

THE NEWS RECORD

Foreign Policy Expert Hosts Discussion at UC

Jason Hoffman February 14, 2013

FOREIGN POLICY Christopher Preble, vice president for defense and foreign policy at the CATO Institute, discussed nuclear proliferation at the University of Cincinnati Tuesday.

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Bryan Shupe | Senior Reporter | 0 comments

The University of Cincinnati welcomed Christopher Preble, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the CATO Institute in Washington D.C, Tuesday to discuss nuclear proliferation.

Preble and his colleagues are working on a project called “From Triad to Diad,” which examines the potential of changing United States nuclear weapon positioning around the world from a wide array of platforms to strategic placement on platforms like nuclear submarines to protect US interests instead of posturing in ally nations.

The project has been ongoing for a little more than a year, and focuses on the development of nuclear armament of the middle-to-late 20th century.

“We think when people understand better, how it is [the US] developed a triad in the first place, we think that some of the political support, and even the cultural attachment to the nuclear triad will fall away,” Preble said.

The US nuclear arsenal has been reduced dramatically — 1/10th of its original size — and the strategic justification for the force structure no longer exists, Preble said, which means there are favorable circumstances for a cultural shift on the nuclear armament and strategic placement discussion.

At the center of Preble’s argument is the idea of finite deterrence, which means a limited number of nuclear arms to be used as a second-strike deterrent. This form of deterrence is also known as mutually assured destruction, meaning if one country fires a nuclear weapon at another, there will be nuclear weapons coming back destroying both nations.

“Our commitment to defend certain allies has deterred them from acquiring nuclear weapons,” Preble said of deterrence.

Preble believes in nuclear deterrence, but also said President Barack Obama is moving in the right direction on deterrence and disarmament and that there are bigger threats like cyber sensitivity and global warming to contend with.

Jason Hoffman contributed to this story.