



# TECHNOLOGY & NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

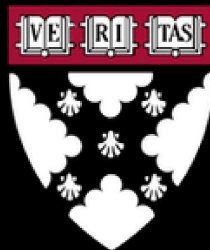
APRIL 3-4, 2026

DIGITAL BROCHURE

**ACTA NON VERBA**  
Innovating for the frontlines

**THE TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY  
CONFERENCE IS AN MIT SLOAN AND HARVARD  
BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENT RUN EVENT**

**PUT ON BY STUDENTS FROM THE  
SLOAN GLOBAL SECURITY TECH CLUB  
AND THE HBS AEROSPACE & DEFENSE CLUB**



**Aerospace &  
Defense Club**

A student club at  
Harvard Business School

## CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

### FRIDAY APRIL 3, HBS

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FIRESIDE WITH CQ BROWN

FIRESIDE WITH MATT STECKMAN

HAPPY HOUR

VIP DINNER WITH PROFS. FIONA MURRAY AND JIM MATHESON

### SATURDAY APRIL 4, MIT

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WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

CHAIR OPENING COMMENTS

MASSACHUSETTS FIRESIDE PANEL

EXHIBITION HALL

#### PANEL TRACKS

##### FRONTLINES

PACIFIC  
DETERRENCE

UKRAINE'S  
BATTLEFIELD LAB

TECH FOR THE ARCTIC  
DOMAIN

SECURITY IN THE  
AMERICAS

##### FUNDAMENTALS

ADVANCED  
MANUFACTURING

DRONES & AUTONOMY

SUPPLY CHAIN

SPACE

##### FRONTIER

ENERGY SECURITY

QUANTUM SYSTEMS

AI / DECISION  
DOMINANCE

THE BIOLOGICAL  
DOMAIN

##### POLICY & INVESTING

PUBLIC-PRIVATE  
INVESTMENTS

ACQUISITION REFORM

VENTURE CAPITAL

ECONOMIC SECURITY

MIDDLE EAST PANEL

FIRESIDE WITH BRANDON TSENG

INNOVATION SHOWCASE & CALL FOR PAPERS

NETWORKING RECEPTION

## A WORD FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Over five iterations of this conference, investment and interest in defense technology have grown exponentially. Today, the ecosystem is crowded with startups, investors, and innovators that barely existed a few years ago. Yet amid the buzz, much of the discourse amounts to little more than empty rhetoric - bold predictions about future wars paired with prescriptions for what others should do better.

So when we chose this year's theme, we chose to focus on the doers.

We set out to celebrate those who answered the call to tackle one of the defining challenges of our time; those who acted. They raised capital, built technologies, and delivered them into the hands of our real heroes: the sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and guardians whose service ensures we can enjoy a safer, more democratic world. This is who this conference is for - the warfighters, and the technologies that help keep them safe and effective - as our co-chair emeritus, Mo, reminded us in his opening remarks.

We hope you left our conference inspired by these members of our community, and carry that spirit of action forward until we meet again. Acta non verba.

— Ryan, Mike, Mo, Lachie, and James  
2026 Co-Chairs

*“If you do not yet have True North, I lend you my brother - use him as your True North to remind you why you should be in this room”*

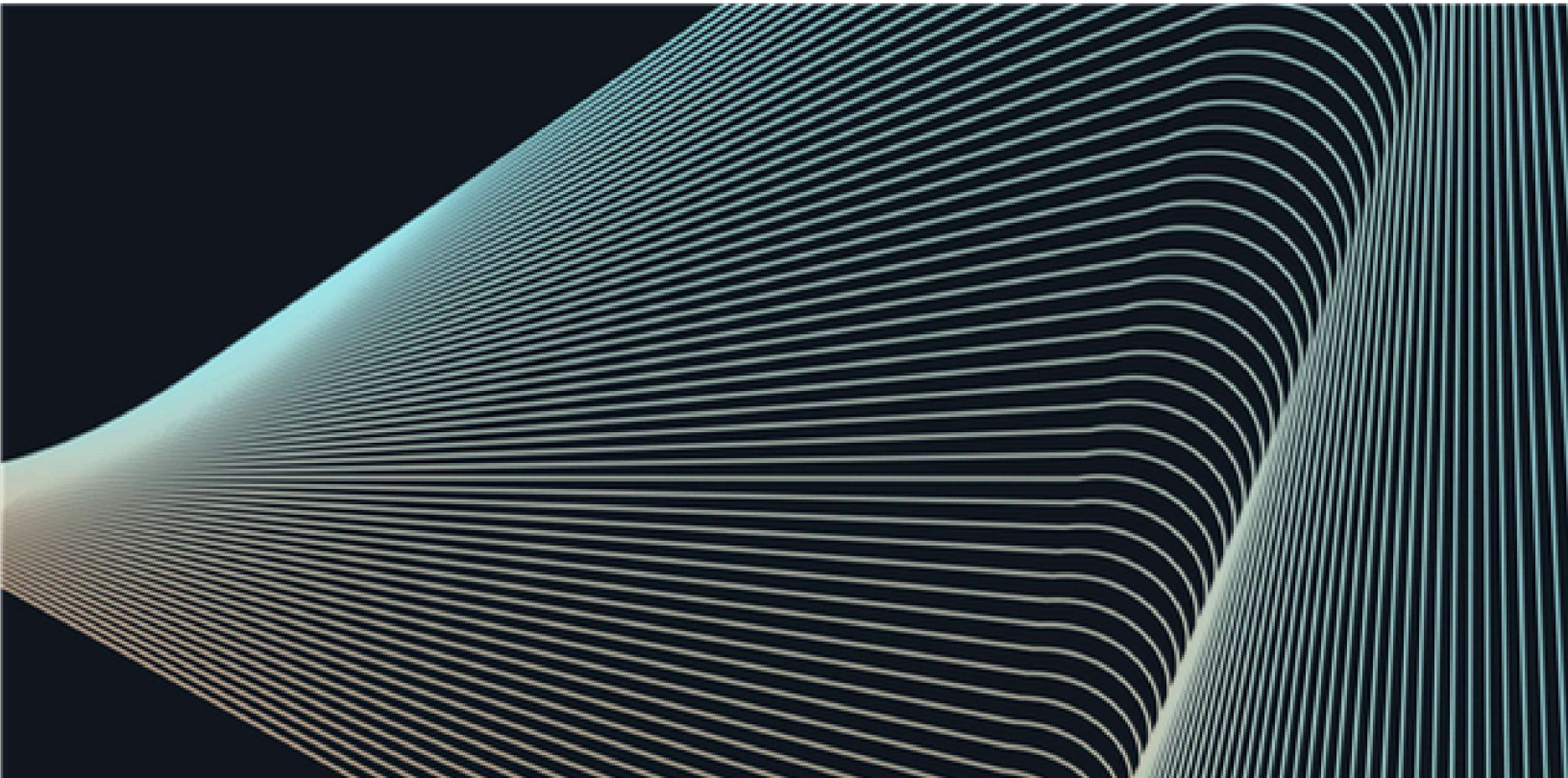


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**FRIDAY APRIL 3**

**FIRESIDE CHAT WITH CQ BROWN**

*“It's not the idea itself that makes a difference – it's if that idea makes it to the warfighter in a timely manner –*


*that's what Acta non Verba is all about”*

Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., USAF (Ret.) is the Executive in Residence at Duke University and served as the 21st Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was joined on stage by Nick Hanson, COO of War on the Rocks and HBS / HKS alum.



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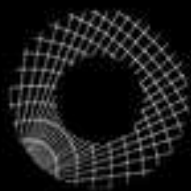
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**FRIDAY APRIL 3**  
**FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MATT STECKMAN**



Matthew Steckman, President & Chief Business Officer at Anduril, was joined on stage by conference co-chairs Mike Murray and Ryan Holte





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**FRIDAY APRIL 3**  
**HAPPY HOUR**



**VIP DINNER WITH PROFS. FIONA MURRAY AND JIM MATHESON**





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**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST**

Nini Hamrick, Co-Founder & President of Vannevar, gave remarks at the Women's Breakfast, followed by a networking session



## SATURDAY APRIL 4 MASSACHUSETTS FIRESIDE PANEL



Panelists:

Congressman Seth Moulton (U.S. House, MA-06), Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll (Commonwealth of Massachusetts), Cait Brumme (CEO, MassChallenge)

Moderated by:

Nick LaRovere (Co-Founder & CEO, Pryzm)



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**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**EXHIBITION HALL**

We had over 30 companies showcasing their tech in our first ever expo hall. Companies ranged from pre-seed startups to large primes. The hardware on display included night vision goggles, underwater vehicles, and a V-Bat on loan from ShieldAI



**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**FRONTLINES TRACK**

## PACIFIC DETERRENCE: SUSTAINING ADVANTAGE ACROSS THE MARITIME THEATRE



Panelists:

Brian Katz (Mission Director, Vannevar), Eyck Freymann (Hoover Fellow, Stanford University), Akhil Iyer (Founder, Watchtower Labs)

Moderated by:

Caleb Workman (HBS / HKS)

## UKRAINE'S BATTLEFIELD LAB

Panelists:

Brian Stroom (Founder & CEO, Vermeer), Brian Retherford (Co-Founder & COO, Aventura), Gene Keselman (Executive Director and Lecturer, MIT), Dan Rice (President, American University Kyiv)

Moderated by:

Cam Heard (MIT Sloan)



**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**FRONTLINES TRACK**

## TECH FOR THE ARCTIC DOMAIN: HIGH NORTH, HIGH STAKES



Panelists:

Dr. David Whelihan (Technical Staff, MIT Lincoln Laboratory), Iris Ferguson (Principal, IAF Strategies)

Moderated by:

Mike Fischer (MIT Sloan)

## SECURITY IN THE AMERICAS: BEYOND THE BORDER

Panelists:

General (Ret.) Alberto Mejia (Former General Commander, Military Forces of Colombia), Whitney Palacios (Chief Information Security Officer, BigBear.ai), Alex Brockwehl (Visiting Researcher, Brookings), RADM John Mauger, USCG (Ret.) (Principal, (PORTS) LLC)

Moderated by:

Stephanie Wood (MIT Sloan)



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**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**FUNDAMENTALS TRACK**  
**ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**



**Panelists:**

Will Edwards (CEO, Firehawk),  
Kevin Kassekert (CEO,  
VulcanForms), Benjamin Worrell  
(Senior Advisor, Rochefort Asset  
Management), Lukas Czinger (Co-  
Founder, CEO and President,  
Divergent Technologies)

**Moderated by:**

Steve Varshavsky (HKS)

**DRONES & AUTONOMY**

**Panelists:**

Dan Magy (CEO & Co-Founder,  
Firestorm Labs), Oliver Palmer  
(COO, Swarm Aero), Nelson Mills  
(CEO, Vatn Systems), Tom Huntley  
(General Manager & Vice  
President, REGENT Defense)

**Moderated by:**

Shai Cohen (HBS / HKS)



**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**FUNDAMENTALS TRACK**  
**SUPPLY CHAIN**

**Panelists:**

Meg Reiss (Founder & CEO, SolidIntel), Emily L. Benson (Head of Strategy, Minerva Technology Futures), Jonah Glik-Unterman (Chief Strategy Officer, Vulcan Elements), Matt Shieh (Chief Strategy Officer, Canopy Aerospace & Defense)

**Moderated by:**  
Ethan Steen (HBS)



**SPACE**



**Panelists:**

Halen Mattison (CEO, General Galactic), AC Charania (Senior Vice President, Zeno Power), Zach Tolley (Blue Origin)

**Moderated by:**  
Harshini Sivakumar (HBS)



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Contact: [Jeff.prosek@rebuildmanufacturing.com](mailto:Jeff.prosek@rebuildmanufacturing.com)

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**SATURDAY APRIL 4**

**FRONTIER TECHNOLOGY TRACK**

## ENERGY SECURITY: POWERING THE HOMELAND AND THE BATTLEFIELD



Panelists:

Adam Warmoth (Founder & CEO, Chariot Defense), The Honorable Meredith Berger (Principal, KinleyOne; Non-resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council Global Energy Center), Emrah Ercan (Vice President BU Service – North America, Hitachi Energy)

Moderated by:

Harsh Sanghi (HBS)

## QUANTUM SYSTEMS AND THE FUTURE OF STRATEGIC COMPETITION

Panelists:

Nate Gemelke (Chief Technology Strategist, QuEra Computing Inc.), Stephen Rodriguez (Partner, DCVC), Jessi Olsen (COO/CFO, Elevate Quantum), Walé Lawal (Co-Founder & CTO, Mesa Quantum)

Moderated by:

Stephen Buchanan (HBS)



**SATURDAY APRIL 4**

**FRONTIER TECHNOLOGY TRACK**

## DECISION DOMINANCE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE MODERN FRONT LINE

Panelists:

Cameron McCord (Founder & CEO, Nominal), Aaron Brown (CEO, Lumbra), Andy Markoff (Co-Founder & CEO, Smack Technologies)

Moderated by:

Naveen Krishnan (HKS)



## THE BIOLOGICAL DOMAIN: BUILDING RESILIENCE AND UNLOCKING HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Panelists:

Angela Belcher (James Mason Crafts Professor, MIT), Matthew McKnight (General Manager, Ginkgo Biosecurity), Jake Adler (Founder, Pilgrim), Jake Becraft (CEO & Co-Founder, Strand Therapeutics)

Moderated by:

Molly Shapiro (HBS)



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Mix is a research, education, and acceleration hub designed to bridge the structural gap between deep-tech startups and mission-driven organizations navigating an increasingly complex national security landscape.

Central to our approach is the Dual-Use Venture Incubator, which partners with early-stage dual-use companies on STTR grants – embedding academic rigor into applied defense research while creating sustained opportunities for student and faculty engagement on problems of national consequence.



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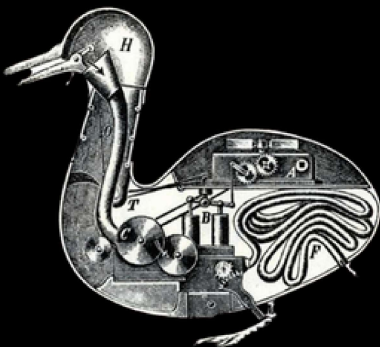
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**SATURDAY APRIL 4**

**POLICY & INVESTING TRACK**

## **PUBLIC - PRIVATE INVESTMENTS FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCY**



Panelists:

The Honorable Erik Raven (Managing Director, Beacon Global Strategies), Trevor Burns (Managing Director, J.P. Morgan SRI), Ivan Shyr (Managing Director, Investments, CapZone Impact Investments), Christina Alfonso (Executive Director & President, Council on Global Competition and Innovation)

Moderated by:

Matthew Bernard (HBS)

## **ACQUISITION REFORM**

Panelists:

Matt MacGregor (COO, Creative Defense Network), Nate Diller (President & CSO, Mach), Nick LaRovere (Co-Founder & CEO, Pryzm), Sheralyn Fallon (Principal Director, Supply Chain, Draper), Mike McGinley (Senior of Counsel, Wilson Sonsini)

Moderated by:

Justin Hegar (MIT Sloan)



**SATURDAY APRIL 4**

**POLICY & INVESTING TRACK**

**VENTURE CAPITAL**



Panelists:

Matt Cronin (Senior National Security Advisor, a16z), Laura Rippy (Managing Partner, Alumni Ventures), Daniel Gwak (Chief Investment Officer, In-Q-Tel), Chip Walter (Partner, MarlinSPIKE)

Moderated by:

Molly Hassell (HBS)

**ECONOMIC SECURITY**

Panelists:

Greg Levesque (CEO & Co-Founder, Strider), David Rader (Deputy Director – Economic Defense Unit, Department of War), Michael Brown (Partner, Shield Capital), The Honorable Nazak Nikakhtar (Attorney at Law, Wiley Rein LLP)

Moderated by:

Bethany Russell (HBS / HKS)



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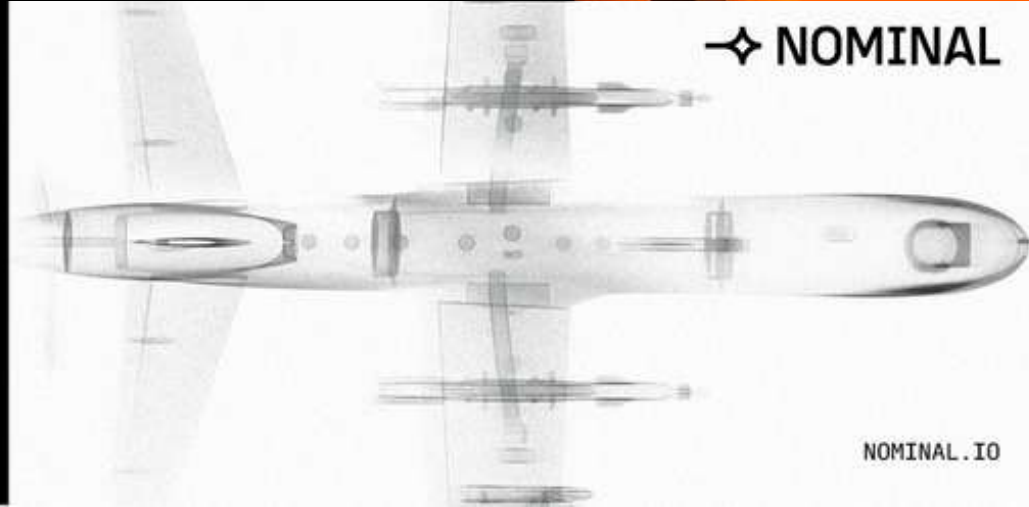
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## SATURDAY APRIL 4 MIDDLE EAST PANEL



**Panelists:**

Edward Djerejian (Belfer Center, HKS, Former ambassador to Israel and Syria), Nimrod Tzukert (Belfer Center, HKS), Michael Singh (Managing Director and Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute)

**Moderated by:**

Mark Pascale (Director, Intelligence Project, HKS)



# **SATURDAY APRIL 4** **FIRESIDE CHAT WITH BRANDON TSENG**

Brandon Tseng, the President & Co-Founder of Shield AI and an HBS alum, was joined on stage by conference co-chair Ryan Holte



**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**INNOVATION SHOWCASE**

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**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
**CALL FOR PAPERS**





# SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

## **TECHNOLOGY & NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE 2026 PLANNING TEAM**

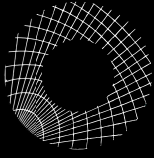
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