Robert O. Work
Former Deputy Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense
Senior Counselor for Defense, Center for a New American Security (CNAS)
President and Owner, TeamWork, LLC

THE NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY: PURSUING “URGENT CHANGE AT SIGNIFICANT SCALE”

Wednesday, August 29, 2018
11 a.m.-noon, Burton D. Morgan Center, Room 121

In 2018, the Trump Administration published its first National Defense Strategy, sub-titled “Sharpening America’s Competitive Military Edge.” The strategy is based on the presumption the United States is entering into a new era of great power competition, which will be more strategically challenging than the immediate post-Cold War Era. This talk will explain the thinking behind the strategy; discuss seven national security challenges that must be addressed; and outline the changes to the defense program that are necessary to address them. The talk will end with a discussion about projected future defense budgets, and the choices they are likely to pose to future defense leaders.

Bob Work is an expert in the field of national security and defense, and a leading voice in defense strategy, operations, technology, and programming and budgeting. He served under two Presidents and five Secretaries of Defense as the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Undersecretary of the Navy from 2009-2017. Prior to his government civilian service, Work served in the United States Marine Corps for 27 years, retiring as a Colonel. After his retirement, he was the Vice President and Director of Studies at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA), and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). In these roles, he wrote and spoke extensively about national security, defense strategy and transformation, revolutions in war, maritime affairs, and defense technologies.

Work is now President and Owner of TeamWork, LLC. He is now back at CNAS as Senior Counselor for Defense, Senior Counselor at Telemus Group, LLC, a strategic consulting firm specializing in defense issues, and a Principal at WestExec Advisors. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, on the boards of directors of the Raytheon Corporation, Hensoldt, Inc., IEA and BlackLynx, as well as the boards of advisors for several small technology firms.

Work was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the National Intelligence Distinguished Public Service Medal, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award, and the Distinguished Public Service Awards from the Departments of the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

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