

Institute for National Strategic Studies

INSS Senior Staff Biography

M. Elaine Bunn

Senior Research Fellow Director, Future Strategic Concepts Program

National Defense University

202-685-2366 bunne@ndu.edu



Ms. M. Elaine Bunn leads an INSS project assessing future strategic capabilities and concepts.

Before joining INSS, she held a number of policy management and analysis positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense beginning in 1980. She served as Principal Director, Nuclear Forces and Missile Defense Policy, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Threat Reduction from 1993-98. During that time, she directed the 1994 Nuclear Posture Review. Her other assignments in OSD include Staff Analyst, Deputy Director, and Acting Director in the Office of Strategic Defense Policy, Staff Analyst, Strategic Arms Control Policy, and Staff Analyst, Theater Nuclear Forces Policy. She was a Presidential Management Intern, 1980-82, with a number of rotational tours, including at the State Department. Ms. Bunn was with the RAND Corporation 1998-2000 on a DoD exchange assignment. From February through June 2001, she co-chaired a nuclear panel for the Secretary of Defense, framing issues for the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review.

Ms. Bunn earned her B.A. from the University of Georgia in 1974 and M.A. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in 1980. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Neuchâtel 1974-5 and a member of the Class of 1988 at the National War College. Her awards include the Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service and the Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service.