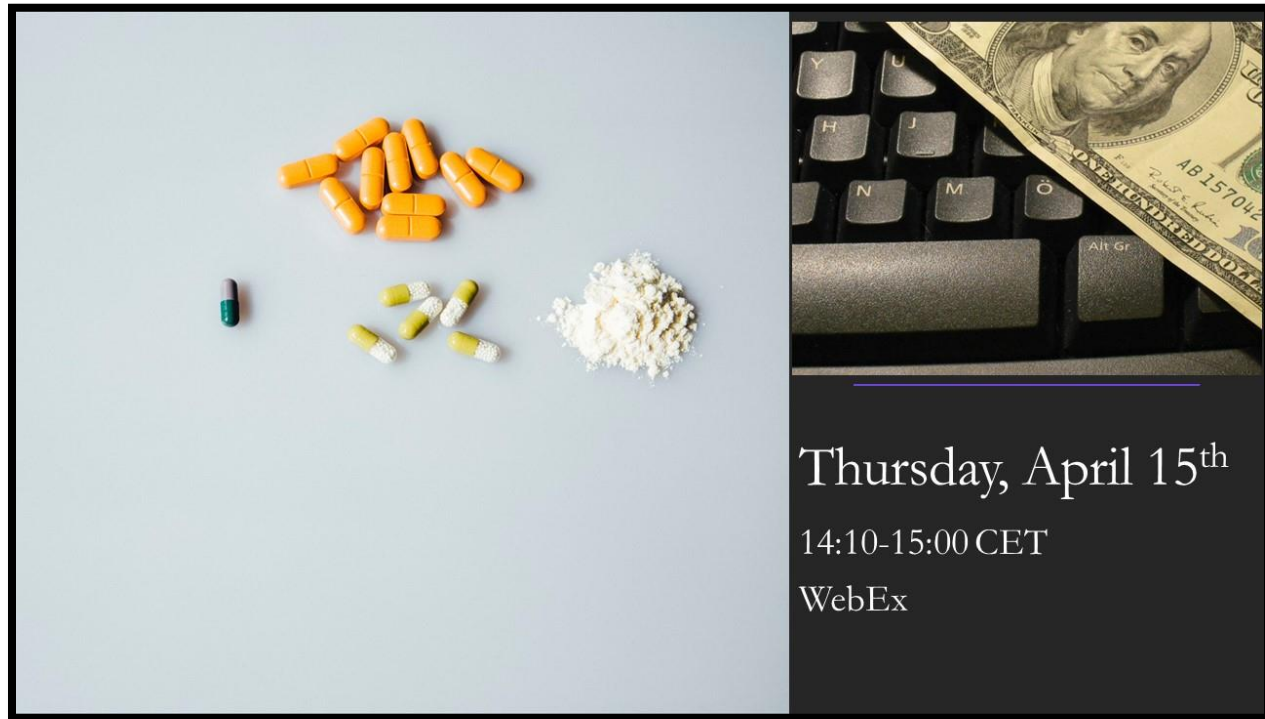


Confronting Emerging Synthetic Drug Challenges



The synthetic drug threat is escalating and proliferating globally and has fueled an epidemic of opioid and methamphetamine misuse and overdose deaths. Drug traffickers are taking advantage of globalization and new technology, forcing governments to constantly adapt to protect their citizens from this rapidly-evolving threat. For example: Synthetic drugs are increasingly produced using nonscheduled designer and pre-precursor chemicals, anonymously marketed and sold online, and purchased with cryptocurrencies. They are trafficked internationally through the mail or express consignment shipping, disguised among billions of pieces of international mail. This supply chain is insidiously accessible and diffuse. This dynamic threat requires us to work together to recognize and call attention to new challenges and shifting modalities.

This event will feature an interactive discussion as our expert panel explores new modalities of synthetic drug trafficking and the challenges they pose to governments and public health. Topics will include but are not limited to the use of nonscheduled precursor chemicals in the illicit manufacture of drugs, the rapid emergence of novel psychoactive substances, challenges to law enforcement due to the elusive business model using 21st century technologies, the use of public-private partnerships to combat the threat, and public health responses to this complex challenge.

Join the event virtually at this link:

<https://statedept.webex.com/statedept/j.php?MTID=ma4c8973df7ea721e17eb764b51d3ae03>

Meeting Number (access code): 199 965 3043

Meeting Password: UBe3Dc73725

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Speaker Biographies

Mr. James A. Walsh is the Acting Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. He is responsible for supporting State Department programs and policies to combat illicit drugs and organized crime around the world. INL currently manages a portfolio of more than \$4 billion in more than 90 countries. Mr. Walsh has served in various senior leadership roles in the INL Front Office since January 2015. In that time, he directed State Department law enforcement and rule of law assistance activities in Europe and Asia (excluding Pakistan and Afghanistan) while overseeing the Department's Air Wing and INL's resources. He was the Senior Bureau Official from December 2017 to May 2018 and Acting Principal Deputy Secretary from May to August 2018. Mr. Walsh previously served as the Executive Director/Controller for the bureau where he led several efforts to strengthen criminal justice assistance programs including the development of an inter-agency Criminal Justice Sector Rating Tool. Prior to joining the Department, Mr. Walsh worked in the private sector for five years supporting Fortune 500 companies. He also served nearly eight years in the U.S. Army where he had several overseas deployments leading aviation units. A career member of the Senior Executive Service, Mr. Walsh holds a Bachelor's degree from West Point and a Master's degree in business administration from Bowie State University. Mr. Walsh received the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in 2017.

Dr. Justice Tettey is the Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Section is responsible for the implementation of the Office's Global Scientific and Forensic Services Programme. Since 2008, he has led the development and implementation of several initiatives and programmes designed to address the synthetic drugs problem, including the Global Synthetic Drugs Monitoring Analysis Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme, the UNODC Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances, the UN-wide Integrated Strategy on the Global Opioid Crisis, the United Nations Synthetic Drugs Toolkit and the Precursor Chemicals Disposal Programme.

Ms. Ariel "Air" Britt is the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Associate Director of Outreach. Ms. Britt has spent much of her career focused on intervention and recovery support services, strategic planning, facilitation, creative design, and program development. She is also the creator of the award-winning podcast, *Beauty in the Grit*. In 2015, she had the privilege of sharing her personal experience as a person in recovery at the White House during the Obama Administration. She is an exceptional speaker with a passion for community and service. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Master's in Social Work from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Seung-Woo Kim is the Inspector of the Narcotics and Organized Crime Investigation Division in the Korean National Police Agency. Prior to his current post, Mr. Kim worked on the Economic Crime Investigation Team in the Chungnam Provincial Police and the Public Order Management Division of the Gyeongbuk Provincial Police. Mr. Kim is a graduate of the Korean National Police University.

Ms. Beate Hamond is the Senior Programme Coordinator of the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances Programme, located in the International Narcotics Control Board and has more than 20 years of experience in the United Nations. She has held various positions in the UN, including Officer-in-Charge of the Narcotics Control and Estimates Section; Drug Control Officer and Secretary of the INCB Standing Committee on Estimates, Manager of the Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC and Publication Officer (responsible for the UNODC World Drug Report and other UNODC publication). Ms. Hammond holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Ottawa and a doctorate in philosophy/political science from the University of Vienna.