



## Nuclear Weapons: 80-Years Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki

When the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, the world entered a new atomic era. No longer would the world's great powers wage war with one another several times per century, as was the case for centuries. Instead, nuclear weapons ended the Great Power War. The threat of nuclear escalation ensured the great powers kept their distance and purposefully sought to prevent conflict. The Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States never led to the war many feared because nuclear weapons created a potent deterrent to war.

Three decades since the Cold War ended and eight decades since the only employment of nuclear weapons in war, the United States is facing its greatest national security challenge yet. China, Russia, and North Korea are building modern nuclear arsenals that are collectively far larger than the arsenal of the United States. Thus, there is an ongoing debate concerning the size and capability required within the American nuclear arsenal to guarantee the continued success of deterrence.

This one-day conference brings together some of the nation's leading nuclear experts to discuss these critical topics at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. The location could not be more fitting, considering that it was President Truman who ordered the first use of atomic weapons seventy years ago. The Kansas City metropolitan area is also home to Whiteman Air Force Base and the Kansas City National Security Complex, which play an essential role in the nation's nuclear enterprise. Thus, local leaders and residents must understand this critical capability and guarantor of American security.

Unfortunately, too few Americans understand the role nuclear weapons play in preserving peace, promoting strategic stability, and preventing the kinds of devastating wars that were once all too frequent. This event is open to Kansas City area residents interested in better understanding nuclear deterrence and the role Greater Kansas City plays in contributing to the peace that the nation's nuclear arsenal preserves.

The Harry S. Truman Library, the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, and the National Institute for Deterrence Studies sponsor this informative event. It will be held at the Harry S. Truman Library on August 6, 2025. Seating is limited to registered attendees, so register early by contacting Adam Lowther at [alowther@thinkdeterrence.com](mailto:alowther@thinkdeterrence.com).

Coffee and pastries will be provided in the morning, and a light lunch will also be provided. We thank our sponsors for their generous donations, which made this free event possible.

<<https://thinkdeterrence.com/peace-through-strength-80-years-later/>>



## Conference Agenda

- 0700-0800    Registration
- 0800-0830    Welcoming Remarks
- 0830-0930    Is Nuclear Deterrence Still Relevant  
General Tony Cotton, Commander, US Strategic Command (Invited)
- 0930-0945    Comfort Break
- 0945-1045    President Truman's Decision to Use the Bomb  
Truman Library Archivist
- 1045-1100    Comfort Break
- 1100-1200    Reflecting on the Past  
A fireside chat with Major General (Ret.) Paul Tibbits IV
- 1200-1300    Lunch
- 1300-1400    The Current Threat Facing the United States  
Timothy Griffith, 509th Bomb Wing DC (Invited)
- 1400-1500    The American Nuclear Arsenal  
Maj Gen William Murphy, USAFR
- 1500-1515    Comfort Break
- 1515-1615    The Cost of Deterrence  
Adam Lowther, PhD, Vice President for Research, NIDS
- 1615-1630    Closing Remarks
- 1630          Adjourn