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# **Overview of Project on National Security Reform (PNSR)**

## **Vision Working Group**

### **Report and Scenarios**

By

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Federal Foresight Community of Interest, November 18, 2015

Disclaimer: "Opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the Department of Justice."

# The PNSR Scenarios



- Forecast a broad range of plausible futures for the PNSR Working Groups
- 9 future scenarios set in 2020, 2040 and 2060
  - Based on STEEP trends combined with wildcard events
  - Not predictions
  - All scenarios easily adaptable to media (one has been so far-“Red Death”)
- Purposes
  - Provoke innovative discussion about future national security structures and processes within the PNSR working groups
  - Stress test PNSR recommendations
  - Enhance the long-term relevance of PNSR recommendations
- FFCoI
  - Feedback on their trajectory (Fuerth et. al. Anticipatory Governance)

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# The 2020 Scenarios

# Scenario 2: People's War 2020

Global asymmetric war against a nuclear-armed great power

## The Stress Scenario

"The entire federal government is caught in the conundrum of how to respond to anonymous attacks at home and abroad while avoiding an escalation to nuclear war."



## Post-PNSR World: Long-Range Contingency Planning and Agile Teaming Minimizes Impact of Conflict

- The national security interagency process enables a better-informed and agile interagency response

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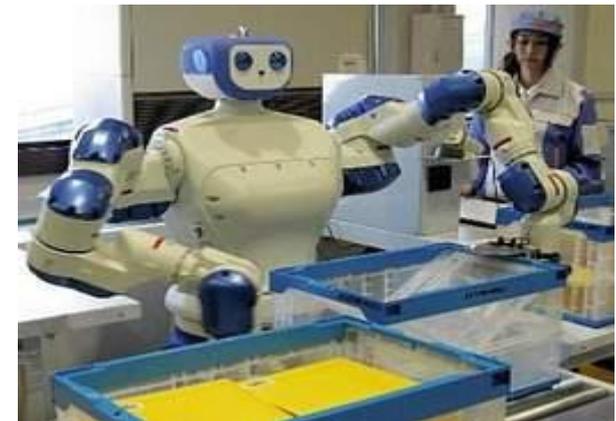
# The 2040 Scenarios

# Scenario 4: A New Economy 2040

A robot-driven global depression

## The Stress Scenario

“In this scenario, the United States faces its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The crisis is a perfect storm of the unintended consequences of new technologies, policies, court decisions, and popular expectations”



## Post-PNSR World: Long-Range Systems Analysis Eases Transition to New Economy

- Government, industry, and the public work together to find solutions to a new economic reality
- STEEP systems models via National Assessment and Visioning Center—NAVIC (now Center for Complex and Strategic Decisions-CCSD) of the US economy and public policy

# Scenario 5: Pax Robotica 2040

Strategic dominance through intelligent systems

## The Stress Scenario

“In this scenario, we explore the intersection of unmanned, robotic warfare and on the ground diplomacy.”



## Post-PNSR World: Tight Integration Enables Rapid Transition from Military to Diplomatic Operations

- Real-time cooperation among the military, diplomatic, and intelligence arms of government
- State Department control of post-war reconstruction

# Scenario 6: Who Holds the High Ground 2040

## Global competition in the Earth-Moon system

### The Stress Scenario

"In this scenario, we envision major competitive changes in the Earth-Moon system from the perspective of a traditional agency space working group...it is hard to put a finger just when the land grab for the Moon began"



### Post-PNSR World: Synergistic National Space Strategy Developed

- Long-range forecasts of space competition dynamics through NAVIC (now CCSD)
- Special Assistant for Space to the Director of National Security
- House Select National Security Committee on Space

# Scenario 7: Brave New World 2040

Control of Persons of Mass Destruction via neuroscience and medicine

## The Stress Scenario

"In this scenario, we examine a plan to apply proven neuroscience, psychiatric, and medical techniques to the control of pathological behaviors in a world of readily accessible weapons of mass destruction."



## Post-PNSR World: Difficult Ethical Challenges Are Met Openly

- NAVIC (CCSD) modeling predicts that a PMD attack from the underdeveloped world is inevitable
- Senate Select National Security Committee for Neuro-Psychological Operations

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# The 2060 Scenarios

# Scenario 8: A Warm Reception 2060

The challenge of developing international consensus on global climate change

## The Stress Scenario

“Despite decades of good intentions, as well as political posturing on the importance of “doing something” about global warming, nothing significant had been done. Yes, there were treaties...but the growing prosperity (and the corresponding fossil fuel emissions) of Asia, Latin America, and more recently the Central African Union, had dwarfed these efforts.”



## Post-PNSR World: Unified National Planning Leads to Unified International Response to a Changing Climate

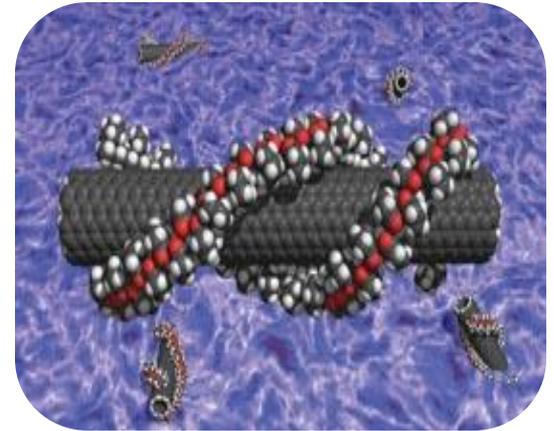
- Interagency Green Earth Team conducting international negotiations
- Unified global climate change strategy, including science and technology investment strategy

# Scenario 9: It's a Small World 2060

Nanotechnology wars and nanofabrication remake the world

## The Stress Scenario

"On occasion she'd smelled a faint miasma, the results of a skirmish too small to see, or she'd trip on a small sinkhole that had yet to be repaired. But again, this was a small price to pay for a world without hunger, poverty, disease, and aging, all thanks to the everyday miracles of nano production."



## Post-PNSR World: Fundamental Societal Changes Are Anticipated and Addressed Proactively

- US Nanotech Fast Response Team works in conjunction with NAVIC (now CCSD) to facilitate proactively the safe transition to a nanotech economy
- Government-Industry long-term cooperation

# Special Note on the Possibility of Technological Singularity

## 2060

- “ a technological singularity is said to occur when intentional, intelligent machines take over their own development, and due to their superior memories and processing abilities, quickly advanced states beyond human comprehension.”



- “it is hypothesized that such super intelligent entities will reshape the world as they see fit, with or without human input.”
- A singularity scenario was omitted based on practicality not plausibility
- If singularity occurs, or appears to be rapidly approaching, the question of interagency cooperation on national security affairs will be revisited

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# Back to The 2020 Scenarios

# Scenario 3: A Grand Strategy 2020

Next generation interagency grand strategy center

## The Stress Scenario

“National Strategy Integration and Visioning Agency (NSIVA) was created in 2013 to assist the President and his Administration in developing a dynamic national grand strategy. The ability to create such a strategy was complicated by interagency stovepipes...political constraints...and the technical difficulty of developing an integrated strategy in an increasingly complicated and interconnected world.”



## Post-PNSR World: NAVIC Supports Objective Long-Range Strategy

- National Assessment and Visioning Center–NAVIC [currently envisioned as the Center for Complex and Strategic Decision (CCSD)]

# Scenario 1: Red Death 2020

Bio-attack shatters the United States and the World

## The Stress Scenario

"In this scenario, we are struggling to get back on our feet after a major biological attack and witness a debate about the future role of the US government both at home and abroad."



## Post-PNSR World: Robust Biological Defense System Reduces Bio Attack Risk

- Bioterror Interagency Team
- Layered advanced bio sensor, detection, and filtration systems
- New virus, bacteria, and prion rapid identification, neutralizing, and treatment protocols
- Unconventional and emerging threat identification, assessment, and gaming through the NAVIC (now CCSD)

# Acknowledgements

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- Chris Waychoff, Matthew Russell and Jim Burke and all other colleagues at the TASC Futures Group
- PNSR (Sheila Ronis, Bob Polk, Dan Langberg)-Leon Fuerth
- Argonne National Labs; Pam Sydelko and team; “Red Death” video
- PNSR Vision Working Group Report and Scenarios can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1002>
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