



# DUPONT SUMMIT 2013

..... Pressing Issues, Economic Realities

December 6, 2013 \* Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

The Policy Studies Organization

## **Speaker**

Robert McCreight – *George Washington University*

### **"Convergent Threats--Mingled Technologies"**

Examining the array of new technologies emerging and maturing over the next 8-10 years it is easy to envision how each of these cutting edge technologies can advance the quality of life for millions. However, most areas of advanced technology contain obvious and subtle dual-use risks and this is especially acute in areas where nanotechnology, synthetic biology, cognitive neuro-science, cybernetics, and robotics develop in parallel with the inherent, but often overlooked, risk of convergent technologies which result in hybrid mixes that contain elements of dual-use risk alongside unknown embedded risks of blended technologies where their combined and interactive effects are potentially dangerous. One issue that is paramount is to track each emerging technology for its dual-use implications while a far tougher issue is to assess the threat implications of convergent technologies. Social and political strategies are needed now.



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## **Biography**

After serving the United States government at the State Department and other federal agencies over a 35 year career, **Dr. Robert McCreight** retired in 2004 and served as a consultant for major homeland security and national defense contractors. During his service at State Department he was a senior Soviet military analyst with INR and specialized in the assessment of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs. Later in his professional career he performed assignments where he either managed or coordinated international post-disaster relief and humanitarian operations, developed peacekeeping policy, promoted global science and technology cooperation projects and helped design treaty verification systems. He also participated in the design and coordination of over 26 White House nuclear readiness command crisis exercises during the Reagan administration to enhance our readiness to deal with the Soviet threat.

McCreight spent 27 years of combined active and reserve military service concurrently with his civilian work in U.S. Army Special Operations and has devoted 12 years to teaching graduate school as an adjunct at Georgetown, George Mason and George Washington Universities in subjects as diverse as disaster and emergency management, strategic intelligence, nonproliferation policy, homeland security policies, terrorism analysis, intelligence analysis and assessing WMD threats. He has also written and published over 19 articles on chemical weapons use, disaster management, disaster recovery, post-strike attribution, biological weapons threats to homeland security, WMD scenario development and collegiate educational strategies for developing future crisis managers for government service. His textbook-*Emergency Exercise Design and Evaluation* was published in 2011 and continues to be a popular resource in graduate schools.