



Commission on the National Defense Strategy for the United States



Dr. Thomas G. Mahnken was appointed to the Commission by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ).

Dr. Mahnken currently serves as President and CEO of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments and a Senior Research Professor at the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at The Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. He was formerly the Jerome E. Levy Chair of Economic Geography and National Security at the U.S. Naval War College.

Dr. Mahnken served as the DASD for Policy Planning from 2006-2009. In that capacity, he was responsible for the DoD's major strategic planning functions, including the preparation of guidance for war plans and the development of the defense planning scenarios. He was the primary author of the 2008 NDS and contributing author of the 2006 QDR. He spearheaded the Secretary of Defense's Minerva Research Initiative, which will provide \$100 million in grants to universities to conduct basic research in the social sciences, and led an interagency effort to establish, for the first time in five decades, a NSC-run interagency policy planning body

Prior to joining the DoD, he served as a Professor of Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College. From 2004 to 2006 he was a Visiting Fellow at the Merrill Center at SAIS. During the 2003-04 academic year he served as the Acting Director of the SAIS Strategic Studies Program. His areas of primary expertise are strategy, intelligence, and special operations forces. Dr. Mahnken has held positions in both the government and the private sector. He served on the Staff of the 2014 National Defense Panel and as Staff Director of the 2010 QDR Independent Panel's Force Structure and Personnel Sub-Panel. He served on the staff of the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding WMD. He served in the DoD's ONA, where he conducted research into the emerging revolution in military affairs. He also served as a member of the Gulf War Air Power Survey, commissioned by the Secretary of the Air Force to examine the performance of U.S. forces during the war with Iraq. Prior to that, he served as an analyst in the Non-Proliferation Directorate of OSD, where he was responsible for enforcing U.S. missile proliferation policy. In 2009, Dr. Mahnken received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

Dr. Mahnken is the author of *Strategy in Asia: The Past, Present, and Future of Regional Security* (2014), *Competitive Strategies for the 21st Century* (2012), *Secrecy and Strategem: Understanding Chinese Strategic Culture* (2011), *Technology and the American Way of War Since 1945* (2008), *Uncovering Ways of War: U.S. Intelligence and Foreign Military Innovation, 1918-1941* (2002), and (with James R. FitzSimonds) of *The Limits of Transformation: Officer Attitudes toward the Revolution in Military Affairs* (2003). He has appeared on Fox News, CNN, BBC, and CBC, among other networks. He is editor of *The Journal of Strategic Studies*.

Dr. Mahnken earned his master's degree and doctorate in international affairs from SAIS and was a National Security Fellow at the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard University. He was a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Southern California with bachelor's degrees in history and international relations (with highest honors) and a certificate in defense and strategic studies.