




## Happy Autumn!

 @nuclear\_journal

Edited by Rachel Brooks, Ashley Humphrey, and Michael Moran

### The weather is changing...

But UT's campus looks the same as the beginning of the semester, and the Spring semester will be similar. Many classes will continue to be fully online, and IJNS work will also be done virtually.

We hope that everyone continues to be safe, and we hope we will be able to safely see people face-to-face someday soon!

### Announcing the Student Competition!

By Matthew Fisher and Hanna Adams  
Assistant Editors, Student Writing Competition Liaisons

The *International Journal of Nuclear Security* would like to announce its annual student writing competition for the 2020-2021 academic year! Judges will include volunteers who are leaders in the field of nuclear security. IJNS invites submissions of 3,000 to 5,000 words in four broad categories as they relate to nuclear security:

- Policy, Law, and Diplomacy
- Education and Training
- Science and Technology
- Human Reliability

IJNS welcomes submissions from students at any degree level and discipline to encourage valuable research in the broad field of nuclear security. We will announce the 2020-2021 submission deadline and award date soon through a special newsletter announcement.

We are currently seeking volunteers from the nuclear security field to judge writing submissions. Please contact Matthew Fisher at [mfishe28@vols.utk.edu](mailto:mfishe28@vols.utk.edu) and Hanna Adams at [hadams16@vols.utk.edu](mailto:hadams16@vols.utk.edu) to volunteer as a judge or ask any questions regarding submitting to the competition.

## OVERVIEW:

- Upcoming Events
- Announcing the Student Competition
- USSTRATCOM Virtual Deterrence: Hearing from Experts
- Where in the WORLD is Arjun?

This newsletter is designed to keep students, staff, and journal supporters up-to-date on how the journal is impacting global efforts to encourage diversity in theoretical foundations, research methods, and approaches.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November, date TBA: USSTRATCOM virtual and in-person table-top exercise
- November 2-6: 41st Meeting of the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC); virtual event hosted by IAEA
- November 12: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists 75th anniversary dinner; virtual event
- November 17: NTI event, The Future of IAEA Safeguards: Rebuilding the Vienna Spirit through Russian-U.S. Expert Dialogue; virtual event
- December 9-10: PONI Winter Conference; virtual event

## USSTRATCOM Virtual Deterrence: Hearing from Experts

By Conor Ross  
Assistant Editor

When thinking of career paths, one might not initially think of a career in Nuclear Security, yet the sector is massive, fielding thousands of experts worldwide. On October 5th, 2020, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) held the first conference of its University of Tennessee Virtual Deterrence Event: The National Security Professional Panel. Experts in the field discussed their work experiences and how they got into a nuclear security profession.

### There are Many Paths into the Field

A common theme among the panelists was that they started their careers through different avenues. For example, USSTRATCOM Intelligence Agency Senior Officer Michael Barkin initially set out to become

a doctor in the military, but instead he found himself working in Intelligence, almost by chance. While some wanted to join the military, others found themselves in Nuclear Security by opportunity, like Kayse Hansen, who followed an internship opportunity and branched out from a mathematics position into Nuclear Security.

### You can Learn on the Job

Another common theme was the importance of learning as you work in Nuclear Security (or on-the-job training). Especially when starting out in the field, it is important to take advantage of being surrounded by senior professionals to quickly understand the position. Professions like Military Intelligence demand a great deal of detailed understanding, and there is no better way to learn than to engage with co-workers and senior positions early so you can develop an understanding of

the information they need and how to deliver it.

### There is a Lot to Learn

As one might expect, working in Intelligence requires a lot of knowledge and intuition. Many experts in the field work with specific regions to learn the details about how they might secure nuclear resources. When reporting and recommending action to superiors, knowledge of the region's history and security is essential. When starting out, feeling like there is a lot you don't know is completely normal, but with time, research, and mentorship, you can learn a great deal about the job and our history.

While not a career path many would initially think of, this event highlighted how Nuclear Security is a sector which, despite demanding a lot of knowledge, accepts people with varied backgrounds and provides opportunities to learn on the job.

## Where in the WORLD is Arjun?

By Arjun Banerjee and Rachel Brooks

Earlier this month, IJNS author and book reviewer Arjun Banerjee traveled to New Hampshire, USA. He captured these beautiful photos of the autumn trees.

