**Dr. Thomas F. Lynch III**

Distinguished Research Fellow

Institute of National Strategic Studies (INSS)

National Defense University (NDU)

Washington, D.C.

SMA-J39 Speaker Series

Thursday, March 18, 2021

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Realities, Imperatives, & Principles of Great Power Competition (GPC): Today & Into the Biden Administration**

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:

*This presentation updates and extends the concluding chapter of the NDU-Press, October 2020 book,* ***Strategic Assessment 2020: Into a New Era of Great Power Competition****, edited by Dr. Thomas F. Lynch III. It highlights several major framing characteristics of this new era. It then analyzes three main imperatives for American success in Great Power competition (GPC) by observing that: the Sino-American dyad is not a new Cold War; successful competition with China must feature a wise choice of U.S. allies; and the U.S. can only succeed if the national government smartly intervenes in the economy to fortify American competitive advantage. It offers historically based analysis demonstrating that four competitive principles are most critical to U.S. success in a long-term competition with China: firm yet flexible policies, prioritization of partnerships and alliances, confronting China’s leadership not its people, and playing for time. It concludes with an in-stride assessment of how the Biden Administration seems most likely to pursue U.S. policy and security interests in this new era of GPC.*

SHORT BIOGRAPHY:

**Dr. Thomas F. Lynch III** is a Distinguished Research Fellow at the Center for Strategic Research (CSR) at the Institute of National Strategic Studies (INSS) of the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, D.C.  Dr. Lynch researches, writes, lectures, teaches, and organizes workshops and conferences for Department of Defense customers on the topics of Great Power Competition (GPC) & geopolitics, India’s strategic rise, Afghanistan-Pakistan & wider South Asia, the Gulf Arab States, and the past & future trajectory of radical Islam. His primary ongoing research is focused on GPC and on India’s strategic rise and implications for Indo-Pacific security and stability. Dr. Lynch has published three books including as editor of *Strategic Assessment 2020: The Into a New Era of Great Power Competition (NDU Press, October 2020)* He also has published more than a dozen book chapters and thirty feature monographs and journal articles.

Dr. Lynch joined INSS after a 28 year career in the active duty U.S. Army, serving in a variety of command and staff positions as an armor/cavalry officer and as a senior level politico-military analyst including as a Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff & Deputy Director of the Chairman’s Advisory & Initiatives Group; Commander of the U.S. Army War Theater Support Group in Doha, Qatar; Director of the Advisory Group for the Commander, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM); and Military Special Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan.

Dr. Lynch is a regular multi-media analyst and commentator on national and international programs. He is a member of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and an adjunct professor in the Security Studies Program in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He holds a B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a Master’s in Public Administration (MPA) and a Masters (M.A.) & Ph.D. in International Relations from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

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