



## **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. Instead, nuclear weapons ended great power wars. 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 only use of atomic weapons in war eight decades ago. The Kansas City metropolitan area is 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 and the National Institute for Deterrence Studies (NIDS) are the sponsors for 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 registering at the NIDS website's "Events" page, [www.thinkdeterrence.com](http://www.thinkdeterrence.com)

We thank our sponsors for their generous donations, which made this free event possible.

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



## Agenda

- 0800- 0830      **Registration**
- 0830- 0900      **Welcoming Remarks**
- 0900- 0945      **President Truman's Decision to Use the Bomb**  
Randy Sowell, Truman Library Archivist
- 0945- 1000      **Comfort Break**
- 1000- 1045      **Reflecting on the Past**  
Brig Gen (Ret.) Paul Tibbets IV
- 1045- 1100      **Comfort Break**
- 1100- 1145      **The Current Threat Facing the United States**  
Col. Timoth Griffith, 509 BW DC
- 1145- 1230      **Lunch**
- 1230- 1315      **The American Nuclear Arsenal**  
Professor William Murphy, Missouri State Univ
- 1315- 1330      **Comfort Break**
- 1330- 1415      **How Allies See the American Nuclear Arsenal**  
Lt Gen (Ret.) In-bum Chun, Republic of Korea
- 1415- 1430      **Comfort Break**
- 1430- 1515      **The Cost of Deterrence**  
Adam Lowther, PhD, Vice President for Research, NIDS
- 1515- 1530      **Final Questions**
- 1530- 1600      **Closing Remarks**
- Adjourn**