Samuel Bendett and Elsa Kania Bios

**Mr. Samuel Bendett**

Samuel Bendett is an Analyst with the CNA Adversary Analysis Group, where he is a member of the Russia Studies Program. His work involves research on the Russian defense and technology developments, such as Russian naval capabilities, unmanned military systems and artificial intelligence, as well as Russian decision-making calculus during crises. He is also a Member of CNA’s Center for Autonomy and Artificial Intelligence. Samuel is also a Fellow in Russia Studies at the American Foreign Policy Council, where he conducts research on the Russian unmanned military systems and artificial intelligence. Prior to joining CNA, Samuel worked on the emerging and disruptive technologies for the Department of Defense. His previous experience includes working for public, private and non-profit organizations on foreign policy, international conflict resolution, defense and security issues. Samuel’s analyses, views and commentary on Russian military robotics, unmanned systems and artificial intelligence capabilities appear in the C4ISRnet, DefenseOne, War on the Rocks, Breaking Defense, The National Interest, War Is Boring, and The Strategy Bridge. He has native fluency in Russian. He was named an official “Mad Scientist” by the U.S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command. Samuel received his M.A. in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, Tufts University and B.A. in Politics and English from Brandeis University.

**Ms. Elsa Kania**

Elsa B. Kania is an Adjunct Senior Fellow with the Technology and National Security Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and a Non-Resident Fellow at ASPI’s International Cyber Policy Centre. Her research focuses on Chinese military innovation and technological development. At CNAS, she contributes to the Artificial Intelligence and Global Security Initiative and the “Securing Our 5G Future” program, while acting as a member of the research team for the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and National Security. Elsa was a 2018 Fulbright Specialist with ASPI’s International Cyber Policy Centre. Elsa has been invited to testify before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, and the National Commission on Service. She was named an official “Mad Scientist” by the U.S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command. Currently, Elsa is a PhD student in Harvard University’s Department of Government, and she is also a graduate of Harvard College.