On 20 November 2002, the International Institute for Policy Studies held a colloquium featuring guest speaker General Ronald Fogleman, former United States Air Force chief-of-staff. After first describing the ten-year review of national defence policymaking that had been carried out in the United States and the changes which had accompanied this process, General Fogleman went on to state that, inevitably, national defence policymaking had changed fundamentally, in particular in the aftermath of the terror attacks of 11 September 2001.

General Fogleman added that, over the period stretching from the Gulf War until the campaign in Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks, the nature of war had changed irrevocably. As a result of this, three things in particular had become important: the predominance of air power; the pre-eminence of information, brought about by the use of satellites for intelligence gathering and communications; and close cooperation between the nations allied in the war on terror.

The audience questioned General Fogleman energetically on a range of topics, including the future of US-Japan security cooperation, the possibility of a US attack on Iraq, the relationship between the US secretary of defense and the director of central intelligence, and North Korea.