National Security is a complex system closely tied to economics. When things go well, economic growth will support the national security apparatus thereby creating a virtuous circle in which the government can help businesses expand and dominate industries without much interference, then use those businesses to expand geopolitical power. When that happens, there is an increased need for education and training, allowing educational institutions to add new programs, to innovate and attract highly qualified personnel, thus gaining a competitive advantage in emerging, economically valued fields. As with any major disruptions, COVID 19 has transformed the global economy into a new warfighting domain, forcing our community to become more resilient, rethink supply chains and operational logistics, identify safety nets, eliminate redundancy, and better articulate its value. While geospatial is trendy with all the maps and dashboards created and updated daily, the intelligence part of GEOINT is now more valuable than ever. This fireside chat will bring up lessons learned from past wars to guide the discussion on how a post-COVID 19 GEOINT will look like and how to prepare for a changing government role and education framework by using economic intelligence. The focus will be on how economic intelligence is a must have for GEOINT government and industry to design and implement GEOINT strategies. It is also going to look at how GEOINT education programs will adapt so that future graduates have the intelligence needed to carry economic warfare in an increasingly competitive world economy. The focus will be on the many ways GEOINT can become the most important intelligence function for economic issues.

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Dr. Charles H. Whiteman is the dean of the Penn State Smeal College of Business and oversees all aspects of one of the largest business schools in the nation. Whiteman, who has more than 39 years of experience in higher education and business, assumed the leadership position at Smeal in July 2012. Prior to joining Penn State, he was senior associate dean for the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa. Whiteman holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Kansas. His academic expertise is in macroeconomics, econometrics, and economic forecasting. He has conducted research that has been supported by a number of grants from the National Science Foundation, published dozens of academic papers, written two books, and served as associate editor of several economics journals. He has also advised the state of Iowa’s Department of Management on economic issues and served as a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Banks of Kansas City, Atlanta, Cleveland, and Minneapolis.

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