

Retired General McCaffrey's NSS Keynote Address

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Keynote Address

June 2, 2014 – Retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey gave the keynote address, *The Role of U.S. Power in the World*, for the 60th National Security Seminar, June 3 in Bliss Hall.

McCaffrey acknowledged the service of the US and international class members when he asked students to indicate the number of combat deployments. Some students indicated having deployed more than four times since 9/11/2001. This is our officer leadership in the past ten years, all have been select through a Darwinian process of successful effectiveness in deployed operations, said McCaffrey.

Despite identifying contrasts with respect to implementing strategy today compared to when he was in command, McCaffrey pointed out that basics remain true.

“Colin Powell, my mentor, used to say, ‘Don’t talk about your white papers and strategies. Talk about your

budgets. Smart people inside the beltway fight about money.” Sequestration has made this all the more relevant, he noted.

In speaking of the numerous potential threats across the globe, from Iran to North Korea to China to Russia and more, he underscored the threat of WMD.

“The proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction is a serious destabilizing aspect of global diplomacy and security,” said McCaffrey. “We need to make sure that technology is the lever that we bring to bear on security issues.”

McCaffrey invited the audience to continue thought on the security situation today, by reading his article, *Murky Future Requires Clear Thinking* in Army Magazine:

http://www.ausa.org/publications/armymagazine/archive/2014/Documents/06June14/FC_McCaffrey_June2014.pdf

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