

AODNETWORK.CA/DESIGNINGSECURITY

Designing Security

2-3 September, 2025

Helmut-Schmidt-University
Hamburg, Germany

AOD ANNUAL CONFERENCE



REGISTRATION FORM

Join military, government, industry, and academic leaders at the **Designing Security Conference**, hosted by the Helmut-Schmidt-University in collaboration with the Archipelago of Design, and under the patronage of the German Armed Forces Planning Office.

As part of the German Armed Forces' Education & Training Convention, the event features immersive workshops, scenario wargaming, and expert panels across **three tracks**: The Adaptive Leader (Education Track), Navigating Hybrid Threats and Strategic Fluidity (Operations Track) and Governing the Defense Ecosystem (Ecosystem Track)

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Overall Introduction

Designing Security – A Conference for Those Who Shape the Future of Defense

On 2–3 September 2025, leading minds from military, government, industry, and academia will gather at Helmut-Schmidt-University in Hamburg to explore how design can enhance operational adaptability, institutional learning, and innovation ecosystems in defense.

We are pleased to invite you to the **Designing Security Conference**, hosted by the **Helmut-Schmidt-University** in collaboration with the **Archipelago of Design (AOD)**, and under the patronage of the **German Armed Forces Planning Office**.

Taking place as part of the German Armed Forces' Education and Training Convention, the conference brings together over 150 senior leaders, planners, innovators, and educators from Germany, NATO, and allied countries.

Across three parallel tracks – *The Adaptive Leader (Education Track)*, *Navigating Hybrid Threats and Strategic Fluidity (Operations Track)* and *Governing the Defense Ecosystem (Ecosystem Track)* – the program features immersive workshops, scenario-based wargaming, expert keynotes, and high-level panels.

We invite you to engage with new ways of thinking about command, education, and defense innovation & procurement – and to help shape the future of a resilient security architecture in Germany, Europe, & throughout NATO.

Program Overview

Over two days, the **Designing Security Conference** offers a rich and unconventional program designed to challenge assumptions, connect perspectives, and spark innovation.

Day 1 opens with bold keynotes and a provocative opening speech on “*Designing Security as a Grand Challenge*.” From there, the conference splits into three thematic tracks:

- **The Adaptive Leader (Education Track)** explores how military education can build leaders for non-linear, contested environments – including masterclasses, foresight workshops, and institutional critiques.
- **Navigating Hybrid Threats and Strategic Fluidity (Operations Track)** dives deep into scenario-based wargaming and sensemaking under pressure, guided by experts from Israel, NATO, and Germany.

- **Governing the Defense Ecosystem (Ecosystem Track)** rethinks innovation, procurement, and cross-sector collaboration – with inputs from PwC / Strategy&, VDI, Lufthansa Technik and others.

The day features **hands-on design workshops, interactive lectures, and critical peer exchange**. It concludes with deep reflection on how doctrine, command logic, and innovation cultures can be redesigned from within.

Day 2 begins with high-level keynotes and a strategic panel featuring generals from Germany, Canada, and NATO ACT, including **Dr. Ofra Graicer** (Chief Instructor General Officers Course, Israel Defense Forces), **Lieutenant General (ret.) Peter Bohrer** (Former Deputy Inspector Joint Support Service Germany), **Lieutenant General Jürgen Sollfrank** (Requested; Commander Operational Command Germany), **Major General Simon Bernard** (Deputy Commander Canadian Joint Operations Command), **Flotilla Admiral Christian Bock** (Head of Strategy and Operations II Directorate, German MoD), **Brigadier General Thorsten Jørgensen** (ACOS Requirements NATO Allied Command Transformation), and **Prof. Dr. Rainer Bernnat** (Industry Leader Government & Public Services, PwC).

Afterwards, the three thematic tracks – The Adaptive Leader (Education Track), Navigating Hybrid Threats and Strategic Fluidity (Operations Track) and Governing the Defense Ecosystem (Ecosystem Track) – continue with **practical deep-dives, design experiments, and insight-driven discussions**:

- **Education** focuses on prototyping new curricula and integrating AI into strategic learning.
- **Operations** explores testing assumptions, rehearsing future missions, and designing adaptive command models.
- **Ecosystem** looks at defense financing, integration interfaces, and novel approaches to procurement and resilience.

The conference closes with a joint keynote:

“From Reflection to Responsibility – Three Tracks, One Military Future.”

Registration Information

Key Information

Location: Helmut-Schmidt-University, Hamburg, Germany

Date: 2-3 September 2025

Conference Tracks:

- The Adaptive Leader (Military Education & Doctrine)
- Navigating Hybrid Threats and Strategic Fluidity (Operational Design & Command Logic)
- Governing the Defense Ecosystem (Innovation, Procurement & Integration)

Target Audience: Senior officers, planners, educators, defense officials, NATO partners, industry leaders, startups, associations, and researchers from the wider security and defense ecosystem

Hosted by: Helmut-Schmidt-University and Archipelago of Design (AOD)

Language: English and German

Registration and Fees

Participation is free of charge for representatives of public institutions, government agencies, and recognized non-profit organizations.

Participants from private-sector companies are subject to a conference fee of:

- €320.00 for bookings made by July 20, 2025,
- €360.00 for bookings made by August 27, 2025,
- €380.00 at the box office from September 2, 2025.

To register, please send an email to **designingsecurityconference@hsu-hh.de**.

You are kindly asked to either fill out the attached registration form electronically or send the required information directly by email.

Please note that the number of available spots is limited.

Registrations will be processed on a **first come, first served basis** and are subject to internal approval. All confirmed participants will receive a final confirmation by email.

Registration Form

Salutation*: _____

Rank/title: _____

Position: _____

Title: _____

First name*: _____

Last name*: _____

Company/department*: _____

Street/house number*: _____

Postal code*: _____

City*: _____

Country*: _____

Phone number: _____

Email*: _____

My primary interest is in the track*: _____

Track Options: The Adaptive Leader (Education Track), Navigating Hybrid Threats and Strategic Fluidity (Operations Track), and Governing the Defense Ecosystem (Ecosystem Track)

** Required information*

Members of the program committee, federal and state civil servants (including former civil servants), members of other public bodies and institutions recognized as non-profit organizations are admitted free of charge upon presentation of appropriate identification. The same applies to speakers, exhibitors, students, and pupils.

Discounts on the ticket price will only be granted after a copy/scan of a valid ID card or equivalent certificate has been sent by email to **designingsecurityconference@hsu-hh.de**. If proof of eligibility in accordance with the above criteria cannot be provided, the full ticket price must be paid.

Members of the German Armed Forces, speakers, and exhibitors do not require separate proof. Eligibility will be verified by the organizer.

- ☐ I am a member of the program committee, a member of the German Armed Forces, the federal or state civil service (including former members), a member of other public-law corporations or an institution recognized as non-profit, a speaker, an exhibitor, a student, or a pupil.
- ☐ I have read and understood the privacy policy in accordance with Article 13 of the DSGVO (GDPR).
- ☐ I have read and understood the General Terms and Conditions for Ticket Sales (AGB-T). As an event held in conjunction with the Bundeswehr Education and Training Congress, the AGB-T for the *Designing Security* conference are based on those of the Education and Training Congress.
- ☐ I would like to attend the joint evening event with the Education and Training Congress for €95.00.

Evening Event

This year, we would once again like to offer you the opportunity to get together outside of the actual event in an appealing setting and relaxed atmosphere.

On **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**, you can enjoy an unforgettable evening on the paddle steamer MS Louisiana Star. The cruise, featuring culinary delights and entertainment, will take you down the Elbe toward Övelgönne, along the picturesque banks of the Elbe to Blankenese, and into Germany's largest container port (price: \$95 per person).

Please register for the boat trip on the Elbe together with your pre-order for your conference ticket.

Booked tickets can be canceled free of charge in writing up to 14 days before the event.



Location: Paddle steamer MS Louisiana Star

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Cost: €95.00*

* Includes buffet and drinks.

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