

Protecting Essential Services: Critical National Infrastructure Security Conference and Specialised Planning Event

Fairmont State University, West Virginia

28-29 July 2025



Background

In response to the ever-increasing threats to U.S. and UK Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) Fairmont State University is partnering with the West Virginia National Guard (WVNG), and the University of Plymouth to deliver an interactive solution-focussed conference discussing the protection of CNI. Pursuing an international perspective, the conference will profile multidomain (physical, biological, and cyber) threats to CNI whilst considering how state and non-state actors may coordinate these vectors to inflict maximum harm. In addition to the externally directed threats to CNI, the conference will examine the unique challenges associated with internal sabotage or 'insider threat' and the ways in which this can be exploited by hostile state actors and their proxies.

Locations

- Main conference 28-29 Jul 25 - Fairmont State University, WV.

Conference Dates

28-30 Jul 25:

- 1.5 day open conference to raise awareness of potential threats and encourage collaboration on threat mitigation. To be hosted at Fairmont State University, WV.

Organisers and Sponsors

- Fairmont State University;
- Azimuth Inc.;
- WVNG / Camp Dawson / Irregular Warfare Center;
- ASG Protect;
- University of Plymouth, and
- BAE Systems / BAE Inc.

Allied Speakers

- Dr. Bob Seely (former UK Minister of Parliament).
- NATO CNI protection SMEs.
- Dr. Damian Terrill, University of Plymouth.
- Dr. Robert G. Cutlip, US IDA and Fairmont State University.
- Dr. John Hardham, CAPT US Navy, Chief Scientist Zoetis.
- Mr. William Klug, COL US Air Force (Ret), WV National Guard.
- Other Speakers pending.

Intended Outputs

- Knowledge and best practice sharing;
- International partnership development and the establishment of mentoring by experienced industry partners and government agencies, and
- Conference papers and applied research specifically focussed upon the protection of West Virginia's CNI.

Points of Contact

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