chile and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies that is implemented under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Ministry and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

[Read more.](#)

New course for US government personnel

Week-long course will be held April 11-15, in Washington

CNS will hold the next course in its series designed for government practitioners in the field of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. US government officials, as well as officials from a number of foreign embassies, are invited to apply by **March 28, 2016**. The course is free of charge to qualified applicants.



"Issues in Nuclear Nonproliferation" is intended for professionals with previous experience in the field of nuclear weapons issues and is also open to applicants who have completed the introductory course in this series. This course will be held April 11-15 at the Washington, DC, office of CNS.

The course will cover urgent current issues, including next steps in managing Iran's nuclear capabilities, meeting the growing North Korean nuclear challenge, and assessing the outcome of the 2015 Nuclear Security Summit.

[Apply today.](#)

North Korea in the news: parsing rhetoric from reality

CNS experts featured regularly in the media

Against a backdrop of regular tests, ratcheted sanctions, and ever-bigger wargames, tensions are mounting on the Korean peninsula.

CNS experts such as East Asia Program Director Jeffrey Lewis, Senior Research Associate Melissa Hanham, and Research Associate Catherine Dill have been quoted by NPR, Reuters, Agence France Presse, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Turkish Radio and Television World*, and others to help separate rhetoric from reality and paint an accurate picture of the threat and challenges.



Melissa Hanham has been featured on NPR, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Economist*, and others for her insight into North Korean nuclear activity

Check out the range of recent media appearances, and be sure to follow us on Twitter for breaking developments.

Upcoming Events

- March 29: "[Nuclear Security in the Middle East](#)," CNS Washington Office.
- April 8, "[Perspectives on the 2015 NPT Review Conference](#)," featuring Lewis Dunn, VCDNP.
- April 11, [Seminar by Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins](#) on Nuclear Security Summit outcome and next steps, VCDNP.

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Whether you are an alum, a colleague, or an engaged citizen with a passion for nonproliferation, consider showing your support for the work of CNS by donating today. Thank you.

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