

About the Center for a New American Security

The Center for a New American Security (CNAS) is an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization that develops strong, pragmatic and principled national security and defense policies. CNAS engages policymakers, experts and the public with innovative, fact-based research, ideas and analysis to shape and elevate the national security debate. A key part of our mission is to inform and prepare the national security leaders of today and tomorrow.

What We Do

CNAS develops innovative approaches to today's most pressing security challenges. The unifying theme in our wide-ranging body of work is the "new" in our name. CNAS focuses on four general research areas:

1. U.S. National Security and Defense Policy. CNAS performs ground-breaking work on the U.S. role in current and future conflicts and the implications of the rapidly evolving global security environment for U.S. interests and strategy. Past projects include studies on defense planning in an age of austerity, cyber security, the economic and financial instruments of U.S. national security policy, development and diplomacy in U.S. national security policy, links between transnational crime and security, and the contested global commons.

2. U.S. Military Forces and Operations. CNAS develops strategies to prepare America's armed services for a complex global security environment. Past projects include major studies on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, role of contractors in conflict, U.S. ground forces, special operations forces, revitalizing America's officer corps, and defense acquisition. CNAS also conducts cutting edge research on the employment, education and wellness challenges confronting service members, veterans and military families.

3. Critical Regions: U.S. National Security Interests in Asia and the Middle East. CNAS analyzes key countries and regions where the United States has critical security interests at stake. Past projects include major studies on South Asia, China, Iran, U.S.-India relations, the future of the U.S. alliances with Japan and South Korea, North Korea, Indonesia, Yemen and the Middle East.

4. Natural Security. CNAS conducts pragmatic policy analysis on the connections among climate change, energy, minerals, water, land and biodiversity and how these issues affect U.S. national security policy. Past studies have focused on the geo-strategic and security implications of climate change and the rising global consumption of resources including energy, critical minerals and water.

How We Drive Change

CNAS shapes the national security debate by linking people and ideas. We conduct cutting-edge research and analysis, serve as a hub for dialogue, shape public opinion through outreach and commentary, and prepare the next generation of national security professionals. We measure our success by how effectively our ideas and our people influence U.S. policy and raise the quality of the national conversation.

CNAS Leadership

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Our Team

CNAS is comprised of an agile team of 35 scholars, former policymakers, active-duty military officers and experienced writers-in-residence. We bring together diverse perspectives and connect civilians and members of the military, policymakers and academics, Republicans and Democrats, and experienced practitioners with the next generation of national security leaders.

Our History

CNAS was founded in 2007 by Kurt Campbell and Michèle Flournoy to reclaim the pragmatic center in the national security debate. Our alumni serve in positions of responsibility

throughout the U.S. government, the private sector, and the military.

Support CNAS

CNAS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported by charitable contributions from a diverse group of more than 250 foundations, corporations, and individuals, as well as government contracts. Our mission of providing independent, innovative, and objective analysis requires a strong base of committed supporters.

For further information on CNAS or to discuss giving opportunities, contact Catherine Cloud, at ccloud@cnas.org or (202) 457-9425, or visit our website at www.cnas.org.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"The 'It' Think Tank – When CNAS talks, people listen."

The Washington Post

"CNAS has become an indispensable feature on the Washington landscape... a reflection of the continued critical role that CNAS plays and the creative and timely work that it does."

James Steinberg, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State

"CNAS has, in a few short years, established itself as a true force... in policymaking circles... So well done to all those on the team that is CNAS."

General David Petraeus, Director, CIA

"Seriously bi-partisan."

Bill Kristol, The Weekly Standard

"CNAS is a brilliant example of institutional innovation. It descends from the gene code of think tanks but seeks to move ideas into action. Led by veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Center will help lead the United States into a new dimension of actionable theory relating to national defense."

Carl Schramm, former President and CEO, The Kauffman Foundation