The world has dramatically changed from a technological perspective since the end of the Cold War. However, the re-emergence of “long-term strategic competition” as espoused in the 2018 National Defense Strategy and Nuclear Posture Review appear to be more closely aligned with the geopolitical situation which was evident during the 1980s than the wished for post-Cold War world where nuclear weapons and such competition were relics of a by-gone era. In this presentation I provide my perspectives as a senior military technologist who witnessed first-hand the transition of our Cold War space and nuclear deterrence posture at the technical and programmatic level and subsequent leadership in re-establishing key capabilities in this new era. The Department of Defense must overcome several institutional challenges in order to successfully compete in this new era, particularly as the United States modernizes several aspects of our national security space and nuclear deterrence missions. Exacerbated by the pace of technological innovation, these challenges demand reinvigorated approaches to collaboration with the broad U.S. science and technology community to deliver solutions to numerous complex challenges and help develop the next generation of defense science and technology leaders. The government must leverage innovations occurring in the commercial technology sector (e.g. commercial space developments), challenge industry and not-for-profit partners, and tap the deep expertise of the U.S. academic community to provide solutions supporting our space and nuclear deterrence operations technology needs. This presentation walks through my personal observations regarding opportunities related to strategic and space systems, science & technology, and shares my leadership perspective. I briefly discuss thoughts on technology opportunities and conclude by suggesting approaches for collaboration to help the government obtain needed capabilities to address the challenges of the National Defense Strategy.