



March 1, 2012

Dear Friends:

We are delighted to inform you about a new initiative from Third Way, the Third Way National Security Academy. We are proud to serve as the founding co-chairs of this initiative.

The Third Way National Security Academy is an innovative effort to improve and sustain policymakers' familiarity with and fluency on national security issues, done in such a way that recognizes the demands on their schedules. Many policymakers simply don't have enough hours in the day to spend time becoming an expert on each of the national security issues they face. To that end, we have teamed with Third Way to provide our colleagues and others with the tools they need to handle tough national security issues.

The Third Way National Security Academy aims to boil down complex questions to their essentials and deliver those insights through in-person or virtual briefings and written materials. We are working with a cadre of experts to guide the Academy to ensure that they are providing the key points—no more, no less—in ways that busy policymakers can easily absorb.

In addition, we hope that the Academy will help to modernize the national security debate. For decades, the discussion over the future of American security has been trapped in Cold War paradigms. Starting in Vietnam, the public viewed one party as hawks—strong on national security and willing to use force—and the other as dovish and weak. This not only distorted the politics of these issues, it had a profoundly negative impact on public trust. We reject those outdated stereotypes, and are working to eliminate them. We believe the Third Way National Security Academy can help.

Over the next few months, we encourage you to read and use the Academy's products and attend the events. If you have feedback on the materials or suggestions for future work, we encourage you to contact Third Way's Director of the National Security Program, Mieke Eoyang at meoyang@thirdway.org.

Sincerely,

Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Honorary co-chair

Mark Udall
U.S. Senator
Honorary co-chair

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress
Honorary co-chair



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