James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
CNS strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists while also disseminating timely information and analysis. Founded in 1989, CNS is the largest nongovernmental organization in the world devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues.

CNS staff members are active in promoting nonproliferation policies around the world. They serve on expert and international commissions, testify before Congress, work for and advise national governments and international organizations, publish numerous books and articles, provide expert media commentary, lecture to civic groups, and mentor students and young professionals with an interest in the field.

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) is the premier education and training organization in the field of nonproliferation studies.
“The excellent quality of the Visiting Fellows Program is a reflection of the expertise of the CNS trainers and the dedication of the whole team. This training marked a decisive turning point in my career and opened doors to international civil service.”

Regis Bakyono, Public Information Officer, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Academics
A key component of our mission is to train the next generation of nonproliferation specialists. The Middlebury Institute offers the country’s only master’s degree in nonproliferation and terrorism studies. The Institute also offers a Certificate in Nonproliferation Studies.

Students at CNS engage in groundbreaking work using new tools and technologies to explore longstanding security challenges. In addition to using social media techniques to address questions of arms control verification, nuclear security, and illicit trafficking, students integrate satellite imagery, change-detection algorithms, and 3-D modeling to analyze and depict sites of proliferation interest in North Korea, Russia, China, Iran, Syria, Pakistan, and elsewhere.

CNS also helps students land internship opportunities at international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs.

Special Education Programs
CNS sponsors a number of special programs and learning opportunities:

The annual Critical Issues Forum, a nonproliferation education project for high school students and teachers, culminates with a spring conference featuring a keynote address from a major world leader. Recent conferences were held in Vienna, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Monterey, and featured IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, former Defense Secretary William Perry, and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo.

The Summer Undergraduate Fellows Program allows stellar undergraduate students to conduct research on specialized nonproliferation issues.

The Visiting Fellows Program assists mid-career professionals as well as researchers, academics, and journalists in making a positive impact on arms control and nonproliferation policy in their respective countries.

The Arms Control Negotiation Simulation is an annual Middlebury Institute course taught by CNS Founding Director William C. Potter, in which students take on roles as members of different country delegations to negotiate an international arms control agreement. Guest lecturers include numerous past and present U.S.-Russian arms control negotiators and other senior diplomats.
CNS has done absolutely pioneering work in trying to promote the very concept of disarmament and nonproliferation education. It has not only shown its own capabilities in this field, but also helped to stake out a new academic discipline that is more vital than ever, given the challenges we face in the world today.”

Dr. Randy Rydell, Former Senior Political Affairs Officer, Office of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations
Vienna Center
Since 2011, CNS has operated the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) in partnership with the Austrian Foreign Ministry for European and International Affairs. The center promotes international peace and security by providing a platform for independent analysis and dialogue in the field.

VCDNP organizes conferences and seminars to foster discussions among international organizations, national governments, nongovernmental experts, scholars, and civil society. With key partners, VCDNP conducts research, outreach, education, and training for diplomats and civil society representatives on nonproliferation and disarmament issues.

Washington, D.C.
Our strategically located Washington, D.C., office conducts cutting-edge nonproliferation and disarmament research and engages extensively with United States officials, foreign embassies, Congressional staff, members of the media, and the policy community.

Equipped with state-of-the-art conference facilities and a robust team of domestic and international experts, the D.C. office holds frequent workshops and seminars on current policy issues, and is home to the CNS Middle East Nonproliferation Program, the center’s scholarly journal, the Nonproliferation Review, and the center’s team of international sanctions specialists.